



# PACIFIC COLLEGE *of* HEALTH AND SCIENCE

## Transitional Doctorate Programs

Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) | Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM)

### The Doctorate is The New Standard.

From the earliest discussions on the entry-level or first professional doctorate (FPD), Pacific College stated that no master's graduate should be left behind. The transitional doctorate program was created so that each of you was offered an opportunity to bridge the gap between your master's training and the new doctorate. **Upon completion of this program, you will earn degree parity with entry-level doctoral graduates, just like your colleagues in physical therapy, occupational therapy and other professions who have already been offered such pathways.**

Pacific College is proud to be at the forefront of entry-level doctoral education for new students. With this program, it provides the same opportunity for you, the pioneers and experienced practitioners in our field. In this program you will find an emphasis on advancing your knowledge and skills to **work effectively in a variety of integrative healthcare systems**. In so doing, you will expand the opportunities for yourself and future generations of acupuncturists by being an active part of the integrative healthcare movement. Most importantly, you will be expanding the primary care and wellness options of your patients.

### Welcome to The Next Step in Acupuncture Education

This curriculum was developed by doctoral educators, subject matter experts, and experienced distance education designers. It is based on the 28 entry-level doctoral competencies. Each aspect of the program has been scrutinized and approved by educators at our regional accreditor, WSCUC. The online delivery method has been developed and refined over the last six years in our undergraduate degrees and post-graduate DAOM. It has been tremendously well received and embraced by students at all levels of computer literacy. The curriculum has been vetted by PCOM alumni since fall 2015.

Education, particularly professional, graduate education, is a dynamic endeavor. To maintain its value, it must maintain its relevance. Therefore, the continued development of this program is an ongoing collaborative effort of each administrator, teacher, and student. We look forward to forging the future of our medicine together!

### MODEL CURRICULUM

Term 1	Units	Hours
Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice	3	45
Inter-Professional Communication	1	15
Healthcare Systems	3	45
Preventive Medicine and Public Health	2	30
Advanced Integrative Diagnostics	3	45
Term 2		
Integrative Pain Management	2	30
Integrative Case Management	3	45
Practice-Based Learning	3	45
Applications for Inter-Professional Communication	2	60
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>360</b>

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY:

844-357-7013 | Admissions-DACM@pacificcollege.edu

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice (FEIP)

Evidence-informed practice is an approach to decision-making that integrates clinical experience, relevant findings, patient preferences, and research. The student will learn the strengths and limitations of each element of the model. It is an opportunity to acquire the accumulated knowledge of countless practitioners and researchers and apply it to improve patient outcomes.

### Inter-Professional Communication

This course will increase effective communication with patients, patient families, and healthcare team members. Student will explore recognized methods of communicating healthcare issues to patients and their families. They will be challenged to describe Chinese medicine theory, techniques, and case information to biomedical professionals, as well as patients. Conversely, they will improve their ability to apply biomedical terminology.

### Healthcare Systems

The course provides entry into one of the most fascinating aspects of American culture where philosophy, economics, and technology intersect with medicine at both its most global and personal levels. In order to play a significant role in the system, students must understand the incredible variety of institutions and personnel that deliver healthcare across the wide spectrum of our diverse population. Along the way, students will grapple with some of the most challenging medical questions of our day and seek to identify Chinese medicine's role in answering them.

### Preventive Medicine and Public Health

Preventive Medicine and Public Health presents epidemiology, risk factors, determinants of health, effects of different cultural practices, genetic predispositions, the effect of climate on the incidence of disease, and more. In addition to conventional therapies, students will analyze and evaluate the role of Chinese medicine in preventive medicine and public health, along with the effects of diet, exercise, meditation, and more.

### Advanced Integrative Diagnostics

Students will further their understanding of biomedical labs, diagnostic imaging, health screening, functional medicine labs, and more. Student will increase their ability to exchange diagnostic information with other healthcare providers. Most importantly, students will critically analyze the diagnostic options and be able to inform patients of their relative merits.

### Integrative Pain Management

The purpose of this course is to broaden the student's knowledge of pain management and the critical thinking related to a variety of integrative pain management approaches. Students will assess the effectiveness of a wide variety of integrative modalities including mind-body approaches, manual medicine, nutrition, and biomedical and Chinese medicine practice. Students will learn to engage in integrative pain management including treatment planning, lifestyle recommendations, communication/collaboration with healthcare providers, appropriate referral and an exploration of the patient's support structure.

### Integrative Case Management

Using the case-based method, conditions from a variety of specialties will be used to develop a template for the integrative case management of biomedicine and Chinese medicine. The appropriate use of the wide variety of diagnostics, treatments and community resources pertinent to the given conditions will be analyzed and evaluated. Most PCOM alumni will receive transfer credit for this course.

### Practice-Based Learning

The course will help the student examine the two fundamental aspects of their healthcare career: patient care and practice building. Students will identify areas in which both can be improved and create a program for further development. Along the way, the course will review current considerations in developing a successful practice, e.g. research access, marketing, management systems, etc. On the patient care side, students will present to faculty members and fellow doctoral candidates case work that integrates current research, Chinese medical theory, treatment plans, alternative approaches, biomedical considerations, community resources, and prognosis.

### Application of Inter-Professional Communication

The purpose of this course is to provide the doctoral candidate with direct patient management observation in biomedical settings, in order to develop advanced clinical knowledge and skills, and instill the habits of self-directed learning and critical thinking in an integrated setting. Doctoral candidates will observe a medical professional for a total of 30 clinic hours. These may include medical doctors, osteopathic doctors, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, chiropractors, or naturopaths, etc. In addition to these 30 hours of observation, the course will also include 10 synchronous course meetings to support your success.

### PRE-REQUISITES (required prior to starting the program)

- 90 semester or 135 quarter units of undergraduate coursework
- Completed Master's level education or equivalent, with a minimum gpa of 3.0

### CO-REQUISITES (can be completed concurrently while in the program)

- General Psychology, Biology, and Chemistry
- Further co-requisites may apply pending a transcript evaluation

### ADMISSIONS PROCESS

To apply, please send the following to the Admissions Office:

1. A completed Pacific College application (electronic application available upon request)
2. Application fee (\$100)
3. Official master's degree transcripts
4. Proof of the 90 semester or 135 quarter units of undergraduate coursework



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Are alumni from all acupuncture colleges and universities eligible for this program?**

Yes. All acupuncturists deserve an opportunity to bridge the gap between their master's training and the new doctorate.

### **What is the degree that will be awarded upon successful completion of the program?**

Students who enter the program with a master's degree in acupuncture or equivalent will earn the Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc). Students who enter with a master's degree in acupuncture and Oriental medicine or equivalent will earn the Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM). The curriculum is the same for either student.

### **Are the online classes synchronous or asynchronous? In other words, are they in "real time?"**

All the classes are online and synchronous. They occur in "real time" and are interactive. Students and faculty can see and hear each other. The program is 100% online and will not involve any on ground classroom instruction.

### **What will the schedule be like?**

This program is designed to provide options for all time zones. A variety of class schedules are available every day of the week. There is also substantial work outside of class. Full-time enrollment (12 units) is nearly a full-time job (approximately 40 hours per week). However, the program may be taken on a part-time basis to fit your work schedule.

### **Will transfer credit be available for any of these courses?**

Yes. Up to 5 units may be transferred. To be eligible, a course must be a graduate level course that achieves all the course learning objectives of the designated course. Work experience and CEU courses do not qualify for transfer credit.

### **Is there a capstone project or dissertation?**

No.

### **What is the attendance policy?**

A student must attend at least 75% of the course hours. (Exception: AIPC course requires 100% attendance).

### **Will the lectures be made available for missed classes?**

Archived lectures are typically available; however, they may not be used as a substitute for attendance.

### **What are my funding options?**

We have several options available which include VA/GI Bill, Financial Aid, and cash payment options with flexible monthly payment plans. Students may defer current Title IV loans while in the program.

### **Is this program accredited by ACAOM?**

Pacific College of Oriental Medicine's professional doctorate program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). The accreditation status of the professional doctorate curricula applies to both the Doctor of Acupuncture and the Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine. We advertise the degree completion opportunity as the "transitional doctorate" program in order to distinguish it from the entry-level pathway. However, this professional doctorate completion track for graduates of ACAOM-accredited/pre-accredited master's-level programs is considered by ACAOM as a component of the overall professional doctorate.

### **Will there be CEUs/PDA available?**

While some of the transitional doctorate courses are currently approved for continuing education credit by the California Acupuncture Board and accepted as PDAs by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), Pacific College cannot make any guarantee regarding our ability to offer CEUs/PDAs for doctoral courses. To be eligible to receive continuing education credit, you must have successfully passed the course. In addition, students will only receive credit for class meetings they have attended. Missed classes will not be counted toward the total. There is a \$50/per course administrative fee for students to receive CEU certification for these courses. **The following courses may be eligible:**

- Health Care Systems
- Advanced Integrative Diagnostics
- Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice

**Office Use Only**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Fee: \$100

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture **DAc**

Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine **DACM**

Term Applying For:  Winter \_\_\_\_\_  Spring \_\_\_\_\_  Fall \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Please complete (print clearly) and submit this form along with the \$100 non-refundable application fee \*\***

*All application information is confidential. All application materials, once submitted, are property of Pacific College of Oriental Medicine and cannot be returned to the applicant.*

- I am currently a(n):  PCOM Faculty Member  PCOM Alumnus/Alumna  Non-PCOM Alumnus/Alumna
- I intend to enroll as a:  Part-Time Student  Full-Time Student (12 units or more)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Title:  Mr.  Mrs.  Miss  Ms. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last, First, Middle): \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relative/Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax, if available: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex\*:  Male  Female

Race\*:  American Indian/Alaskan Native  Asian/Pacific Islander  Hispanic  Black Non-Hispanic  White Non-Hispanic  Other

Licensed:  Yes  No - If yes, state(s) licensed in: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in practice: \_\_\_\_\_

**FUNDING OPTION:**  Financial Aid  Cash (payment options available)  VA/GI Bill

**PRIOR EDUCATION** (attach extra sheet if needed)

NAME OF INSTITUTION	GRAD YEAR	DEGREE/DIPLOMA MAJOR	GPA

**PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STATEMENT**

Please attach a statement describing your professional practice including the number and type of patients treated weekly, any specialty if applicable, the number of hours worked per week, and any other information that would help the admission committee assess your readiness to contribute to Pacific's doctoral culture. **(This statement can be provided separately to your doctoral admissions representative)**

*I hereby request to be considered for admission to the Pacific College of Oriental medicine doctoral program. I hereby state that all the information given in this request is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that failure to give true and complete information may lead to denial of admission, or future dismissal from the program.*

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

