



SECTION FOUR  
GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS  
*Master of Acupuncture Program*

Learning is  
discovering that  
something is possible.

—Fritz Perls

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# About the Program

## Overview

The acupuncture program is a graduate curriculum leading to a Master of Acupuncture (M.Ac.) degree. It is designed to draw on the Taoist tradition as the basis for treating the whole person. This tradition includes studying the five elements, the twelve officials, and yin/yang.

The program provides a values driven, transformative, and relationship-centered curriculum which guides students to intentionally craft their words and actions in order to be a healing presence that supports their patients. The program also provides students with a solid knowledge of the theory and philosophy of traditional acupuncture, the competence to skillfully treat their patients with needles and words, the capacity to become a healing force and an agent of change, and the ability to communicate their competency effectively.

## Mission

Our mission is to draw upon ancient wisdom, the gifts of nature, and science to educate and develop highly skillful and compassionate practitioners who offer acupuncture as a catalyst for healing and wellness, as well as increased self-awareness and personal transformation. This mission serves the evolution of acupuncture and its integration into the wider field of health care by advancing new paradigms of healing and wellness.

## Program Goals

### I. Be able to serve the patient at all levels of being

- a. Be able to assess the patient broadly and accurately by gathering phenomena about the patient that will aid in treatment.
  - i. Discern movement of qi — its presence, absence, and quality — both in the patient and in themselves in the presence of the patient.
  - ii. Discern phenomena in a patient, and how the phenomena change in the moment and throughout the course of treatment. Phenomena include, for example, color, sound, odor, emotion, pulses, and information gathered through palpation.
  - iii. Question the patient, and put his or her report of symptoms in the context of the above phenomena.
- b. Be able to treat and educate effectively.
  - i. Based on knowledge of the Tao, yin/yang, the movement of qi, the four directions, the five elements, and the twelve officials, devise short and long-term treatment plans that integrate the obscured phenomena.
  - ii. Affect the flow of qi through the use of acupuncture needles and moxa.
  - iii. Bring awareness to the patient of the connection between his or her symptoms and habitual patterns of behavior and language — patterns reflecting the patient's perception of reality.
  - iv. Embody the gifts and strengths of the seasons for patients, and integrate the lessons of nature into a treatment plan that supports the patient's movement through life.
  - v. Achieve and maintain rapport with patients; practice with compassion and powerful listening.
  - vi. Apply acupuncture-based treatment for substance abuse and recovery, and utilize skills in public health and substance abuse recovery settings.
- c. Be able to practice safely
  - i. Know the appropriate use of points.
  - ii. Identify points accurately, needle safely and with sensitivity, use moxa correctly, and touch with full awareness.
  - iii. Have a basic understanding of warning signs of serious medical conditions, and know when to make a referral to or call for medical assistance.
  - iv. Identify situations where a referral to other therapies may be appropriate and useful.
  - v. Apply clean needle technique in all needling treatments.

# Admission Requirements

## 2. Possess knowledge of the history of acupuncture and the theory of different traditions of acupuncture

- a. Possess a comprehensive level of knowledge of the Taoist teachings of oneness, and the historical and fundamental importance of this concept in the practice of acupuncture.
- b. Possess a comprehensive level of knowledge of the five elements and their applications.
- c. Possess an introductory level of knowledge of the eight principles used to discern patterns of disharmony in the Zang Fu organs, and the methods of eight-principle pulse and tongue diagnosis.
- d. Possess an introductory level knowledge of the Chinese Medical classics (Nei Jing and Nan Jing, etc.), and Chinese medical history.
- e. Possess an introductory level knowledge of the deep and secondary channels, their pathologies, and possible treatment strategies.
- f. Possess a survey level knowledge of other traditions of acupuncture practice, such as Japanese Meridian, Toyohari, Scalp, and Korean Hand Acupuncture.

## 3. Be able to establish and maintain an acupuncture practice

- a. Know, and be able to apply, practice-building and outreach skills.
- b. Know how to set up an office, manage patient files, handle basic business procedures (paying taxes, handling insurance, etc.).
- c. Know federal laws and regulations regarding acupuncture (e.g. HIPAA), and be aware of the necessity of following the laws and regulations regarding acupuncture of the state in which one will practice.
- d. Know ethical responsibilities related to patient care, and demonstrate the ability to act ethically at all times.

## 4. Be able to grow personally and professionally

- a. Observe oneself: assess and change one's responses to external and internal stimuli in order to have the greatest potential for growth, maturation, harvest, inspiration, and wisdom.
- b. Exhibit a willingness to be a learner: ask for help when needed, listen receptively, be open to receiving coaching.
- c. Hold oneself accountable for one's actions.
- d. Use critical thinking as an aid to incorporating new ideas, theories, and methods into one's practice.
- e. Build partnerships with patients, teachers, healthcare practitioners, and others.
- f. Consciously and intentionally bring forth the appropriate mood, emotion, or disposition in oneself.
- g. Be an active participant and independent learner in the field of acupuncture and Oriental medicine through writing, research, public speaking, professional affiliation and/or continuing education.

## Degree Requirements

Applicants for admission to Tai Sophia Institute must submit:

- Official transcript to verify completion of a baccalaureate (bachelor's) degree.
- Official transcript of highest degree earned beyond a baccalaureate.

If the degree was not completed at a college or university recognized by a U.S. Department of Education accrediting body, copies of the institution's academic catalog may be required and course syllabi may be requested. International students please refer to the additional instructions outlined under the heading International Students in the General Admissions Process section of this catalog.

## Health Requirements

- Current, documented tuberculosis skin test (PPD). If PPD is positive, a completed TB screening form (provided to students upon request).
- A completed "Hepatitis B Vaccination Form for Students" declining vaccination, stating prior vaccination, or indicating plan to receive vaccination. The form and a Hepatitis B Information Packet will be provided to students prior to the start of the program.

# Academic Calendar

Students may begin their studies in September or January, and the student's start date determines the schedule of classes. For students beginning the program in September, core classes are scheduled on **Thursdays and Fridays**; for students beginning in January, core classes are scheduled on **Mondays and Tuesdays**. These days remain consistent throughout the first five trimesters. Additionally, students are required to complete twelve credits of elective coursework which is self-scheduled outside of their core class days as well as supplemental clinical work in the Community Clinic sites.

Students also are required to attend occasional "intensive" classes which take place about two times each year. The term "intensive" is used to designate special times when the student's attendance is required in addition to the regularly scheduled core class days. Most intensive classes range from two to three days in length, and generally focus on one topic in depth. Most classes are held at the main campus in Laurel.

As a student begins Level III of the program, the core class days are consolidated into one full class day weekly, through trimester 9. For students beginning the program in September, the Level III core class day is Thursday, and for those beginning in January, the Level III core class day is Monday. At this point students are assigned to "core groups," which typically consist of five to seven students and three faculty supervisors. Core groups are held Monday through Friday, and may fall on days other than the days core classes are scheduled. In addition, students intern in the Community Clinic Sites.

The course of study is a full-time program averaging 36 to 44 months, depending on the pace each student sets when building a practice during the clinical portion of the program. The maximum amount of time allowed to complete the program is 60 months.

## September 2010 Class

### Level I:

Trimester 1	9/7/10 – 12/18/10
Trimester 2	1/3/11 – 4/16/11

### Level II:

Trimester 3	4/25/11 – 8/6/11
Trimester 4	9/6/11 – 12/17/11
Trimester 5	1/3/12 – 4/14/12

### Level III:

Trimester 6	4/23/12 – 8/4/12
Trimester 7	9/4/12 – 12/15/12
Trimester 8	1/7/13 – 4/20/13
Trimester 9	4/29/13 – 8/10/13
(earliest completion – on-site classes end)	
Trimester 10	9/3/13 – 12/14/13
Trimester 11	1/6/14 – 4/19/14
(anticipated completion)	

## January 2011 Class

### Level I:

Trimester 1	1/3/11 – 4/16/11
Trimester 2	4/25/11 – 8/6/11

### Level II:

Trimester 3	9/6/11 – 12/17/11
Trimester 4	1/3/12 – 4/14/12
Trimester 5	4/23/12 – 8/4/12

### Level III:

Trimester 6	9/4/12 – 12/15/12
Trimester 7	1/7/13 – 4/20/13
Trimester 8	4/29/13 – 8/10/13
Trimester 9	9/3/13 – 12/14/13
(earliest completion – on-site classes end)	
Trimester 10	1/6/14 – 4/19/14
Trimester 11	4/28/14 – 8/9/14
(anticipated completion)	

# Course of Study

## Level I

Trimester 1	Semester Credits <sup>1</sup>
ACP 601a History and Classics: Acupuncture from China to America	1.25
ACP 601b History and Classics: Chinese Medicine from the Classical Perspective	1.75
ACP 611 Theory: Principles of Healing and the Laws of Nature	2.50
ACP 631 Diagnostic Skills:Awakening the Observer	1.75
APP 600 SOPHIA®: Intensive/Skills	3.50
APP 601 Initiating a Healing Presence	1.25
APP 610 Embodying Qi Gong: Dance with Nature	0.75
ISci 640 Clinical Anatomy: Regional and Surface Anatomy	3.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15.75</b>

## Trimester 2

ACP 612 Theory: Officials and Substances	2.00
ACP 622 Point Location: Distal Points of the Arm Primary Meridians	3.00
ACP 632a Diagnostic Skills: Cultivating the Instrument	2.00
ACP 632b Diagnostic Skills: Rapport Intensive	1.00
ACP 652 Clinical Observation: From Story to Phenomena	1.00
ACP 662 Practice Management: Ethics for the Healthcare Professional	1.00
APP 602 Being the Needle	1.50
APP 620 Volunteer Professional Project	3.25
ISci 000 BioScience Elective <sup>2</sup>	3.00
ISci 642 Physiology: The Science of Wellness	2.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19.75</b>

## Level II

### Trimester 3

ACP 613 Theory: The Five Phases Medicine Pouch I	2.00
ACP 623 Point Location: Distal Points of the Leg Primary Meridians	3.00
ACP 633 Diagnostic Skills: Diagnostic Interactions	3.00
ACP 653 Clinical Observation: Qi in Motion	0.75
APP 603 Speech Acts and the Art of Skillful Inquiry	1.50
APP 611 Tai Chi: Roots and Branches	1.00
ISci 000 BioScience Elective <sup>2</sup>	3.00
ISci 650 Pathophysiology: Biologic Basis for Disease	2.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16.25</b>

### Trimester 4

ACP 614 Theory: The Five Phases Medicine Pouch II	2.00
ACP 624 Point Location: Journey of Qi through the Torso	3.00
ACP 634 Diagnostic Skills: Traditional Diagnosis	3.00
ACP 644 Treatment Skills: Basic Treatment Skills	2.00
ACP 700 History and Classics: Visiting Scholar Intensive	1.00
ACP 790a Supervised Clinical Practice: Community Health	0.50
APP 604 Deepening Your Healing Presence	1.50
ISci 000 BioScience Elective <sup>2</sup>	3.00
ISci 754 BioMedicine: Safe Practices	2.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18.00</b>

## Trimester 5

ACP 615 Theory: Organs of the Body and Patterns of Disharmony I	2.00
ACP 625 Point Location: Integrating Meridians	3.00
ACP 645 Treatment Skills: Wellness Coaching	2.00
ACP 655 Clinical Observation: Small Group Treatment	1.50
ACP 665 Practice Management: Orientation to Clinical Practice	1.00
ACP 790a Supervised Clinical Practice: Community Health	0.50
ISci 000 BioScience Elective <sup>2</sup>	3.00
ISci 755 Biomedicine: Systems Review	3.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16.00</b>

## Level III

### Trimester 6

ACP 716 Theory: Organs of the Body and Patterns of Disharmony II	2.00
ACP 746 Treatment Skills: Pre-Clinic Retreat	1.00
ACP 766 Practice Management: Building a Successful Practice	1.50
ACP 790a Supervised Clinical Practice: Community Health	0.50
ACP 790b Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups	1.00
ACP 790c Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic <sup>3</sup>	1.00
APP 701 Deep Listening Within	1.50
ISci 740 Advanced Clinical Anatomy: Qi Follows Structure	2.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10.50</b>

### Trimester 7

ACP 700 History and Classics: Visiting Scholar Intensive	1.00
ACP 727 Point Location: Advanced Point Location	2.00
ACP 757 Clinical Observation: Living Traditions	1.00
ACP 767 Practice Management: Maintaining a Successful Practice	1.00
ACP 790a Supervised Clinical Practice: Community Health	0.50
ACP 790b Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups	1.00
ACP 790c Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic <sup>3</sup>	1.25
ISci 737 Nutrition: Healing and Food	2.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9.75</b>

### Trimester 8

ACP 718 Theory: Advanced Modes of Integration	2.00
ACP 758 Clinical Observation: Integrating Traditions	1.50
ACP 790b Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups	1.00
ACP 790c Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic <sup>3</sup>	3.75
ISci 750 Pathophysiology: Comparative Approaches	2.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10.25</b>

**Trimester 9**

ACP 000	Theory: Senior Elective <sup>4</sup>	2.00
ACP 719	Theory: Chinese Medical Therapy and Asian Bodywork	2.00
ACP 759	Clinical Observation: Discussion of Case Presentation	0.75
ACP 790b	Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups	1.00
ACP 790c	Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic <sup>3</sup>	3.75
APP 702	Bring Your Work into the World	1.50
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>11.00</b>

**Trimester 10**

ACP 790b	Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups	1.00
ACP 790c	Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic <sup>3</sup>	3.75
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>4.75</b>

**Trimester 11**

ACP 790b	Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups	1.00
ACP 790c	Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic <sup>3</sup>	3.25
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>4.25</b>

**Optional Level III Courses**

ACP 710	Theory: NCCAOM Review Elective <sup>5</sup>	0.00
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**Total semester credits** **136.25**

**Total program hours<sup>6</sup>** **2575.50**

Tai Sophia's Master of Acupuncture degree program offers students 560 hours of hands-on supervised clinical practice and an additional 195 hours in clinical observation.

<sup>1</sup>Credit hour conversion:

15 hours (lecture) = 1 semester credit;

30 hours (lab) = 1 semester credit;

60 hours (independent study) = 1 semester credit.

<sup>2</sup>Students must complete 12 credits of BioScience Elective coursework.

<sup>3</sup>Semester credits granted for clinical requirements completed in the ACP 790c series are listed with estimates per trimester based on minimum requirements. Since students complete their clinical work in a partially self-scheduled manner; exact credits per trimester may vary. 16.75 total semester credits are granted for successful completion of the ACP 790c series.

<sup>4</sup>Students select from several advanced courses to fulfill the Theory: Senior Elective requirement.

<sup>5</sup>Non-required course.

<sup>6</sup>Does not include hours for Optional Level III Courses.

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# Curriculum

## Overview

The acupuncture curriculum consists of 9 trimesters, divided into 3 levels over 3 calendar years. Each trimester has a theme that articulates the overarching goals for that trimester. The trimesters flow and build from one to the next, much like a novel unfolds from chapter to chapter. The coursework is sequenced to provide a rich and transformative educational experience.

The trimester themes are as follows:

Trimester 1: Awaken The Observer

Trimester 2: Develop the Frame/the Lens: The Contextual View

Trimester 3: Learn Distinctions: Ground Observations in the 4 Inspections:

Theory and Assessment: the Field of Discrimination

Trimester 4: Restore Wholeness and Balance: Begin Treatment Application

Trimester 5: Balance Presence and Distinctions in Assessment and

Treatment (The Art of Being a Practitioner)

Trimester 6: Root the Clinician

Trimester 7: Refine Clinical Skills and Presence

Trimester 8: Develop Independence in Judgment and Application

Trimester 9: Embody Practice and Transformation in Service to Life

## Level I:

### The One: The Tao: Health In Wholeness

Level I consists of Trimesters 1 and 2, and begins with 9 days of intensive coursework which introduces the experience of Qi and basic laws of nature and lays the philosophical groundwork for the entire program. Students become more familiar with language and sensory awareness. They begin to practice Chinese philosophy in everyday life as a preparation for its specific application in acupuncture.

The intensive is followed by coursework designed to open up the power of observation and sensory awareness.

The content in Level I includes the following major topics:

- Tao, Five element cycle and the seasons, Yin/Yang, and Qi
- Building rapport, awareness of how energy moves in ourselves and in others
- Surface Anatomy and Wellness Physiology
- History of Acupuncture from ancient China to the present
- Introduction to classical texts
- Introduction to the twelve officials
- Learning to use senses: to see, to hear, to feel, to smell, to ask
- Learning diagnostic skills: color; sound, odor, emotion, pulse-taking
- Learning basic skills of point location and touch
- Ethics

## Level II

### The Two: Yin/Yang: Health in Balance

Level II consists of Trimesters 3, 4, and 5, and the Level II coursework, in addition to delving deeper into the topics introduced in Level I, focuses on theory, diagnosis, treatment planning, and skills development.

Students continue to observe clinical practice throughout Level II, and they also begin supervised clinical work in Trimester 4. Over the duration of Trimesters 4 through 7, each student spends a minimum of 15 hours per trimester in active, supervised practice at the off-campus Community Clinic Sites.

## Level III

### The Three: Qi: Health in Movement (Practitioner & Patient in Service To Life)

Level III consists of Trimesters 6, 7, 8, 9,<sup>1</sup> and begins with an off-campus retreat. The retreat serves as a bridge between the academic work of Level II and the clinical experience of Level III. During the retreat, students reflect on their clinical transition and build community with peers who will practice with them in the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic.

Over the course of Level III, each student must generate a minimum of 10 patients and complete, under supervision, a minimum of 250 treatments. In addition, each student performs at least 180 treatments on patients provided through Community Clinic Sites (begun in Level II).

<sup>1</sup>Students may graduate once all coursework, clinical, and other requirements have been fulfilled. Thus, some students may finish the program at the end of Trimester 9. Some students progress at a more moderate pace, however, and continue their clinical work through Trimester 11.

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# Course Descriptions

## ACP 000

**Theory: Senior Elective**

**2.00 Semester Credits**

This required elective allows each student to explore more deeply an area of acupuncture that is of particular interest.

## ACP 601a

**History and Classics: Acupuncture from China to America**

**1.25 Semester Credits**

Students learn the ancestral as well as contemporary roots, historical and cultural influences, in the development of acupuncture.

## ACP 601b

**History and Classics: Chinese Medicine from the Classical Perspective**

**1.75 Semester Credits**

This course provides an introduction to the world view of the ancient Chinese through the study of Chinese characters and classical texts.

## ACP 611

**Theory: Principles of Healing and the Laws of Nature**

**2.50 Semester Credits**

This course provides an orientation and foundation in the principles of healing, the laws of nature, and the medicine of the Wu Hsing or the Five Seasons.

## ACP 612

**Theory: Officials and Substances**

**2.00 Semester Credits**

This course provides an in depth study of the physiology of the Twelve Officials and their manifestation on all levels of the body, mind, and spirit.

## ACP 613

**Theory: The Five Phases Medicine Pouch I**

**2.00 Semester Credits**

Students learn fundamental treatment theory within the tradition of the Five Phases, including point functions, names and spirits, and begin learning techniques that govern movement, healing, and transformation of Qi within a patient.

## ACP 614

**Theory: The Five Phases Medicine Pouch II**

**2.00 Semester Credits**

Students advance in their learning of treatment theory within the tradition of the Five Phases and begin to think like an acupuncturist—organizing observable phenomena into a coherent and workable framework and exploring the beginning of treatment planning.

## ACP 615

**Theory: Organs of the Body and Patterns of Disharmony I**

**2.00 Semester Credits**

Students study the Eight Principles in Chinese Medicine, an introduction to Zang Fu theory, and Patterns of Disharmony.

## ACP 622

**Point Location: Distal Points of the Arm Primary Meridians**

**3.00 Semester Credits**

This both didactic and hands-on course is the first of six that develop the student's ability to find the acupuncture points that are used during a treatment. Students will deepen their sensory awareness of both energy and structure as they practice locating anatomical landmarks and points.

## ACP 623

**Point Location: Distal Points of the Leg Primary Meridians**

**3.00 Semester Credits**

In this both didactic and experiential course, students expand their knowledge and skills of locating acupuncture points and deepen their understanding of respectful touch principles, including techniques to move and position the body with care and respect.

## ACP 624

**Point Location: Journey of Qi through the Torso**

**3.00 Semester Credits**

Students progress in their point location skill development while learning to locate a selection of points on the back, chest, and abdomen. Students also learn the art of draping and strengthen their integration of respectful touch principles through self-reflection and feedback activities.

## ACP 625

**Point Location: Integrating Meridians**

**3.00 Semester Credits**

Students continue to refine their point location skills; increase their confidence; consistency; and accuracy without reference material; and demonstrate their readiness for point location in a clinical setting. Through creative activity, they deepen their embodiment of the flow of the superficial pathways from entry to exit throughout the body.

## ACP 631

**Diagnostic Skills: Awakening the Observer**

**1.75 Semester Credits**

Students develop the skills needed to engage their senses, use their body as an instrument of perception, and experience the movements of Qi through practical exercises and observation of nature.

## ACP 632a

**Diagnostic Skills: Cultivating the Instrument**

**2.00 Semester Credits**

Students are introduced to the diagnostic tools of the pulse, color, sound, odor, and emotion as movements of Qi.

## ACP 632b

**Diagnostic Skills: Rapport Intensive**

**1.00 Semester Credits**

In this two day intensive, students experience and develop an embodied definition of rapport by establishing and sustaining rapport with others in a variety of classroom situations.

**ACP 633****Diagnostic Skills: Diagnostic Interactions****3.00 Semester Credits**

This class provides the opportunity to further develop awareness of the movements of Qi and the ability to gain rapport. Students expand their diagnostic skills through practical exercises focusing on mannerisms, body posture, voice, and attitude.

**ACP 634****Diagnostic Skills: Traditional Diagnosis****3.00 Semester Credits**

This course continues the opportunity for students to develop diagnostic skills as well as teaches them how to conduct a Traditional Diagnosis through practical exercises.

**ACP 644****Treatment Skills: Basic Treatment Skills****2.00 Semester Credits**

This course introduces students to fundamental treatment skills, including the art of painless needle insertion, needling techniques, moxibustion, and the treatment of addiction recovery using acupuncture.

**ACP 645****Treatment Skills: Wellness Coaching****2.00 Semester Credits**

Students learn to integrate treatment planning with lifestyle and wellness coaching.

**ACP 652****Clinical Observation: From Story to Phenomena****1.00 Semester Credits**

Students observe and recognize the movement of Qi by observing an experienced practitioner with a patient in a group setting.

**ACP 653****Clinical Observation: Qi in Motion****0.75 Semester Credits**

Students observe clinical students presenting and treating patients, and they practice recognizing distinctions among the Five Seasonal movements of Qi.

**ACP 655****Clinical Observation: Small Group Treatment****1.50 Semester Credits**

In small groups, students take turns observing and treating a patient together under the supervision of a faculty member. Students discuss issues of diagnosis, treatment, and treatment planning principles, as well as practice their clinical skills, such as the physical exam, needling and moxibustion.

**ACP 662****Practice Management: Ethics for the Healthcare Professional****1.00 Semester Credits**

Students develop an awareness and understanding of the relevant legal and ethical issues germane to various private or group health care practice settings.

**ACP 665****Practice Management: Orientation to Clinical Practice****1.00 Semester Credits**

Students gain a basic understanding of the learning objectives, outcomes, and requirements of the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic and explore issues such as scope of practice, patient confidentiality, HIPPA, and legal policies, as well as how to begin generating their own clinical practices.

**ACP 700 series****History and Classics: Visiting Scholar Intensive****2.00 Semester credits (total)**

Distinguished guest lecturers elucidate special topics in Chinese medicine.

**ACP 710****Theory: NCCAOM Review Elective****0.00 Semester Credits**

This elective course is designed to prepare students who plan to sit for the NCCAOM national certification exam modules in the foundations of Oriental medicine, acupuncture, and biomedicine. The course provides a structured study experience for students.

**ACP 716****Theory: Organs of the Body and Patterns of Disharmony II****2.00 Semester Credits**

Students continue to study the Eight Principles in Chinese Medicine and deepen their exploration into Zang Fu theory and Patterns of Disharmony.

**ACP 718****Theory: Advanced Modes of Integration****2.00 Semester Credits**

Students will explore methods of integration of acupuncture theory and treatment through class discussion and clinical application with senior faculty.

**ACP 719****Theory: Chinese Medical Therapy and Asian Bodywork****2.00 Semester Credits**

This class offers students a survey of additional clinical treatments and therapies that are utilized within the context of Chinese medicine.

**ACP 727****Point Location: Advanced Point Location****2.00 Semester Credits**

Students will continue to focus on one anatomical region of the body at a time in this advanced location course. Students will explore anatomical landmarks; locate acupuncture points of the primary, CV and GV channels; and compare the spatial relationship of points in close proximity of each other on the head, neck and shoulder. Windows of the Sky and Extra points are also taught in this course.

**ACP 746****Treatment Skills: Pre-Clinic Retreat****1.00 Semester Credits**

At an off-site retreat with faculty members, students celebrate the rite of passage that is the transition into their clinical phase. Students have the opportunity to develop a sense of community among their classmates and identify how to use the gifts of the elements to replenish their personal resources during the clinic and eventually as professional acupuncturists.

**ACP 757****Clinical Observation: Living Traditions****1.00 Semester Credits**

This course features clinical observation of experienced practitioners interacting with and treating patients from a variety of different Acupuncture Traditions.

**ACP 758****Clinical Observation: Integrating Traditions****1.50 Semester Credits**

Students will engage in advanced clinical observation, practitioner coaching, patient assessment, treatment, and treatment planning with senior faculty.

**ACP 759****Clinical Observation: Discussion of Case Presentation****0.75 Semester Credits**

Clinical students present patients in class for observation and discussion. Students discuss the many issues that are involved in the treatment of a patient.

**ACP 766****Practice Management: Building a Successful Practice****1.50 Semester Credits**

Students are guided as they begin to establish their practices in the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic. This course illustrates the steps student practitioners must take in order to plan, establish, manage, and promote their supervised clinical practices during their course of study as well as after graduation.

**ACP 767****Practice Management: Maintaining a Successful Practice****1.00 Semester Credits**

Students further develop and apply practical skills for managing and nourishing their clinical practices. In addition to a focus on ongoing practice development, topics include business record-keeping, taxes, insurance, and managing a group practice.

**ACP 790a series****Supervised Clinical Practice: Community Health****2.00 Semester Credits (total)**

Following an introduction to the treatment of addiction recovery in Basic Treatment Skills, students spend a minimum of 60 hours (total) at off-site Community Clinic Sites where they gain experience in using acupuncture and life-skills treatment models for community health.

**ACP 790b series****Supervised Clinical Practice: Core Groups****6.00 Semester Credits (total)**

This course focuses on patient management and treatment issues that arise as students develop into practitioners and work with patients under supervision in the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic.

**ACP 790c series****Supervised Clinical Practice: Student Clinic****16.75 Semester Credits (total)**

Students perform treatments on their own patients or assist another student practitioner under close supervision of clinical faculty while learning the skills necessary to become effective, safe, and independent practitioners of acupuncture.

**APP 600****SOPHIA® (School of Philosophy and Healing in Action®):****Intensive/Skills****3.50 Semester Credits**

Based on the cycles of nature, this intensive course introduces the philosophical underpinnings of the Institute and includes the experience of Qi, the rhythms of nature, life skills, language, and theory.

**APP 601****Initiating a Healing Presence****1.25 Semester Credits**

This course continues to build on the philosophical underpinnings of health and wellbeing first explored in the SOPHIA® Intensive. By observing their own ways of being, doing, and speaking, students begin to embody the practices that guide them toward becoming a powerful healing presence and catalyst for change in others.

**APP 602****Being the Needle****1.50 Semester Credits**

Students develop a wide range of interpersonal skills that allow them to tend to others when life appears out of balance. Theory and skills include maintaining the observer state, sharpening the senses and the effective use of language and conversation (word as needle).

**APP 603****Speech Acts and the Art of Skillful Inquiry****1.50 Semester Credits**

Students continue to develop their ability to be a powerful healing presence and catalyst for change. Theory and skills include speech acts that empower and bring clarity to relationships and skillful ways of inquiry that move clients toward health and wellbeing.

**APP 604****Deepening Your Healing Presence****1.50 Semester Credits**

Students deepen their skills of being a healing presence. This course defines five distinct qualities and capacities that build health and wellbeing. Students learn to apply these qualities and capacities with clients and as well as broaden their proficiency to promote change.

**APP 610****Embodying Qi Gong: Dance with Nature****0.75 Semester Credits**

This weekly experiential course introduces students to basic movements of qi gong, an ancient Taoist form of exercise and breathing that has the potential to contribute to wellness and health.

**APP 611****Tai Chi: Roots and Branches****1.00 Semester Credits**

Students learn practices that generate, circulate, and unblock Qi, use Qi to nourish the system, and return the Qi to the deepest level. Students experience the Five Phases of Qi energy in order to regain or maintain health, and to enhance diagnostic and treatment skills.

**APP 620****Volunteer Professional Project****3.25 Semester Credits**

In this independent study course, students creatively design and implement one or more projects of service that support the acupuncture community or the development of the acupuncture profession on a local, regional, or national level.

**APP 701****Deep Listening Within****1.50 Semester Credits**

Students learn the role that moods and emotions play in creating health and wellbeing. Coursework includes ways to generate positive moods and emotions for the practitioner and for the client. The concept of illness is examined with an emphasis on helping clients understand their symptoms of illness as a guide toward health and wellness.

**APP 702****Bring Your Work into the World****1.50 Semester Credits**

This final course of the Applied Philosophy Series provides a review and deepening of the distinctions taught in the previous five courses. Class work forces on issues that are pertinent to students who will soon graduate, create their own practices, and interface with other healthcare professionals.

**ISci 000 series****BioScience Elective****12.00 Semester Credits (total)**

This is a placeholder for required ISci elective coursework. A total of 12.00 elective ISci credits will be required over the course of the M.Ac. program.

**ISci 640****Clinical Anatomy: Regional and Surface Anatomy****3.00 Semester Credits**

This course is designed for application by acupuncture students and includes a special focus on Surface Anatomy to prepare students for point location coursework.

**ISci 642****Physiology: The Science of Wellness****2.00 Semester Credits**

This course focuses on student observation and support (via wellness practices) of the physiologic processes in their own bodies.

**ISci 650****Pathophysiology: Biologic Basis for Disease****2.00 Semester Credits**

This course reviews the major processes that cause disease from a Western perspective (e.g., toxins, cancer, inflammation, infection, failed vascular function, congestion, chemical messenger imbalance).

**ISci 737****Nutrition: Healing and Food****2.00 Semester Credits**

This course focuses on the use of food and diet to support health & wellness.

**ISci 740****Advanced Clinical Anatomy: Qi Follows Structure****2.00 Semester Credits**

In this advanced course, students deepen their clinical anatomy knowledge and skills in the areas of the torso and lower limbs of the body. They integrate previously learned location skills and focus on relationships between acupuncture points of different meridians in an area. Treatment of a CV/GV block is also taught in this course.

**ISci 750****Pathophysiology: Comparative Approaches****2.00 Semester Credits**

This course offers a comparison between Western and Chinese approaches to patients presenting with frequently seen symptoms (e.g., headache, joint pain, insomnia).

**ISci 754****BioMedicine: Safe Practices****2.00 Semester Credits**

Blood-borne pathogens, Red Flags, Risk Factors, and Responses to Emergencies are covered in this course that precedes students' participation at the Institute's Community Clinic sites.

**ISci 755****Biomedicine: Systems Review****3.00 Semester Credits**

Diseases and the Western medicine approach to treatment are covered in detail in this course.

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# Faculty Biographies

## Program Director

**Jeff Millison, M.Ac., Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Jeff Millison is the director of the Master of Acupuncture program at Tai Sophia Institute. A graduate of the Traditional Acupuncture Institute in 1991, he also earned his B.A. in English from the University of Maryland in 1985, and in 1988 completed course work for the master's degree in holistic psychology from Boulder College. In 1996 he completed a two-year program in Chinese herbal medicine. A faculty member of Tai Sophia Institute since 1992, he currently serves as a clinical supervisor and teaches multiple courses. Jeff served on the board of the Maryland Acupuncture Society from 1992 to 1996.

## Division Chairs

**Jane Grissmer, M.Ac. (UK), Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Jane Grissmer serves the Acupuncture program as chair of the Theory Division. A graduate of the College of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture in England in 1980, Jane has a long history of practicing, teaching and studying acupuncture as a healing art. She also holds a certification in Chinese herbal medicine and brings a wealth of experience in the development of the healing traditions in America. Jane has served as dean of faculty at Tai Sophia Institute; has authored articles on the emotions and the seasons; and continues in her private practice as founding director of an Integrative Wellness Center.

**Stacey MacFarlane, M.Ac.**

A graduate of the Acupuncture master's degree program at Tai Sophia, Stacey MacFarlane serves as division chair for the Clinical Foundations Division in the M.Ac. program. She has been joyfully practicing and teaching since 2001. Prior to her studies of acupuncture, she spent 15 years engaged as a performer and creator in the theatre arts. She studied, worked, and performed in the US and abroad. The unique intersection of these passions, theatre and acupuncture, has helped her to understand that the creative arts are healing and the healing arts are creative. Same river, different shape -- it's all about living fully and truly.

**Tatyana Maltseva, M.D. (Ukraine), M.Ac.**

A graduate of the Traditional Acupuncture Institute, Tatyana Maltseva has been a teacher in the Institute's Acupuncture program since 1998. She received her M.D. in neurology from the Kiev Medical Institute in the Ukraine, and has practiced acupuncture for over 15 years, including several years in Russia, where, as a physician specializing in neurology, she incorporated acupuncture into her work. She currently has a private practice at the Greenspring Valley Healing Arts Center in Owings Mills. Tatyana is chair of the Touching Energy and Structure division.

## Core Faculty

**David M. Blaiwas, M.A., M.Ac., Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Division chair for the Theory Division of the Master of Acupuncture program at Tai Sophia Institute from 2002 to 2007, David has been a primary instructor for Institute students over the past ten years. A graduate of the Traditional Acupuncture Institute, he also holds a certificate in Chinese herbology and received an M.A. in English literature from the University of Leeds. For seven years David served as president of the Maryland Acupuncture Society. He maintains private clinical practices in Takoma Park and Columbia, Maryland.

**Dianne M. Connelly, Ph.D., M.Ac. (UK), Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

A practitioner of traditional acupuncture since 1972 and cofounder and chancellor of the Institute, Dianne Connelly received her master's qualification from the College of Traditional Acupuncture (UK) in 1979. She obtained a Ph.D. in cross-cultural medicine from Union Graduate School in 1975, an M.A. from New York University School of Education in 1970, and her B.A. from Le Moyne College in 1967. Chancellor of the Institute and an international lecturer (she lectures regularly in Italy and Germany), she is the author of *Traditional Acupuncture: The Law of the Five Elements, All Sickness is Home Sickness, and Medicine Words: Language of Love for the Treatment Room of Life*, and coauthor of *Alive and Awake: Wisdom for Kids*. She is the mother of Blaize, Jade, and Caeli, as well as grandmother to Tamar, Lennox, Rianna, Maxim, and Roman.

**Robert M. Duggan, M.A., M.Ac. (UK), Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Robert (Bob) Duggan, president and co-founder of Tai Sophia Institute, has practiced traditional acupuncture since 1972. He holds a master's degree in human relations and community studies from New York University, as well as a master's in moral theology from St. Joseph's Seminary, and received his master's certification in acupuncture from the College of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture (UK). A national leader in the development of the acupuncture profession and the emerging healing arts community, he has served as a commissioner of the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, on the board of trustees of the Horizon Foundation (a community wellness foundation in Howard County, Maryland, which, in 2008, honored him with its annual Leadership Award), and a panelist at meetings sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Bob lectures throughout the United States and abroad, and is author of *Common Sense for the Healing Arts*.

**Hope Finn Gilbert, M.Ac., Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Hope Finn Gilbert is a licensed, nationally certified acupuncturist, certified herbalist, and for 15 years, managing partner of Acupuncture Associates of Columbia. She received her M.Ac. degree from the Traditional Acupuncture Institute. A teacher in the Institute's Acupuncture program since 1989, currently a core faculty member and formerly chair of the program's Touching Energy and Structure Division, she was instrumental in developing the Point Location department and authored or co-authored many of its teaching and administrative materials, including the students' manual and

Supporting Mountain: Guide for the Point Location Student. She brings 20 years' experience in Eastern Indian meditative practices and a commitment to create a supportive environment that accepts and challenges the learner.

**Tyme M. Gigliotti, M.Ac.**

A graduate of the Traditional Acupuncture Institute's class of 1994, Tyme Gigliotti is a core faculty member and a clinic supervisor in the Acupuncture program. Formerly chair of the program's Clinical Foundations Division, he also served as chair of the Maryland State Board of Acupuncture. A former board member of the Maryland Acupuncture Society, and an acupuncture detoxification specialist, he also enjoys his role as a teacher at the University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism. Tyme's purpose, as an acupuncturist and Sufi master teacher, is empowering students to unveil the gifts and mastery that lie within.

**Kaiya Larson, M.Ac.**

A graduate of Tai Sophia Institute's class of 1997, Kaiya Larson has served the students as a faculty member for over five years. Prior to studying acupuncture, she graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and worked with underprivileged children and nonprofit institutions, teaching them to make videos to air on cable access channels. A core faculty member, Kaiya brings a deep commitment and passion for teaching to the students as a core group supervisor and teacher for several courses, including those focusing on sensory skills and diagnostic interaction. Kaiya also practices acupuncture at Tai Sophia's clinic in Laurel, Maryland.

**Heidi Most, M.Ac., Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Heidi Most enjoyed a rewarding 20-year career in urban planning before realizing her life-long desire to work with body, mind, and spirit in the healing arts. She received her master's degree from the Traditional Acupuncture Institute, class of 1999, and now is a core faculty member in Tai Sophia's Acupuncture program, currently teaching Point Location courses. Heidi holds a Diplomate of Acupuncture from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), and teaches the preparatory course for the NCCAOM national examination.

**David Paton, M.Ac.**

Formally the chair of the Theory Division of the Acupuncture program, David has been practicing acupuncture for over 15 years and has been a faculty member at Tai Sophia since 1994. He served as CHI site supervisor at Bon Secours New Hope Center from 1994-96, and as a primary supervisor in the faculty-student clinic from 1995 to 1999 and from 2001 to 2006, when he assumed the role of full-time dean of students. In addition to David's clinical practice, he has worked locally and nationally on regulatory and licensing issues in the acupuncture profession. In 2001 he was appointed by then-Governor Glendening to the Maryland Acupuncture Board, and was elected chairman of the Board in 2004, serving in that capacity until January 2008. In 2002, he became the Maryland Acupuncture Board representative to FAOMRA (Federation of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine Regulatory Agencies) and became president of the organization in spring 2004. He also served as the FAOMRA representative on the ACAOM doctoral task force from 2004-2005. David teaches several courses at Tai Sophia and maintains a private acupuncture practice.

**Sharon M. Smith, M.Ac., Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)**

Sharon (Sherry) Smith holds a Master of Acupuncture degree and a certificate of Chinese herbology from the Traditional Acupuncture Institute (Tai Sophia Institute) in Columbia, Maryland, and is recognized as a Diplomate of Acupuncture by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. She served as the director of the Faculty Supervised Student Clinic at Tai Sophia Institute. Presently, she teaches theory and is a clinical supervisor. Sherry has pursued further studies extensively with prominent practitioners. She trained with J. R. Worsley in Royal Leamington Spa, England, and completed the Clinical Integration course with John and Angela Hicks. Sherry is a member of the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM) and the Maryland Acupuncture Society (MAS); and she has served as the treasurer of MAS. She has a private practice in Columbia, Maryland.

**Deanna Slate Stennett, Adv. L.Ac (U.K. and FL)**

Deanna received her Licentiate in Acupuncture from the Worsley Institute of Classical Acupuncture and her Advanced Licentiate in Acupuncture from the College of Traditional Acupuncture in the United Kingdom. In clinical practice since 1992, she has served as chair of the Clinical Foundations Division of the Acupuncture program and holds a private practice in Crofton, Maryland. From 1993 to 1995, she taught at the Worsley Institute in Florida and

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# Additional Information

## Course Transfer/Exemption Policy

The Master of Acupuncture program is largely a series of courses that are required and offered in a prescribed sequence. With few exceptions, throughout the course of study students attend class with fellow students with whom they began the program. Because much of the teaching at Tai Sophia Institute is based on an oral tradition with highly experiential classes, courses often are not easily compared to those offered at other schools.

Students who have taken coursework at other institutions and thereby previously acquired knowledge and/or skills equivalent to those stipulated as course outcomes of the Acupuncture program may apply for course transfer/exemptions based on this previously acquired knowledge and/or skill. The maximum number of credits for which course transfer/exemption may be granted is one-third of the total credits of the Tai Sophia Master of Acupuncture (M.Ac.) degree program. No reduction in tuition will be granted for courses from which students are exempted.

If a prospective student wishes to apply for course transfer/exemption, the first step is to contact the Office of Graduate Admissions and to submit any transcript(s) and course description(s) from the previous acupuncture school(s) with a request for a course transfer/exemption review. The program director or designee will review the transcript(s) and give a preliminary assessment of transfer possibilities.

If the preliminary review is positive, and the prospective student decides at that point to formally apply for course transfer/exemption, he or she must:

- Submit to Tai Sophia Institute the course catalog of the school(s) attended, along with the course description(s) and syllabi of the course or courses for which transfer/exemption is sought.
- Pay a non-refundable review fee ranging from \$50 to \$200, depending on the number of courses to be reviewed.

Prior to the granting of course transfer/exemptions, the program director and division chair(s) also may require that prospective students:

- Successfully complete a general written examination, as well as a written and practical point location exam.
- Successfully sit for an oral examination with a team of Tai Sophia Institute faculty members.

The prospective student may wait to formally apply to the M.Ac. program until a ruling is made on his or her course transfer/exemption request.

Regardless of the outcome of the ruling, if the prospective student decides to formally apply for acceptance into the M.Ac. program, he or she must:

- Complete the same application process as non-transfer students.
- Meet the same requirements of general education as non-transfer students.

## Laws and Licensure

### Licensure and Acupuncture

Completion of the Master of Acupuncture program does not automatically qualify graduates to begin practicing independently. Each state, including Maryland, has specific licensure or registration procedures that must be met. There may be a waiting period between the completion of the program and the legal recognition allowing you to begin practice. Until a graduate receives official notification of legal recognition to begin practice, she or he may continue to practice only under faculty supervision. Students who wish to continue to practice in Maryland after graduating, but prior to being licensed, must enroll in Tai Sophia's Trainee Program. Most states require successful completion of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine exam. For more information, refer to [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org).

Graduates wishing to practice in Maryland may be licensed by applying to the Maryland Board of Acupuncture.

The Institute is approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission to award a Master of Acupuncture degree, and the program conforms to Maryland laws and regulations regarding the practice of acupuncture.

### General

Governmental laws, regulations, legal opinions, and requirements differ from country to country and state to state. The Institute cannot provide assurance that completion of the program will qualify a graduate to be registered or accepted under a state law other than Maryland. However, the Institute's Master of Acupuncture program is designed to provide basic, solid competence in traditional acupuncture.

### Maryland Acupuncture Licenses

For requirements for licensure in Maryland, contact the Maryland Board of Acupuncture:

Board of Acupuncture  
4201 Patterson Avenue, Room 311  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 764-4766  
(800) 530-2481  
<http://dhmh.state.md.us/bacc>

### State of California

The California Acupuncture Board (formerly the California Acupuncture Examining Committee) approved the Tai Sophia Institute (formerly the Traditional Acupuncture Institute) by unanimous vote on August 27, 1983. The Institute was the first U.S. school outside of California to be approved by the Board. Graduates of Tai Sophia who complete the course of study required by the California Acupuncture Board may sit for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination.

As of January 1, 2005, the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination requires students to complete a total of 3,000 hours (2,050 theoretical hours and 950 clinical hours) in the following areas:

Basic Sciences	350
Oriental Medicine Principles, Theories and Treatment (includes 450 hours in herbs)	1255
Clinical Medicine, Patient Assessment and Diagnosis	240
Case Management	90
Practice Management	45
Public Health	40
Professional Development	30
Clinical Practice	950

In order to gain eligibility, Tai Sophia students wishing to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination must meet specific requirements above and beyond those necessary for the Institute's Master of Acupuncture program. The following must be completed separately at Tai Sophia and/or at other accredited institutions at an additional cost to the student:

- **Basic Sciences.** Tai Sophia students who wish to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination must complete 350 hours of basic science coursework that includes all of the topics listed below. Students should familiarize themselves with these requirements when choosing their 12 elective credits of BioScience coursework as part of the Institute's Master of Acupuncture program to ensure that all requirements are met. Basic Sciences coursework must include:

- General Biology
- Chemistry, including organic and biochemistry;
- General Physics, including a general survey of biophysics;
- General psychology, including counseling skills;
- Anatomy — a survey of microscopic, gross anatomy, and neuroanatomy;
- Physiology — a survey of basic physiology, including neurophysiology, endocrinology, and neurochemistry;
- Pathology and Pathophysiology — a survey of the nature of disease and illness, including microbiology, immunology, psychopathology, and epidemiology
- Nutrition and vitamins.

- **CPR.** Students who wish to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination must complete a minimum of eight (8) hours in first-aid and adult/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other organization with an equivalent course approved by the CA board. Completion of this CA requirement also fulfills the requirement for one year's CPR certification during Tai Sophia's M.Ac. program.

- **Graduate Certificate program in Chinese Herbs.** Students who wish to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination must complete coursework in Chinese herbs. Tai Sophia students must complete the Institute's Graduate Certificate program in Chinese Herbs. Contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for information on this program.

- **Graduate Trainee program.** Tai Sophia students who wish to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination must complete 30 hours of supervised clinical treatment in the Institute's Graduate Trainee program. (Details regarding this program are published in Tai Sophia's Clinical Student Handbook.)

If any of the above coursework is to be completed at an institution other than Tai Sophia Institute, it must be approved by the director of the Master of Acupuncture program. Appropriate documentation must also be submitted to the office of the registrar before such coursework can be included in the student's academic file and official transcript.

Further information on California requirements is available in the office of graduate admissions as well as on the California Acupuncture Board's website, [www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov). Students planning to become licensed in California should speak to an admissions counselor to discuss their plan of study to meet these requirements.

#### Requirements of Other States

For eligibility to apply for licensure, other states may stipulate additional requirements, such as completion of a course in Chinese herbs or clinical hours beyond what is required by ACAOM. For information about licensure procedures in specific states, please contact the medical or acupuncture regulating agency in each state.

## Commonly Asked Questions

### **I need to get into acupuncture treatment. Is the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic free or discounted?**

Having treatment with a student in the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic is an enriching experience on many levels. It provides you with an opportunity to observe and experience what you will be doing in Level III of the Acupuncture program. In addition, you will have the benefit of the collective experience of two student practitioners — your practitioner and a partner — as well as interaction with at least two licensed practitioners who supervise various aspects of the treatment process. The clinical portion of the program is designed to prepare our students not only as practitioners of the healing arts, but also in the practical aspects of practice management. To that end, a charge does apply to treatments in the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic. However, these fees are discounted as compared to customary fees charged by the practitioners in our area.

### **How long will it take to build a practice that will support me?**

Although it is a highly individual process, typically it takes about two years for your practice to become a substantial source of income. However, there are students who have built their practices in less time.

### **I am moving back to my home state after I complete the program. Are there special requirements to be able to practice in that state?**

Books that describe the current laws by state are published annually. Copies of these books can be found in the office of graduate admissions or in the library. Information and links to state regulatory boards can also be found on our website, [www.tai.edu](http://www.tai.edu) and at [www.acupuncture.com](http://www.acupuncture.com).

### **What are the outcomes of the Community Clinic sites?**

Rotations at the Community Clinic sites and partnering with other clinical students provide you with the opportunity to see a broad spectrum of patients and work with a variety of supervisors who have extensive experience as practitioners and teachers.

### **What are the components of the clinical portion of the Acupuncture program?**

The clinical portion of the program has three distinct components:

- A rotation at one or more of the Community Clinic sites.
- Treatments with other student practitioners and their patients.
- Your treatment of at least ten of your own patients in the Faculty-Supervised Clinic.

### **How do I find the acupuncture patients that I need for the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic?**

Students hold the primary responsibility for generating their own patients while practicing under supervision in the Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic. Additionally, Tai Sophia Institute will offer you support in marketing, practice building, and practice management to help prepare you for creating and running your own practice. During the program, you will be eligible to participate in our Faculty-Supervised Student Clinic referral system, and you will also have many different opportunities to interact with other people. As these people become interested in acupuncture, they often become your patients or are open to refer others to you. You also may wish to meet the public in other ways, such as attending health fairs or presenting at seminars or workshops.

## Acupuncture Resources

### The Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

(CCAOM), formerly the National Council of Acupuncture Schools and Colleges (NCASC), was established in 1982. The primary mission of the Council is to advance acupuncture and Oriental medicine by promoting educational excellence within the field. In furtherance of this mission, the Council supports the development and improvement of educational programs in acupuncture and Oriental medicine, and develops recommended curricula for degree, diploma, and other educational programs. It supports and fosters academic freedom and a diversity of educational approaches within the field. As well, it encourages scientific research, innovative teaching methodology, and faculty development, and provides a forum for discussion of issues relevant to member colleges. The Council also serves as an information resource for member colleges, other colleges and organizations, regulatory agencies, and the public. It encourages ethical business practices among member colleges and works with accreditation, certification, licensing and regulatory agencies to develop appropriate educational standards and requirements. It also promotes increased public access to high quality healthcare provided by well-trained practitioners of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. CCAOM can be reached at 600 Wyndhurst Ave., Suite 112, Baltimore, MD 21210; 410-464-6040. The web address is [www.ccaom.org](http://www.ccaom.org).

### The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

(ACAOM) was established in 1982 by the Board of the CCAOM. ACAOM, working under existing guidelines for similar agencies at a national level, acts as an independent body to evaluate schools and colleges of acupuncture and Oriental medicine for the purpose of establishing and maintaining high standards and ethical business practices. The Commission is recognized as a specialized accrediting agency by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. ACAOM can be reached at 7501 Greenway Center Drive, Suite 760, Greenbelt, MD 20770; 301-313-0855. The web address is [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org).

### National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental

**Medicine** (NCCAOM), the only nationally recognized certification body in the United States for acupuncture, Chinese herbology, Oriental medicine, and Asian bodywork therapy, was established in 1982. NCCAOM's mission is to establish, assess, and promote recognized standards of competence and safety in acupuncture, Chinese herbology, Asian bodywork therapy, and Oriental medicine for the protection and benefit of the public. The Board of Commissioners consists of nine practitioners who are elected by other diplomats, or are appointed if a vacancy arises mid-year. Additionally, the Board includes two public members, who serve to ensure NCCAOM's commitment to the public. Over 17,000 diplomates are currently certified through NCCAOM, which is a member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance, and which is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCAOM can be reached at 76 S. Laura Street Suite 1290, Jacksonville, FL 32202; 904-598-1005 (phone); [info@nccaom.org](mailto:info@nccaom.org) (email). The web address is [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org).

### The American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

(AAAOM) is a national membership organization dedicated to promoting excellence and integrity in the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, in order to enhance public health and well-being. The AAAOM is committed to high ethical and educational standards and to ensuring the safety of the public. As part of its purpose, the AAAOM seeks to advance the professional field of acupuncture and Oriental medicine and to educate and serve as a resource to legislators, regulators, and the general public regarding the nature and scope of the practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. The AAAOM can be reached at PO Box 162340, Sacramento, CA 95816; 916-443-4770. The web address is [www.aaomonline.org](http://www.aaomonline.org).