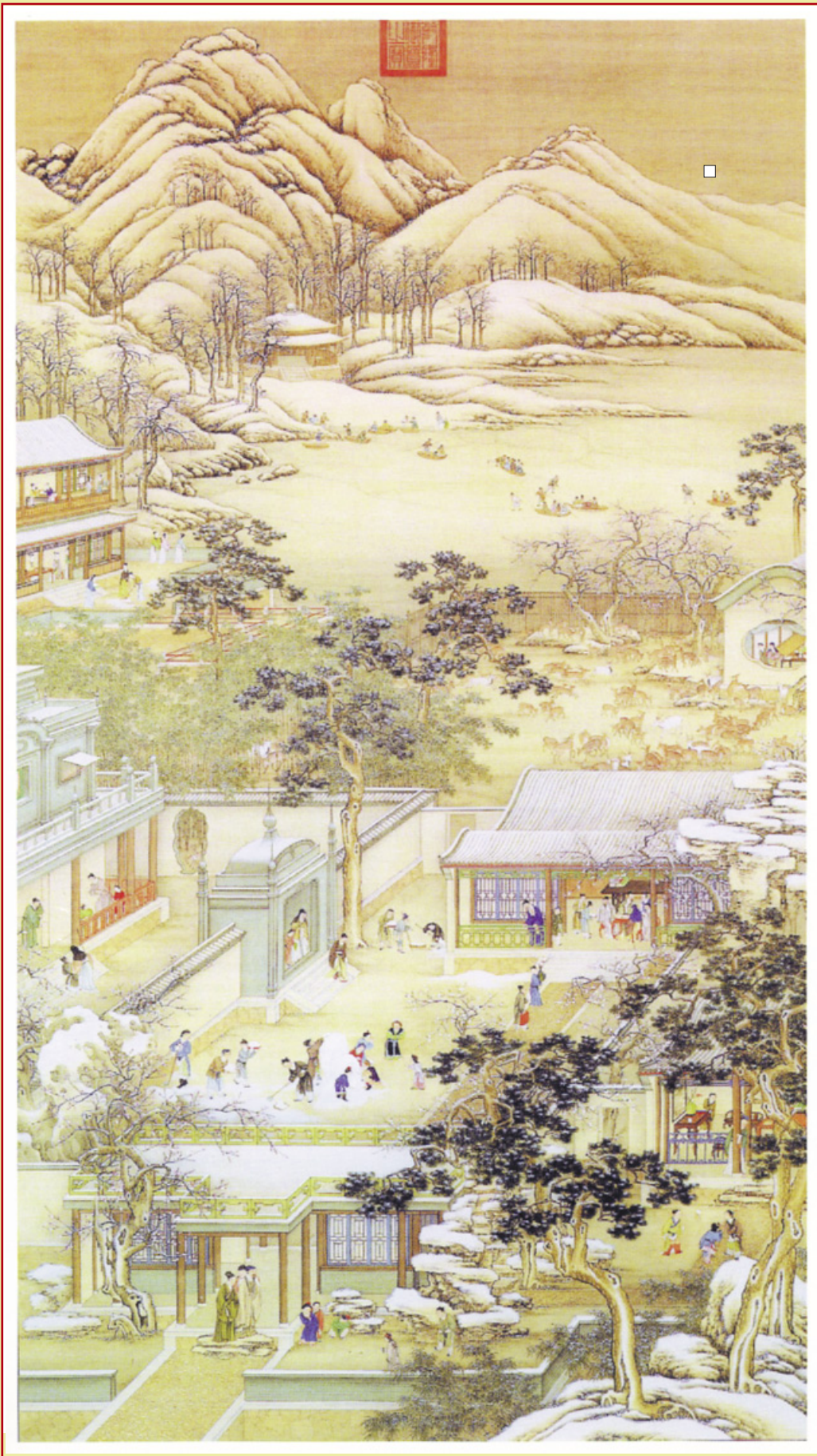


Acupuncture Herbology Massage Dietetics Energetics



# FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY

*Graduate School of  
Traditional Chinese  
Medicine*

*DAcHM*

*MAcHM*

*DAc*

*MAc*

CATALOG  
2025

EXCELLENCE IN  
EDUCATION AND  
HEALTHCARE  
SINCE 1984

# Welcome to Five Branches University

Dear Friends,

Your interest in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) comes at an advantageous time as more and more patients turn to TCM for their healthcare and are seeking qualified practitioners.

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is the main healthcare modality for more than 20% of the world's population and is the fastest growing primary healthcare in the U.S. Statistics indicate this consistent growth pattern will continue, as Chinese Medicine is increasingly sought by Americans who have experienced its healing benefits. Significantly, the U.S. National Institute of Health has recognized acupuncture as a valid, effective method of healing, and the Bureau of Labor has categorized the Acupuncture profession in the category of "Bright Future" because it has a growth rate of over 20% per year. With hospitals such as Kaiser and Sutter adding acupuncture to their integrative medicine departments, Obamacare including acupuncture coverage in many states in the U.S., and regulations requiring hospitals to use non-pharmacological methods to treat pain, the practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine is growing.

TCM and Western medicine differ profoundly, yet for more than 80 years they have been offered side-by-side in Chinese hospitals and universities, and increasingly in the U.S. In the last five years, integrative medicine has made great strides in the United States: Western medical schools are offering courses in complementary and alternative medicine, a recent survey indicates that more than 50% of M.D.s today support their patients seeking alternative therapies, and more recently, Five Branches University students are completing hospital residencies at the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland.

When you study TCM you are choosing to become immersed in a healing tradition passed down for generations in Asia. You will learn the great TCM classics and their clinical applications to become an expert acupuncturist and Chinese herbalist. The study of this precious body of knowledge provides a deep understanding of the energy body and the ancient, profound and useful principles of TCM diagnosis and treatment. In addition, our Western medical curriculum provides you with the knowledge and skills to perform as an effective primary healthcare practitioner working in harmony with the wider medical profession. The Institute of Medicine (IOM), the leading think tank for defining healthcare for the 21st century, has made patient-centered care and multidisciplinary medicine their top two priorities. Five Branches' programs embody both of these important goals.

Through the new dual-degree graduate Masters/Doctorate, and the postgraduate Doctorate programs, we believe that Traditional Chinese Medicine will play a growing and central role in future healthcare and medical systems. Our goal is to serve, and we are devoted to the transmission of this profound body of knowledge to the next generation of sincere and dedicated students, and future practitioners.

We invite you to visit our beautiful campuses in California: in Santa Cruz on the Monterey Bay, and in San Jose in the heart of Silicon Valley, to further explore TCM, its ancient wisdom and understandings, and what the field of integrative medicine can offer you. If a career in Traditional Chinese Medicine is indeed your calling, know that you will be amply rewarded with a meaningful and satisfying career that will benefit you beyond your expectations and allow you to experience the fulfillment of serving others: your friends, family and patients.

Sincerely,

Ron Zaidman, President & CEO

# Points of Excellence

For 40 years, Five Branches University, Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine, has set the standards for excellence in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) education and healthcare.

## Respected University

Recognized as one of the nation's top TCM schools, Five Branches University provides the highest level of professional education and healthcare in Traditional Chinese Medicine and integrative medicine in the U.S. and internationally. Five Branches University graduates practice in Europe, Asia and South America.

## Two California Campuses

You can choose from our two beautiful campuses in Santa Cruz and San Jose, California or attend classes at both to enjoy breathtaking coastal views or unique cultural city experiences. Both campuses offer plenty of sunshine and a diverse and progressive environment in which to live.

## Health and Medical Centers

The Five Branches University Health Centers located in Santa Cruz and San Jose, California provide the best of TCM healthcare. Treating over 160 patients each day, our health centers are the ideal place for students to gain experience in a clinical environment and for TCM clinicians and doctors to provide exceptional healthcare to their patients. Our staff includes specialists in neurology, internal medicine, gynecology, pediatrics, oncology, dermatology, immune deficiency, ophthalmology, pain management, gastroenterology, rheumatology, and cardiology.

## Master's, Doctoral, Postgraduate Doctoral and Specialization Programs

Our Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM/MAcHM), Doctor and Master of Acupuncture (DAc/MAc), and Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) programs provide a strong foundation in TCM diagnosis, acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, the latest TCM research, extensive clinical training, and a comprehensive integrative medicine education.

The Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM/ MAcHM) and Doctor and Master of Acupuncture (DAc/MAc) which lead to state licensure and national certification is offered as dual-degree programs. The Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) program offers licensed practitioners the highest level of TCM education. Our Asian Massage and Qigong specialization program offers students the opportunity to receive National massage certification. Five Branches University is the first accredited acupuncture school in the U.S to pioneer a comprehensive Medical Qigong Specialization Program. Our Medical Qigong Program offers three levels of training and the Medical Qigong Practitioner Specialization. The levels of training are Self Cultivation and Medical Qigong Therapist.

## Experienced Faculty and Clinical Experts

Learn from highly accomplished faculty in TCM education. Many of our doctors and teachers have decades of experience teaching and practicing TCM in renowned hospitals and medical schools in China and the U.S.

## **Integrative Medicine**

Throughout the DAChM/MAChM program, you will learn the ancient and profound principles of TCM diagnosis and treatment, acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, along with the best of Western medicine. Your training in Western medicine will inform your TCM practice, and open doors to collaborate with Western practitioners.

## **Extensive Herbology Training**

Five Branches University is respected among TCM colleges for its outstanding herbology department. Among our instructors is Dr. Jeffrey Pang, the descendant of a famous Chinese herbalist family. Our herb pharmacy contains more than 400 raw herbs, catalogued and stored in traditional wooden drawers, and over 350 patent formulas.

## **Specialization Options**

As a DAChM/MAChM or DAc/MAc student, you can complete a specialty in Sports Medicine, Medical Qigong, Five Element Acupuncture and Tuina Massage to enhance and distinguish your TCM and Acupuncture practice.

The DAOM program offers TCM practitioners the ability to further specialize in their practice. Advanced training by leading TCM specialists, medical doctors and educators is available in women's health, neuromuscular medicine, family medicine, the classics and other specialties.

## **Study in China, Taiwan, Korea and Vietnam**

Our Study Abroad program is one of the best ways to experience the authentic practice of TCM integrated with modern western medicine. Travel to Asia to learn TCM from highly knowledgeable doctors and teachers and to receive extensive clinical training in a hospital setting, including earning a Ph.D. at one of our sister schools in Hangzhou, Tianjin, Fujian, Shenyang or Beijing, China.

## **Continuing Education**

Our commitment to excellence in education continues beyond graduation with our continuing education programs. Bringing expert teachers and lecturers together, we offer a wide variety of high-quality courses in advanced Traditional Chinese Medicine and provide a number of specializations such as Tibetan Medicine, Ear Medicine, the Chinese Classics and Medical Qigong.

## **Financial Aid Programs**

Five Branches University is an accredited institution of higher education approved to participate in federal financial aid programs for the DAChM/MAChM, DAc/MAc, and postgraduate DAOM programs. Our financial aid programs can assist you in meeting the financial costs of your education, including tuition and living expenses.

## **Career Opportunities**

Our professional partnerships with Stanford University, the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Kaiser-Permanente, Highland Hospital, Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, and Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, offer you outstanding educational and career opportunities around the world.

Careers in the field of TCM are growing and include establishing a private practice, joining a group practice, working in an integrative medical center, hospitals, and job opportunities in education, publishing and research.

Whatever your career of choice, our career development courses and advisors will guide and support you in pursuing your optimal career path, providing you with the business knowledge, skills and level of confidence required to become a successful Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioner.

## **Graduate Success**

Our DAChM/MACHM graduates consistently achieve the high passing scores on both the California acupuncture licensing exam and the national certification exams. Upon graduation, you will be qualified to enroll in our postgraduate Doctorate and Ph.D. programs, to apply for a top-paying position at a medical institution or to establish a successful TCM practice anywhere in the world.

Five Branches has turned out extraordinarily accomplished alumni who are leaders in every facet of TCM: practitioners, teachers, authors, international lecturers, consultants, and researchers. Access to these alumni offer you excellent networking opportunities for professional advancement.

We hope you will join us at Five Branches University for a truly distinctive educational experience and to discover the rewarding personal and career path of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

## **Distance Education**

The University offers a variety of its courses through distance education. The DAChM and DAc Completion Bridge programs are totally online, the postgraduate DAOM program is 49% online, and the DAChM/MACHM and DAc/MAC programs are growing their online offerings. The online courses, designed by professional instructional designers, provide students the convenience of studying from home and not having to travel to campus. The University's distance education program is approved by its accreditor, ACAHM.

For distance education courses, the institute will provide students evaluation of their submitted assignments within two weeks.

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# The University

## Two Campuses

Five Branches University opened its first campus and health center in Santa Cruz, California in 1984, offering Traditional Chinese Medicine education and healthcare to the residents of this thriving, coastal Northern California town. In 2005, the University opened its second campus in San Jose in the heart of Silicon Valley. Our objectives were to provide the best of Traditional Chinese Medicine education and healthcare to this growing high-tech area; and to have a campus located in close vicinity to important university medical programs and hospitals such as Stanford Medical School and Kaiser Hospital.

## Eight Programs

Five Branches University offers five degree programs, two extension programs and a completion program related to Traditional Chinese and Integrative Medicine at its two California campuses. The majority of the classes and clinical trainings of the programs are held at the two campuses except clinical externships that are offered locally and in Asia, and the completion program which is offered fully online.

### Santa Cruz Campus Programs

- Dual-Degree Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine
- Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine
- Dual-Degree Doctor and Master of Acupuncture
- Master of Acupuncture
- DAChM/DAC Bridge Program (completion track for LAc's with a Master's degree)
- Asian Bodywork and Qigong (Extension)
- Medical Qigong Practitioner (Extension)

### San Jose Campus Programs

- Dual-Degree Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (English and Bilingual)
- Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (English and Bilingual)
- Dual-Degree Doctor and Master of Acupuncture (English and Bilingual)
- Master of Acupuncture (English and Bilingual)
- DAChM/DAC Bridge Program (completion track for LAc's with a Master's degree) (English/Chinese Bilingual)
- Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (English and Chinese)
- Asian Bodywork and Qigong (Extension)
- Medical Qigong Practitioner (Extension)

### Mission

Five Branches University, a Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine, is dedicated to educating students to become exceptional practitioners, educators and researchers.

### Our Purpose

Five Branches University is dedicated to:

- Provide the highest level of professional education in Traditional Chinese Medicine and

integrative medicine in the U.S. and internationally.

- Develop highly skilled TCM clinical practitioners, educators and researchers.
- Advance the practice of TCM as an independent medical modality through clinical practice, education and research.
- Encourage professional collaboration among TCM practitioners, faculty, patients, and other medical providers to transform the worldview of healthcare; and to recognize TCM as a significant component of world medicine.
- Support an international and diverse cultural community by offering our programs in two languages and providing students the opportunity to study abroad.
- Foster a professional environment for faculty, staff and students to promote academic excellence as well as personal growth and development.
- Provide exceptional TCM and integrative medicine patient care to the community through the Five Branches University health centers.
- Educate the general public about the significant benefits of TCM healthcare through continuing education programs and community lectures.

## Vision and Values

Over the next 30 years, Five Branches University will evolve into an international university and healthcare center, teaching and researching high-level TCM education in English and Chinese, and offering TCM healthcare in an integrative medicine environment throughout the U.S. and worldwide.

TCM philosophy views medicine as a compassionate response to human suffering. We will embrace this philosophy by encouraging supportive and humanistic academic and healthcare environments. We will support equality and oppose discriminations in any form including race, color, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity. Our faculty members will be chosen based not only on academic excellence but also on the passion they emanate while teaching and mentoring students. Our students will be chosen for academic competence as well as their compassion and commitment to serve others.

Four trends will influence our vision over the next 30 years:

An increasing number of patients will continue to seek highly qualified TCM practitioners as primary healthcare providers. TCM schools will continue to improve their programs to provide highly skilled TCM clinical practitioners to meet this growing demand.

TCM universities in China and medical experts in the U.S. will continue to collaborate and share their expertise in TCM and Western medicine, a vital component for the advanced development of TCM doctoral programs and research.

Scientists, researchers and medical institutions will continue to research the depth and efficacy of TCM, resulting in greater acceptance of Chinese medicine among medical professionals and medical schools in the U.S.

A greater demand for collaborative healthcare will evolve as healthcare professionals join together to address the population's full health needs by educating one another about their work and collaborating to provide effective treatment, prevent disease and promote optimal well-being for patients. We will continue to work to achieve equal recognition and compensation for TCM services in the health care profession.

## A Growing Profession

Consumers are fueling the growth of alternative medicine. According to a study published in the

Journal of the American Medical Association, approximately 42% of Americans are spending more than 34 billion dollars on complementary and alternative therapies each year. The author of the study, Dr. David Eisenberg, Director of the Center for Alternative Medicine and Research at Beth Israel, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, claims that, “One out of every two individuals between the ages of 30–55 use alternative therapies.” What this growing base of consumers seem to prefer is the safe, noninvasive nature of alternative therapies, the affordable cost of treatments, and the emphasis on preventing illness while maintaining optimal health.

Traditional Chinese Medicine has been the primary healthcare system for over 25 percent of the world’s population for decades, and today it is the fastest growing form of alternative healthcare in the United States.

The World Health Organization (WHO) published findings stating that acupuncture can be effectively used to treat over 43 conditions. The prestigious Mayo Clinic, Kaiser Hospital, Sutter Hospital and leading cancer centers have busy acupuncture departments, and the Cleveland Clinic prescribes TCM herbs. Insurance providers are taking note, providing improved coverage for alternative therapies, including chiropractic, massage and acupuncture.

According to the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, growth in the acupuncture profession has increased dramatically, providing graduates with a multitude of career opportunities around the world. TCM practitioners can choose to establish a private or group practice, work in an integrative medical center, cancer center or hospital, or become involved in TCM education, publishing or research.

Currently, there are over 10,000 students enrolled in over 50 Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine colleges with more than 24,000 licensed acupuncturists now practicing throughout the United States. This is a growing profession!

## The Five Branches of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Five Branches University derives its name from the five branches of Traditional Chinese Medicine that maintain and restore an individual’s harmony with nature: Acupuncture, Herbology, Massage (Tuina), Qigong (energetics and exercise), and Chinese Dietary Medicine.

- I. **Acupuncture** uses very fine needles to regulate Qi (Yang) and Blood (Yin), produced by the internal organs, which flow in the regular channels and extra meridians that course throughout the body. According to TCM theory, all human physical disorders or diseases are related to the dysfunction of Qi and Blood. By inserting acupuncture needles in correct points, we tonify Qi and Blood deficiencies or invigorate their stagnation, resulting in improved mental and physical health.
- II. **Herbology** is the preparation and use of plants and minerals as prescription medicine. Chinese herbology is found in many forms, including powder, pills, teas, and creams. These herbs treat disorders and diseases through internal or external absorption. Since Chinese herbs have different tastes, properties, natures and functions—and because they enter various channels—the herbs affect the flow of Qi and Blood, as well as the body’s balance of Yin and Yang.
- III. **Tuina Massage** refers to the use of traditional Chinese massage to treat injuries of tendons and muscles, and organ disorders. Tuina applies pressure on the points, as well as applying specific movements along the meridians, to regulate and harmonize the flow of Qi and Blood.
- IV. **Energetics** are exercises that heal through rhythmic breathing and body movements. Energetics includes internal healing arts, such as the Five-Animal Exercise developed by Hua Tuo, meditation, Medical Qigong, and various styles of Taijiquan, an internal martial

art practiced worldwide.

- V. **Chinese Dietary Medicine** is a highly effective method of self-treatment handed down in China over thousands of years. Like all agricultural societies, China understands the vital connection between food and health. Thus, TCM doctors prescribe energetically balanced diets to treat disharmonies in the Qi, Blood, and organ functions, using the energetic profile of foods.

TCM and Western medicine are both essential to the evolution of a future world medicine. At Five Branches, we believe TCM education provides a profound view of the human relationship to nature—a philosophical view at the heart of all great human civilizations. We wish to perpetuate this inherent TCM wisdom.

## History of Five Branches University

Five Branches University was founded on an auspicious day: February 4, 1984, on Chinese New Year in the Year of the Mouse, at the beginning of a 60-year cycle. We had one classroom, a clinic with three treatment rooms, five teachers, 18 dedicated students, one patient a day, and one typewriter. Today we have two campuses, 14 classrooms, 38 treatment rooms, 200 teachers, 450 dedicated students, 2000 alumni, and we see 180 patients a day. We have grown.

From the beginning, it was our intention to invite Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners to the West, to teach and transmit their precious knowledge of Chinese medicine and to share their subtle yet powerful ways of practicing medicine. The history of Five Branches began when several of these extraordinary yet humble practitioners of TCM accepted our invitation.

The essence of our success has been the quality and dedication of our faculty/practitioners. Jeffrey Pang, L.Ac., Joanna Zhao, L.Ac., and Lucy Hu, L.Ac., have been with us for over 30 years. Today, our faculty number over 200 distinguished members.

The most meaningful events of our history, however, are the memories of the hug and warm smile a patient gives one of our faculty members when they meet outside the clinic, the practitioner who shares how Chinese medicine saved their patient's life, and the heartfelt gratitude expressed by a graduate at their graduation for the gifts received from faculty during their time of study and training at Five Branches.

It is our comprehensive academic programs, the quality of teaching in both the classroom and clinic and the deep and sincere dedication of faculty, staff and students that have contributed significantly to the transmission of this incredible medicine into our communities and throughout the West.

## History Highlights

### 1984–1992

- Five Branches Institute is founded on February 4, 1984
- Five Branches enrolls its first class of 18 students
- Approved as degree-granting school by the California Council of Education
- Five Branches builds a modern seven-room clinic
- The first graduating classes achieve unprecedented 100% passing rate on licensing exam
- Five Branches students travel to China for the annual Study Abroad program
- The Medical Qigong program is established

## **1993–2001**

- Five Branches Institute receives national accreditation
- Five Branches expands the library, clinic and classrooms
- Externship clinic programs with community clinics are established
- The Sports Medicine program is established
- Five Branches expands clinic to 18 treatment rooms
- Five Branches and Zhejiang College of TCM begin to develop joint Doctoral/Ph.D. program

## **2002–2010**

- Five Branches co-hosts the first International Conference on Integrated Medicine with Zhejiang Chinese Medical University in China
- Five Branches establishes the San Jose campus, offering the TCM Master's degree
- Stanford doctors and staff explore cooperative education with Five Branches
- The postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine program is established
- The Bilingual TCM Master's degree program is established at the San Jose campus

## **2011–2018**

- Five Branches celebrates its 30-year anniversary
- Five Branches students travel to Taiwan and Vietnam for the annual Study Abroad program
- Five Branches receives the maximum of 7 years institutional, Master's and Professional Doctorate degree programs re-accreditation
- The postgraduate DAOM program receives full accreditation
- The Stroke and Rehabilitation Center is inaugurated
- Five Branches co-hosts the 10<sup>th</sup> World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies conference in Santa Clara, California with 800 participants from around the world

## **2019–2025**

- Five Branches launches the fully online asynchronous DAChM/DAC Bridge Completion Program
- The University is accredited for distance education
- Five Branches celebrates its 40-year anniversary
- Five Branches receives the maximum of 7 years institutional, Master's and Professional Doctorate degree programs re-accreditation

# **Accreditations & Approvals**

## **Institutional and Program Accreditation**

Five Branches University is institutionally and programmatically accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM), the recognized accrediting agency for freestanding institutions and colleges offering programs in acupuncture and herbal medicine.

## DISCLOSURES TO THE PUBLIC BY THE INSTITUTION

Five Branches University and its following programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM):

- (1) **Master of Acupuncture** (offered in English)
- (2) **Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine** (offered in English and Mandarin) [formerly named Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine]
- (3) **Doctor of Acupuncture** (offered in English and Mandarin)
  - including a Doctor of Acupuncture degree completion track
- (4) **Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine** (offered in English and Mandarin) [formerly named Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine]
  - including a Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine degree completion track
- (5) **Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine** (offered in English and Mandarin)

The programs listed above may offer courses **via distance education**.

ACAHM does not accredit any programs at the undergraduate/bachelor level.

Accreditation status and notes may be viewed on the [ACAHM Directory](#).

ACAHM is recognized by the United States Department of Education as the specialized accreditation agency for institutions/programs preparing acupuncture practitioners. ACAHM is located at 500 Lake Street, Suite 204, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331; phone 952/212-2434; <https://acaahm.org>

Public Disclosure Statement Effective as of 13 August 2025

## National and State Approvals

Five Branches University is a private institution recognized, approved by, or is a member of the following national and state associations:

- National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
- Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (CCAHM)
- Title IV Federal Student Financial Aid Program, U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security approval for foreign students
- Veterans Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- California State Acupuncture Board, California State Department of Consumer Affairs
- California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, [www.bppe.ca.gov](http://www.bppe.ca.gov).

Five Branches University is a private institution approved to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Approval to operate means the institution is compliant with the standards contained in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (as amended) and Division 7.5 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

## The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Any questions a student may have regarding this catalog that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to:

The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Or

P.O. Box 980818  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818

Phone: (888) 370-7589 and (916) 574-8900  
Fax (916) 263-1897

[www.bppe.ca.gov](http://www.bppe.ca.gov)

A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education by calling (888) 370-7589 toll-free or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the bureau's Internet website: [www.bppe.ca.gov](http://www.bppe.ca.gov).

### BPPE Required Disclosure

Five Branches University does not have a pending petition in bankruptcy, is not operating as a debtor in possession, has not filed a petition within the preceding five years, and has not had a petition in bankruptcy filed against it within the preceding five years that resulted in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec 1101 et seq.).

## Board of Directors

*Board Chair:* **Angela Tu**, LAc

TCM Practitioner, Walnut Creek, California

President, National Federation of Traditional Chinese Medicine Organizations, USA Vice Chair,  
World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies

Ex-commissioner of: Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; California  
Acupuncture Board; National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

### **Lar Short**

Director, Grace Essence Mandala, Taos, New Mexico

### **Ron Zaidman**, MBA, MAChM

President, CEO, Co-founder, Five Branches University

### **Joanna Zhao**, LAc

Vice-President Academic and Clinic Affairs, Co-founder, Five Branches University

### **Steven Vaccaro**

Entrepreneur, Toronto, Canada

### **Robert Cheasty**

Lawyer, Cheasty, Cheasty & Malek, LLP, Berkeley, California

### **Elin Ritchie**, MD

Medical Doctor in Western and Alternative medicine

### **Ellen Galford**

Nurse and Alternative medicine expertise

## **Advisors to the Board and University**

**Amy Matecki, MD, LAc** – Co-founder and President of the International Center for Integrative Medicine (ICIM), Chief of Integrative Medicine in the Department of Medicine at Highland Hospital, AHS

**Prof Huang Huang** – Professor at the Nanjing TCM University, Director of Jingfang Institute in China and Internationally

# Contact Information

## San Jose Campus

### DAcHM and/or MAcHM Programs, English and Chinese

- **English:** (408) 260-0208 ext 212  
[sjadmissions@fivebranches.edu](mailto:sjadmissions@fivebranches.edu)
- **Chinese:** (408) 260-0208 ext 220  
[chinesemasters@fivebranches.edu](mailto:chinesemasters@fivebranches.edu)

### Postgraduate DAOM Program, English and Chinese

- **English:** Robyn – (408) 260-0208 ext 255  
[daom@fivebranches.edu](mailto:daom@fivebranches.edu)
- **Chinese:** Debbie – (408) 260-0208 ext 220  
[daomassociate@fivebranches.edu](mailto:daomassociate@fivebranches.edu)

## Santa Cruz Campus

### DAcHM and/or MAcHM Programs

- Eleonor – (831) 476-9424 Ext 31  
[admissions@fivebranches.edu](mailto:admissions@fivebranches.edu)

### DAcHM/DAc Bridge Completion Program (for LAc's)

- Tom – (831) 476-9424 Ext 41  
[admissionsadvisor@fivebranches.edu](mailto:admissionsadvisor@fivebranches.edu)

# Local Community

## Santa Cruz

At the top of the Monterey Bay crescent, Santa Cruz shines like an emerald between beaches and redwood forests. With a population that barely tops 54,000, Santa Cruz belies her small-town size with big personality and endless possibilities for recreation and entertainment. Home to the University of California (UCSC) and Cabrillo College, Santa Cruz has a vibrant youth culture that keeps the community unique and up to date while still retaining a warm neighborhood feel.

## Outdoors

If you love fresh sea air, surf and the great outdoors, you have come to the right place. Blessed with mild weather and a gorgeous coastline, Santa Cruz has lured surfers, boaters, hikers and bikers for decades. Bursting at the seams with parks, beaches and open spaces, Santa Cruz County is one of the most beautiful places to find yourself outside.

## Food and Local Agriculture

One of the five branches of Chinese medicine is nutrition, and Santa Cruz makes it easy for you to find fresh, wholesome, local food at many restaurants, cafes and health food markets. Nearby farms are represented at several farmers' markets located throughout the city, featuring fresh organic fruits and vegetables, locally caught seafood, artisan cheeses, fresh flowers and more.

## Arts and Entertainment

The creative denizens of Santa Cruz have made sure your experience here is steeped in art of every persuasion. Museums, art galleries, theater and dance troupes will keep your cultural calendar overflowing with options. Look forward to music every night of the week, thanks to a thriving local music scene. Downtown hosts a lively shopping district with bookstores, boutiques, restaurants and movie theaters catering to locals and visitors alike. The historic Santa Cruz beach boardwalk, home of the world-famous Big Dipper roller coaster, is a seaside amusement park that has been a family destination for over 100 years.

## San Jose

In the heart of Silicon Valley, the mecca of high tech, San Jose is the largest city in Northern California. Attracted by mild Mediterranean weather and high wages, people from around the world have made their home in San Jose, making it the most ethnically diverse city in the nation. Add a low crime rate and a spacious, wide open feeling and you have one of the most livable, family-friendly locations in the west. The San Jose International Airport makes travel easy and proximity to San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and the wine country provide day trip destination getaways.

## Outdoors and Athletics

With 300 days of sunshine per year, you can imagine San Joseans take good advantage of their parks and open spaces. Many walking and biking trails within the city limits provide glimpses of nature during your green commute. Local sports fans are proud of their NHL hockey team the San Jose Sharks, as well as the major soccer league team the San Jose Earthquakes. These pro games are events you won't want to miss.

## **Food and Local Agriculture**

Once known more for apricots, plums and grapes than silicon, the fertile Santa Clara Valley supplies a rich harvest of produce that can be seen on display at many area farmers' markets. As one of the oldest wine producing regions in California, Santa Clara Valley has many wineries offering tours and tastings daily. Replete with international cuisine and fine restaurants, the quality and variety of dining experiences in San Jose are something to savor.

## **Arts and Culture**

Thanks to a special city ordinance, public art is on the rise in San Jose and many pieces can be seen throughout the city in parks and downtown areas. The celebration of art and culture continues with many community events, performance companies, galleries and museums, including the renowned contemporary San Jose Museum of Art. One of the busiest venues in the world, the HP Pavilion hosts major musical acts, sporting events and conferences. The cosmopolitan Santana Row district combines shopping, dining, living and relaxing all in a beautiful tree-lined atmosphere.

## **Technology**

Silicon Valley slowly replaced the agriculture food companies which gave San Jose its initial nickname, "The Valley of the Heart's Delight." With a population of close to 2 million, Silicon Valley sits in the South Bay portion of the San Francisco Bay area. Home to many of the world's largest technology corporations it continues to be the leading hub for high-tech innovation and development.

# Programs

## Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Dual-Degree Program (DAcHM/MAcHM)

The dual-degree Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine program is a four-year graduate professional degree program comprising 3435 hours and 195.5 units. Students earn a Doctorate degree, and the Master's degree that is required to sit for State and National licensing and certification exams. Taught by highly accomplished faculty in TCM education, the DAcHM/MAcHM curriculum is offered through eight academic and clinical departments, providing comprehensive instruction and practical clinical experience in the "five branches" of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture, Herbology, Tuina Massage, Energetics and Chinese Dietary Medicine). The program emphasizes extensive clinical training, integrative Western medicine, and the latest TCM research.

### Educational Purpose:

The DAcHM and MAcHM program provides a deep education in acupuncture and herbal medicine, blending Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with modern scientific research to develop skilled, collaborative, and compassionate practitioners. Graduates will be equipped to practice independently in a variety of settings, addressing diverse healthcare needs and advancing global healthcare practices.

## Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (MAcHM)

The Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine is the same program as the Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine described above and differs only in admissions requirements. The MAcHM requires 2 years of undergraduate studies versus three years for the DAcHM; and requires a TOEFL score of 61 versus 80 for the DAcHM.

### Educational Purpose:

The MAcHM program provides an education in acupuncture and herbal medicine to develop highly skilled and compassionate practitioners. Graduates will be equipped to practice independently in a variety of settings addressing diverse healthcare needs of local populations and communities.

## Doctor and Master of Acupuncture Program (DAc/MAc)

The Doctor and Master of Acupuncture program is a three-year professional degree program consisting of 2647.5 hours and a total of 149 units. The program is specifically designed for students who wish to practice outside California as well as students interested in developing a practice emphasizing acupuncture, including MDs and other licensed Western medical practitioners authorized to use acupuncture needles in the state of California. If you plan to practice in California and are not an MD or licensed Western medical practitioner, you will need to complete the DAcHM/MAcHM program which includes both acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine studies. The DAc/MAc program includes both academic and clinical training, with a focus on practicing acupuncture in an integrative medical environment. For students interested in implementing the fast-growing community clinic model, the program includes instruction on how to establish and manage a community-style acupuncture clinic.

### Educational Purpose:

The DAc/MAC program provides a deep education in acupuncture blending Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with modern scientific research to develop skilled, collaborative, and compassionate practitioners. Graduates will be equipped to practice independently in a variety of settings, addressing diverse health needs and advancing global healthcare practices.

## **DAcHM & DAc Bridge Program**

The Online DAcHM & DAc Bridge Program is a completion track to the DAcHM or DAc degree available to licensed practitioners who have an earned Master's degree in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or Acupuncture.

Created by instructional designers and following the standards of ACAHM, the profession's accreditor, the program emphasizes integrative care, systems-based medicine and professional development as they relate to the practice of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine. The self-paced, on-demand format is tailored to those in the Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine field who want a high quality, relevant and convenient path towards earning the Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM) degree or Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) degree.

### Educational Purpose:

The DAcHM/DAc Bridge program offers advanced learning for current practitioners, enabling them to deepen their integrative practice, evaluate and apply research in clinical settings, broaden their understanding of the Western medical model, and enhance their approach to purposeful professional development. Additionally, the program prepares practitioners to advocate for the advancement of the acupuncture profession within the broader healthcare landscape and consider leadership roles.

## **Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Program (DAOM)**

The Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) program is designed for licensed acupuncturists interested in developing advanced TCM knowledge and skills, achieving a medical specialization, and gaining valuable experience in research and teaching. The DAOM program is offered at the San Jose campus in both English and Chinese. The 56.8 unit / 1280-hour program comprises 39.6 units / 594 hours didactic and 17.2 units / 686 hours clinical training. DAOM courses are offered once per month during three to four-day weekend intensives with a flexible clinical training schedule, allowing you to earn a doctorate degree in as little as 24 months while maintaining your private practice.

The Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is described in a separate Catalog that is downloadable on the University's website.

## **Extension Program**

Five Branches University offers a variety of classes and specialization programs in therapeutic massage, Asian Bodywork, Qigong and Medical Qigong; bringing together wisdom from modalities based in Eastern and Western traditions. Courses may be taken individually, for massage therapists, qigong instructors, licensed acupuncturists and other healing practitioners, wanting to add to their skills. Courses may be taken in a series of classes that lead to specialization in Asian Bodywork and Qigong, and in Medical Qigong.

The programs and courses of the Extension department are described in a separate Catalog that is downloadable on the University's website.

# Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Dual-Degree Program (DAcHM/MAcHM) and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (MAcHM)

## TCM Theory and Clinical Medicine

The TCM Theory curriculum provides you with a thorough knowledge of the language and theories of TCM's unique, yet universal, approach to understanding health and the treatment of disease. Drawing from both classical and modern texts, the curriculum creates a solid framework for the application of clinical methods, including acupuncture and herbology.

The TCM Clinical Medicine curriculum expands on the knowledge learned from the courses in TCM Theory, Acupuncture, and Herbology. However, this knowledge alone is not enough to fully diagnose and treat disease. TCM Clinical Medicine provides you with advanced skills in diagnosing and treating disease in the specialized fields of TCM internal medicine, external medicine, gynecology, pediatrics, traumatology, and orthopedics. Training includes detailed instruction of herbal and acupuncture treatment plans for both common and complex diseases. These courses lay the foundation for your clinical practice.

## TCM Acupuncture

The TCM Acupuncture curriculum is divided into didactic and lab sections, emphasizing both the theoretical and practical aspects of acupuncture. TCM Acupuncture courses provide you with a thorough knowledge of traditional and modern meridian theory, including point location, functions, indications and treatment planning. The curriculum includes comprehensive training in moxibustion, cupping, Guasha, and electrical stimulation. Clinical labs concentrate on accuracy, needling methods, technique and precautions.

## TCM Herbology

Chinese herbology is the world's most sophisticated medical herbal system. The TCM Herbology curriculum includes extensive training in the identification, categorization and clinical use of the traditional Chinese herbal pharmacopoeia. Six trimesters of in-depth herbology study will provide you with a solid working knowledge of more than 500 individual herbs and 350 classical and modern formulas. Advanced courses instruct you how to modify and enhance classical formulas in response to specific variants in a patient's diagnosed condition. All herb courses are taught using the Pinyin names of herbs.

## Western Medicine

Modern practitioners of TCM must have a fundamental understanding of Western medicine to inform their TCM practice, and to effectively communicate with medical doctors and other healthcare professionals. Western Medicine studies are an integral part of the curriculum providing knowledge of Western diagnosis and pharmaceuticals, necessary to make appropriate referrals and to provide the best care possible for your patients. Introduced to the basic methods of Western diagnosis, you will learn the fundamental vocabulary used in diagnostic analysis and the clinical methods used in Western medical approaches to disease. With this knowledge, you can

become an active part of today's dynamic healthcare network.

Our Western medicine department is enhanced by our educational and clinical relationship with International Center for Integrative Medicine and Highland Hospital and the doctoral residency program we have at Highland Hospital. These professional relationships not only benefit you as a student but also contribute to a better understanding and acceptance of TCM in the West.

## **TCM Clinical Training**

In-depth clinical training comprises approximately one-third of the Doctor's/Master's curriculum, preparing you to practice the theoretical knowledge you gained in the classroom. Throughout the program, starting in your first trimester, you will observe a faculty-practitioner diagnosing and treating patients. In your last year, you will diagnose and treat patients with acupuncture, Chinese herbs and other methods of the five branches, under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The Five Branches medical centers in Santa Cruz and San Jose assist over 160 patients a day, allowing you to work with highly skilled faculty in a busy clinical environment and to gain hands-on experience with patients. By the end of clinical training, you will have performed at least 350 patient treatments, a basic requirement for graduation.

## **TCM Energetics and Career Development**

To enrich and round out your professional TCM training, the DAChM/MAChM curriculum includes Energetics courses to introduce you to the ancient Chinese practices of Qigong and Taijiquan, and Career Development courses to prepare you to practice TCM professionally, ethically, and successfully.

## **Review and Assessment**

At four important junctures of the program, you will have the opportunity to review the materials you have learned and to receive assessment of your progress. This evaluation assists you in developing good study and test-taking skills, ensuring full comprehension of courses, and the ability to pass the national certification and California licensing exams.

## **Specializations**

As a DAChM/MAChM /DAc/MAc student, you can study a specialization in Sports Medicine, Medical Qigong, Five Element Acupuncture, TCM Classics, and Tuina Massage to enhance and distinguish your TCM practice.

## **Externships**

Up to 25% of your clinical training hours may be completed through an externship. The diverse externships we offer allow you to become exposed to different patient populations, treat a wide variety of conditions, and explore new fields of specialization. Multiple off-campus externships are offered by TCM practitioners in private practice throughout the Bay Area and are also available in a community clinic setting—treating senior citizens, veterans of war, mental health patients, and those struggling with substance abuse. Summit Medical Center is also a possible externship where TCM students can see Traditional Chinese Medicine and Western Medicine being integrated in a real-world setting. You may also choose to study abroad to experience the authentic practice of TCM integrated with modern Western medicine. Our relationship with eight universities in China, Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan provide you with the opportunity to learn TCM from highly knowledgeable doctors and clinical experts, to receive training in a hospital setting,

and to explore the beauty and diversity of Asia.

## **DAcHM/MAcHM Educational Objectives**

Our graduates will be:

- Highly skilled TCM clinical practitioners who assist in the prevention and treatment of disease and effectively diagnose, prescribe and provide medical treatment within the parameters of Traditional Chinese Medicine and integrative medicine
- Primary healthcare providers with thorough knowledge and skills of the “five branches” of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture, Herbology, Tuina Massage, Energetics, Chinese Dietary Medicine) and the integrative components of Western medicine
- Competent in the assessment of patients and qualified to recognize medical conditions which require referrals of patients to other healthcare providers
- Qualified healthcare providers who understand the importance of adhering to universal and professional medical ethics, and the social responsibilities of providing primary healthcare to the public
- Capable of achieving high passing scores on the national board certification and the California Acupuncture state licensing exams required to become a licensed acupuncturist (L.Ac.)
- Capable of establishing and managing a private practice and/or working as an integral part of a professional team of healthcare providers

# FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY – DUAL DEGREE MACHM / DACHM

Version Transition 1 10/30/2024

Color Coded: FRA Review & Assessment Curriculum 3435 Hours Version B 195.5 units 11 trimesters

DEPARTMENTS	TRIMESTER 1 SU23	TRIMESTER 2 FA23	TRIMESTER 3 SP24	TRIMESTER 4 SU24	TRIMESTER 5 FA24	TRIMESTER 6 SP25	TRIMESTER 7	TRIMESTER 8	TRIMESTER 9	TRIMESTER 10	TRIMESTER 11
TCM Theory and TCM Clinical Medicine 42u/630hr	FCT 100 Foundations I 3u/45hr FCT 110 History & Philosophy 2u/30hr FCT 120 Chinese Language 1u/15hr	FCT 200 Foundations II 3u/45hr FCT 210 Diagnosis I 3u/45hr	FCT 310 Diagnosis II 3u/45hr	FCT 400 Case Studies I 2u/30hr	FCT 500 Classics: Nei Jing 2u/30hr	FCT 600 Trauma & Orthopedics 3u/45hr	FCT 700 Classics: Shang Han Lun 2u/30hr	FCM 800 Internal Medicine I 3u/45hr FCM 810 Gynecology 3u/45hr	FCM 900 Internal Medicine II 3u/45hr FCM 910 External Medicine 2u/30hr FCM 920 Pediatrics 3u/45hr	FCT X10 Classics: Jih Gui 2u/30hr FCT X20 Case Studies II 2u/30hr	
	TCM Acupuncture 25u/375hr	FAP 101 Intro to Acupuncture 1u/15hr FAP 110 Acupuncture Theory I 1.5u/22.5hr FAP 120 Acupuncture Point Location I 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 210 Acupuncture Theory II 1.5u/22.5hr FAP 220 Acupuncture Point Location II 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 301 Acupuncture Theory III 1.5u/22.5hr FAP 320 Acupuncture Point Location III 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 420 Acupuncture Techniques 3u/45hr	FAP 500 Meridian Theory 2u/30hr FAP 610 Tuina 3u/45hr	FAP 600 Extra Points Micro Systems 3u/45hr	FAP 800 Acupuncture Therapeutics I 3u/45hr	FAP 900 Acupuncture Therapeutics II 2u/30hr		FEL TCM Electives 6.5u/97.5hr To be taken throughout the length of the program within any department
TCM Herbology 23.5u/352.5hr	FHB 101 Intro to Herbology 1u/15hr	FHB 201 Herbology I 3u/45hr	FHB 300 Herbology II 3u/45hr	FHB 400 Herbology III 3u/45hr	FHB 500 Formulas I 3u/45hr FHB 510 Dietetics 2u/30hr	FHB 600 Formulas II 3u/45hr	FHB 700 Formulas III 3u/45hr	FHB 800 Patent Medicines 2u/30hr	FHB 900 Herb-Pharm Interactions 0.5u/7.5hr		
TCM Energetics & Electives 10.5u/157.5hr	FEB 100 Qi Gong 1u/15hr		FEB 300 Qi Gong 1u/15hr		FEB 500 Tai Ji Quan I 1u/15hr		FEB 700 Tai Ji Quan II 1u/15hr				
Career Development 5.5u/82.5 hr	FCD 30 Professional Ethics 1u/15hr		FCD 30 Professional Ethics 1u/15hr		FCD 500 Career Development I 1u/15hr				FCD 900 Community Outreach 0.5u/7.5hr	FCD X10 Career Development II 2u/30hr	FCD E10 Career Development III 1u/15hr
Western Medicine 45u/675hr <small>Concurrent Enrollment: *FWM 101 Biology 3u/45hr *FWM 202 Chemistry 3u/45hr *FWM 303 Physics 2u/30hr *FWM 103 Psychology 2u/30hr</small>	FWM 100 Surface Anatomy 2u/30hr FWM 103 Anatomy & Physiology I 2u/30hr	FWM 203 Anatomy & Physiology II 3u/45hr	FWM 300 Patho-physiology I 3u/45hr **CPR/First Aid .5u/7.5hr **CNT .5u/7.5hr	FWM 400 Patho-physiology II 3u/45hr	FWM 510 Western Physical Examination 3u/45hr	FWM 650 Patient communication & Counseling 2u/30hr FWM 505 Lab Analysis & Imaging 1u/15hr	FWM 700 Research & Medical Literature Review 3u/45hr FWM 610 Diet, Nutrition & Vitamins 2u/30hr	FWM 800 Western Case Management I 3u/45hr FWM 810 Pharmacology 3u/45hr	FWM 900 Western Case Management II 3u/45hr FWM 910 Public Health & Epidemiology 2u/30hr	FWM X10 Western Case Management III 3u/45hr FWM 925 Advance Lab Analysis & Imaging 1.5u/22.5hr	FWM 751 System Based Medicine 3u/45hr
Didactic Assessment 10u/150hr				FRA 440 Assessment I 2u/30hr			FRA 770 Assessment II 2u/30hr			FRA X10 Assessment III 3u/45hr	FRA E10 Final Review 3u/45hr
162 ACADEMIC UNITS (2,430 Hrs)	16u	15u	15u	13u	14u	15u	13u	17u	16u	13.5u	13.5u
Clinical Training 33u/990hr 2 Theater = 90 3 Rounds = 135 6 Intern Rounds = 270 10 Internship = 450 1 Integrated Theater = 45 Patient Count = 400	FCL 100 Beginning Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 200 Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 300 Rounds 1.5u/45hr FCL 300 Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr FCL 750 Integrated Intern Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr FCL 720 Internship Grand Rds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr
Clinical Training Assessment 0.5u/15hr	FCL 101 Theater Orientation 0.2u/6hrs			FCL 350 Needing Competency 0.1u/3hr FCL 401 Intern Rounds Orientation 0.1u/3hrs				FCL 801 Internship Orientation 0.1u/3hrs			
33.5 CLINICAL UNITS (1,005 Hrs)	1.7u	1.5u	3u	1.7u	3u	3u	1.5u	3.1u	3u	6u	6u
TOTAL UNITS	17.7	16.5u	18u	14.7u	17u	18u	14.5u	20.1u	19u	19.5u	19.5u

\*Course(s) required for program, but may not be taught at FBU and can be transferred in. If not taken prior to initial enrollment, may be taken concurrently at another institution, and must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is required in the program.  
\*\*CCAHM Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course and the 8hr CPR/First Aid course offered only by American Red Cross (ARC) or American Heart Association (AHA) must be completed and transferred in to begin FCL 400 Intern Rounds.

# FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY – MACHM Draft pending for approval

Color Coded: FRA Review & Assessment Curriculum ♦ 3045 Hours ♦ 171 units ♦ 12 trimesters

DEPARTMENTS	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3	TRIMESTER 4	TRIMESTER 5	TRIMESTER 6	TRIMESTER 7	TRIMESTER 8	TRIMESTER 9	TRIMESTER 10	TRIMESTER 11	TRIMESTER 12
TCM Theory and TCM Clinical Medicine 37u/555hr	FCT 100 Foundations I 3u/45hr	FCT 200 Foundations II 3u/45hr	FCT 250 Diagnosis I 3u/45hr	FCT 350 Diagnosis II 3u/45hr	FCT 400 Case Studies I 2u/30hr	FCT 600 Trauma & Orthopedics 3u/45hr	FCT 700 Classics: Shang Han Lun 2u/30hr	FCT 800 Internal Medicine 3u/45hr	FCT 810 Gynecology 3u/45hr	FCT X10 Classics: Jin Gui 2u/30hr	FCM 920 Pediatrics 3u/45hr	
	FCT 110 History & Philosophy 2u/30hr	FCT 120 Chinese Language 1u/15hr	FAP 101 Intro to Acupuncture 1u/15hr	FAP 210 Acupuncture Theory II 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 310 Acupuncture Theory III 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 400 Meridian Theory 2u/30hr	FAP 600 Extra Points & Micro Systems 3u/45hr	FAP 800 Acupuncture Therapeutics I 3u/45hr	FAP 900 Acupuncture Therapeutics II 2u/30hr	FCM 950 TCM specialties 2u/30hr		
TCM Acupuncture 26u/390hr		FAP 110 Acupuncture Theory I 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 220 Acupuncture Point Location II 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 320 Acupuncture Point Location III 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 500 Acupuncture Techniques 3u/45hr	FAP 600 Herbology II 3u/45hr	FHB 700 Formulas III 3u/45hr	FHB 800 Formulas II 3u/45hr	FHB 900 Herb-Pharm Interactions 0.5u/7.5hr	FEB 500 Tai Ji Quan I 1u/15hr	FEB 700 Tai Ji Quan II 1u/15hr	
TCM Herbology 21.5u/322.5hr	FHB 101 Intro to Herbology 1u/15hr	FHB 201 Herbology I 3u/45hr	FHB 300 Herbology II 3u/45hr	FHB 400 Herbology III 3u/45hr	FHB 500 Formulas I 3u/45hr	FHB 600 Formulas II 3u/45hr	FHB 700 Formulas III 3u/45hr	FHB 800 Formulas II 3u/45hr	FHB 900 Herb-Pharm Interactions 0.5u/7.5hr	FEB 500 Tai Ji Quan I 1u/15hr	FEB 700 Tai Ji Quan II 1u/15hr	
TCM Energetics 4u/60hr	FEB 100 Qi Gong 1u/15hr	FEB 300 Qi Gong 1u/15hr										
Career Development 4.5u/67.5 hr		FCD 500 Career Development I 1u/15hr	FCD 300 Professional Ethics 1u/15hr							FCD 900 Community Outreach 0.5u/7.5hr	FCD X10 Career Development II 2u/30hr	
Western Medicine 36u/540 hr	FWM 100 Surface Anatomy 2u/30hr	FWM 203 Anatomy & Physiology II 3u/45hr	FWM 300 Patho-physiology I 3u/45hr	FWM 410 Patho-physiology II 3u/45hr	FWM 510 Western Physical Examination 3u/45hr	FWM 610 Pharmacology 3u/45hr	FWM 800 Western Case Management I 3u/45hr	FWM 900 Western Case Management II 3u/45hr	FWM 715 Red Flag 1u/15hr	FWM 910 Public Health & Epidemiology 2u/30hr		FWM 851 Research & Medical Literature Review 3u/45hr
Prerequisite: *FWM 101 Biology 3u/45hr *FWM 202 Chemistry 3u/45hr *FWM 303 Physics 2u/30hr	FWM 103 Anatomy & Physiology I 2u/30hr					FWM 505 Lab Analysis & Imaging 1u/15hr	FWM 650 Patient communication & Counseling 2u/30hr					
Didactic Assessment 10u/150hr					FRA 400 Review & Assessment I 2u/30hr		FRA 770 Review & Assessment II 2u/30hr		FRA X10 Review & Assessment III 3u/45hr	FRA E10 Final Review 3u/45hr		
139 ACADEMIC UNITS (2,085 Hrs)	13u	14u	13u	15u	14u	13u	12u	14u	11.5u	7.5u	8u	4u

<b>Clinical Training</b> 31.5u/945hr	FCL 100 Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 200 Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 300 Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 300 Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr	FCL 720 Grand Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr
2 Theater = 90 3 Rounds = 135 6 Intern Rounds = 270 9 Internship = 405 1 Integrated Theater = 45 Patient Count = 360												
<b>Clinical Training Assessment</b> 0.5u/15hr	<b>FCL 101</b> Theater Orientation 0.2u/6hrs											
*CPR/First Aid 7.5hr												
**CNT (CCAHM) 7.5hr												
<b>32 CLINICAL UNITS (960 Hrs)</b>	1.7u	1.5u	1.5u	1.7u	3u	3u	3u	3u	4.5u	3u	3u	3u
<b>TOTAL UNITS</b>	14.7	15.5u	14.5u	16.7u	17u	17u	15.1u	17u	12u	11u	11u	7u

\*Course(s) required for the program, but may not be taught at FBU and can be transferred in. If not taken prior to initial enrollment, may be taken concurrently at another institution, and must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is required in the program.

\*\*CCAHM Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course and the 8hr CPR/First Aid course offered only by American Red Cross (ARC) or American Heart Association (AHA) must be completed and transferred in to begin **FCL 400** Intern Rounds.

# Doctor and Master of Acupuncture Dual-Degree Program (DAc/MAc)

The Doctor and Master of Acupuncture are offered as a single dual-degree program. The program is offered at our Santa Cruz and San Jose campuses. The program includes both academic and clinical training, with a focus on practicing acupuncture in an integrative medical environment. The Doctor/Master of Acupuncture program is specifically designed for the following individuals:

- Students who wish to practice outside California
- Students interested in developing a practice emphasizing acupuncture, including MDs and other licensed Western medical practitioners authorized to use acupuncture needles in the state of California. If you plan to practice in California and are not an MD or licensed Western medical practitioner, you will need to complete the DAChM/MAChM program which includes both acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine studies.

## Program Overview

The Doctor and Master of Acupuncture program is a three-year professional degree program consisting of 2647.5 hours and a total of 149 units. The curriculum is taught on a trimester basis with clinical training and other designated courses continuing during the summer term. Taught by highly accomplished faculty in TCM education, the curriculum is offered through the following eight academic and clinical departments:

- TCM Theory
- TCM Acupuncture
- TCM Clinical Medicine
- TCM Clinical Training
- Western Medicine
- Complementary Studies
- Review and Assessment

For detailed course descriptions refer to the Departments section of the catalog and the applicable Doctor and Master of Acupuncture Program Overview. The DAc/MAc program meets the accreditation requirements of the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM). Upon completion of the program you can become certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine as a Diplomate in Acupuncture, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM).

## Community Acupuncture Clinic

The DAc/MAc program is designed for students who wish to develop a practice emphasizing acupuncture and especially for those interested in implementing the fast-growing community clinic model. The program includes instruction on how to establish and manage a community acupuncture clinic.

## DAc/MAc Educational Objectives

The educational objectives of the DAc/MAc program provide guidelines for the development of the curriculum, assessment of the program's quality and success, and the measurement of the achievements of our graduates. Upon completion of the program our graduates will be:

- Highly skilled clinical acupuncturists who assist in the prevention and treatment of disease and effectively diagnose, prescribe and provide medical treatment within the parameters of Traditional Chinese Medicine and integrative medicine
- Primary healthcare providers with thorough knowledge and skills of the four branches of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture, Tuina Massage, Energetics, Chinese Dietary Medicine) and the integrative components of Western medicine
- Competent in the assessment of patients and qualified to recognize medical conditions which require referrals of patients to other healthcare providers
- Qualified healthcare providers who understand the importance of adhering to universal and professional medical ethics, and the social responsibilities of providing primary healthcare to the public
- Capable of achieving high passing scores on the national certification exams required to become a licensed acupuncturist
- Capable of establishing and managing a private practice or working as an integral part of a professional team of healthcare providers.

# FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY - DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE D.AC./M.AC.

Color Coded: FRA Review & Assessment Curriculum 2647.5 Hours 146 Units

DEPARTMENTS	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3	TRIMESTER 4	TRIMESTER 5	TRIMESTER 6	TRIMESTER 7	TRIMESTER 8	TRIMESTER 9
<b>TCM Theory and TCM Clinical Medicine</b> 24u/360hrs	FCT 100 Foundations I 3u/45hr  FCT 110 History & Philosophy 2u/30hr  FCT 120 Chinese Language 1u/15hr	FCT 200 Foundations II 3u/45hr  FCT 250 Diagnosis I 3u/30hr	FCT 350 Diagnosis II 3u/60hr  FCT 500 Classics: Nei Jing 2u/30hr	FCT 400 Case Studies I 2u/30hr	FCM 600 Trauma & Orthopedics 3u/45hr				FCT X20 Case Studies II 2u/30hr
<b>TCM Acupuncture</b> 30u/450hrs	FAP 101 Intro to Acupuncture 1u/15hr FAP 110 Acupuncture Theory I 1.5u/22.5hr FAP 120 Acupuncture Point Location I 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 210 Acupuncture Theory II 1.5u/22.5hr FAP 220 Acupuncture Point Location II 1.5u/22.5hr  FAP 610 Tuina 3u/45hr	FAP 301 Acupuncture Theory III 1.5u/22.5hr FAP 320 Acupuncture Point Location III 1.5u/22.5hr	FAP 420 Acupuncture Techniques 3u/45hr  FAP 500 Meridian Theory 2u/30hr	FAP600 Extra Points Micro Systems 3u/45hr	FAP 800 Acupuncture Therapeutics I 3u/45hr	FAP 900 Acupuncture Therapeutics II 2u/30hr		FEL TCM Elective 4u/60hrs
<b>TCM Herbology</b> 2u/30hrs					FHB 510 Dietetics 2u/30hr				
<b>TCM Energetics</b> 4u/60hr	FEB 100 Qi Gong 1u/15hr		FEB 300 Qi Gong 1u/15hr		FEB 500 Tai Ji Quan I 1u/15hr		FEB 700 Tai Ji Quan II 1u/15hr		
<b>Career Development</b> 5.5u/82.5hr			FCD 300 Professional Ethics 1u/15hr		FCD 500 Career Development I 1u/15hr	FCD X10 Career Development II 2u/30hr		FCD E10 Career Development III 1u/15hr	FCD 900 Community Outreach 0.5u/7.5hr
<b>Western Medicine</b> 43u/645hrs <small>Concurrent Enrollment:                      *FWM 101 Biology                      *FWM 202 Chemistry                      *FWM 303 Physics                      FWM105 General Psychology</small>  **CPR/First Aid .5u/7.5hr **CNT u/7.5hr	FWM 100 Surface Anatomy 2u/30hr  FWM 103 Anatomy & Physiology I 2u/30hr	FWM 203 Anatomy & Physiology II 3u/45hr	FWM 300 Patho-physiology I 3u/45hr	FWM 410 Patho-physiology II 3u/60hr	FWM 510 Western Physical Examination 3u/45hr  FWM 610 Diet, Nutrition & Vitamins 2u/30hr	FWM 500 Lab Analysis & Imaging 2u/30hr  FWM 650 Patient communication & Counseling 2u/30hr	FWM 700 Research & Med Lit Review 3u/45hr  FWM 910 Public Health & Epidemiology 2u/30hr  FWM 800 Western Case Management I 3u/45hr  FWM 810 Pharmacology 3u/45hr	FWM 900 Western Case Management II 3u/45hr  FWM 715 Red Flag 1u/15hr  FWM 925 Advance Lab Analysis & Imaging 1.5u/22.5hr  FWM 751 System Based Medicine 3u/45hr	FWM 780 Applied Labs for TCM practitioner 1.5u/22.5hr
<b>Didactic Assessment</b> 7u/105hr				FRA 440 Assessment I 2u/30hr		FRA 775 Assessment II 1u/15hr		FRA X15 Assessment III 2u/30hr	FRA E15 Final Review 2u/30hr
<b>115.5 ACADEMIC UNITS (1,732.5 Hrs)</b>	15 U	15 U	13 U	12 U	15 U	10 U	14 U	11.5U	10 U
<b>Clinical Training</b> 30u/900hr <small>Theater = 90                      Rounds = 90                      Intern Rounds = 270                      Internship = 450                      Patient Count = 400</small>	FCL 100 Beginning Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 200 Theater 1.5u/45hr	FCL 300 Rounds 1.5u/45hr  FCL 300 Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr  FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr  FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr  FCL 400 Intern Rounds 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr  FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr  FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr  FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr  FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr	FCL 800 Internship 1.5u/45hr
<b>Clinical Training Assessment</b> 0.5u/15hr	FCL101 Theater Orientation 0.2u/6hrs		FCL 350 Needling Competency 0.1u/3hr FCL 401 Intern Rounds Orientation 0.1 u/3hrs			FCL 801 Internship Orientation 0.1u/3hrs			
<b>30.5 CLINICAL UNITS (915 Hrs)</b>									
<b>TOTAL UNITS</b> 146u(2646.5hr)	16.7 U	16.5 U	16.2 U	15 U	18 U	13.1 U	17 U	17.5 U	16 U

\*Course(s) required for program, but may not be taught at FBU and can be transferred in. If not taken prior to initial enrollment, may be taken concurrently at another institution, and must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is required in the program.

\*\*CCAOM Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course and the 7.5hr CPR/First Aid course offered only by American Red Cross (ARC) or American Heart Association (AHA) must be completed and transferred in to begin FCL 400 Intern Rounds.

# DAcHM & DAc Bridge Completion Program

The fully online DAcHM & DAc Bridge Program is an exciting opportunity for current practitioners with a Master's degree to earn a doctoral degree. Meeting ACAHM standards, the program emphasizes integrative care using lab tests and research, systems-based medicine and professional development as they relate to the practice of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Five Branches University's at-your-own-pace, on-demand format is tailored to those in the Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine field who want a high quality, relevant and convenient path towards earning the Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM) degree or Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) degree.

## Program Focus

Five Branches University's DAcHM/DAc Bridge program focuses on professional development and learning how to use Western diagnostics to inform and enhance your TCM practice.

The program courses include:

- Integration of Diagnostic Imaging Techniques and Lab Analysis to TCM Practice
- Western Health Care Systems and Integrative Care
- Applying Case Studies and Research to TCM Practice
- Integrative Clinic Practice

## Highlights

- Offered in English and Bilingual (English/Chinese)
- Short program length – one year, three trimesters (totaling 315 hours)
- 100% online
- Clinical training through the online courses or at preceptorships local to you
- Take classes on your own weekly schedule – No set class times
- Regular instructor office hours
- State-of-the-art course design and content
- User-friendly platform
- Emphasis on professional development
- Integrates TCM with modern medical context
- The program is open to those who have completed a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or Acupuncture
- The culmination of the program results in graduates receiving the degree of "Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine" or "Doctor of Acupuncture", and the ability to use the title of "Dr." in front of your name.

## Curriculum

**FWM 751 – Systems Based Medicine: Western Healthcare Systems in Integrative Practice**  
**3 units, 45 hours**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students learn how the current US health care system functions so they can apply that knowledge

as a part of emerging integrated healthcare systems and serve as members of interdisciplinary teams of practitioners. More specifically, students study how the current US health care system works and the impact of national, state, and institutional policies on the system's functioning and compare it to that of other developed nations. Students drill down into various components of the US health care system organization and how they affect access to care. These include the role of insurance, types of practitioners and their scope of practice, and the impact of the pharmaceutical industry on care. As a culminating activity, students are asked to create an effective and accessible health care system synthesizing all they have learned.

**FWM 780 – Applying Lab Results for TCM Practitioners**  
**1.5 units, 22.5 hours**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students expand their knowledge of blood chemistry into a deeper understanding of clinical scenarios an acupuncturist might encounter in practice. They examine selected body systems, learn their interconnectedness, and explore how blood chemistry findings related to these systems may present clinically. Students also have the opportunity to work with actual blood chemistry test results they are likely to encounter in their practices and determine which of these findings warrant referral to biomedicine practitioners. For each system covered, students link findings from blood chemistry lab tests to TCM patterns where appropriate and, thus, create a well-rounded integrated clinical approach with a functional medicine emphasis.

**FWM 851 – Research: Using TCM and Biomedical Findings to Enhance Clinical Practice 1**  
**3 units, 45 hours**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The overall purposes of this course are to support DAChM Bridge students in being able to delve into clinical literature, determine the quality of research study results and apply relevant findings to improve clinical practice. Students review the various methods used in biomedical, allied health disciplines, and complementary disciplines including TCM. Students learn how to assess the overall quality of research in these areas. They then select research studies relevant to their own clinical needs and apply what they have learned to clinical practice. As a result, students improve their collaborative communication skills with biomedicine practitioners and with patients related to research findings.

**FWM 951 – Research: Using TCM and Biomedical Findings to Enhance Clinical Practice 2**  
**1.5 units, 22.5 hours**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

TCM practitioners are continually thinking about how to improve their patient care and outcomes. In this course, students learn how to develop an action plan related to integration which provides a pathway to intentionally address areas of identified need or focus in their current practices. Students follow a step-by-step process that leads them from determining an area of focus to outlining a clear action plan ready for implementation. The process steps include identifying a focus area, researching the literature, gathering additional information from stakeholders, learning from experts, developing the action plan itself, and finally presenting the plan for feedback for process refinement.

#### **4. Advanced Lab Analysis and Diagnostic Testing** **22.5 hours**

##### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Review of basic Western Biomedical diagnostic tools and tests. This will include common lab tests (CBC, Urinalysis, Thyroid panel, etc.) as well as common diagnostic imaging methods (X-Ray, CAT Scan, MRI, fMRI, laparoscopy, endoscopy, etc.). Students will learn the basics of how these tests are performed, equipment used to perform these tests, potential information gained from them, and common reasons these tests may be indicated.

This course will focus on how this information can be used to enhance the understanding of TCM practitioners and aid in your communications with patients who are receiving care from Western Biomedical practitioners.

#### **5. Charting the Course for Professional Development & Lifelong Learning** **22.5 hours over two trimesters**

##### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Overview of how the program is organized and how to maximize your own learning through your experience in didactic courses and advanced clinic. In this course, candidates will complete a self-evaluation of skill levels in various areas related to successful practice, an interest inventory, an exploration of a variety of clinical practices as a means of determining the focus of advanced clinical training experience. Students will also initiate the first phase of a professional development plan.

One of the major goals the profession's accrediting body, ACAHM, set forth in its doctoral competencies was to require candidates to create a professional development plan for lifelong learning. This course supports candidates in beginning this process, which will continue throughout the program. All of this leads to candidates taking charge of their lifelong learning.

#### **6. Integrative Online Intern Theater 1, 2, 3** **135 hours over three trimesters**

##### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Advanced clinical training of the DAChM Completion program is offered through two modalities. Students may choose the modalities and hours that best serves your educational objectives.

1. Approved Preceptorship (TCM and/or Western) – Local to you
2. Online Integrative Theatre (TCM plus Western) – at Five Branches University

The overall purpose of this course is to support DAChM and DAc Completion students to enhance the level of your current clinical practice and your ability to work in integrative settings. Students will set 1 to 4 goals based on your personal interest, self-evaluation, and program requirements for your advanced clinical experience. One of the goals will be related to integrative practice.

## **Tuition and Financial Aid**

- Tuition for the 16.5-unit 315-hour program is \$8,505. Five Branches University Master's graduates receive a 20% discount for a tuition of \$6,804.
- Tuition is proportional to the number of courses of each trimester and is payable by trimester or monthly. There is a nominal fee for use of credit card and for the monthly payment plan.

- Financial aid is not available for the short DAChM/DAC Bridge Completion program.

## Admissions

All students with a Master's degree in Acupuncture or Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, or equivalent, are welcome to apply.

To receive the DAChM Bridge Program Admissions Package:

- Download and complete the fillable Admissions forms from the Bridge program's website
- Email: [admissionsadvisor@fivebranches.edu](mailto:admissionsadvisor@fivebranches.edu)
- Online Form: Fill your mailing address in the online form
- Call: (831) 476-9424

Applicants will need to submit:

- DAChM/DAC Bridge Program Admissions Form
- Statement of Purpose
- Recommendation Letter
- Resume
- Recent passport-style photograph
- Copy of acupuncture license
- TCM education transcripts
- Undergraduate education transcripts showing at least 90 units undergraduate studies
- Application fee of \$65

Calendar: See the Bridge program website for the application forms, and program curriculum and dates



# FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY

## DTCM/DAC Bridge Program Curriculum

<b>Trimester 1</b>		<b>Units</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>FWM 751:</b>	Systems Based Medicine: Western Healthcare Systems and Integrative Practice	3.0	45
<b>FWM xxx:</b>	Lab Analysis and imaging: Advanced Lab Analysis and Diagnostic Testing	2.0	30
<b>FCL 750:</b>	Clinical Experience I	1.5	45
<b>Semester Total:</b>		<b>6.5</b>	<b>120.0</b>
<b>Trimester 2</b>		<b>Units</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>FWM 851:</b>	Research: Using TCM & Biomedical Findings to Enhance Clinical Practice I	3.0	45
<b>FWM 8xx:</b>	Applying Lab Test Results for TCM Practitioners	1.5	22.5
<b>FCL 850:</b>	Clinical Experience II	1.5	45
<b>Semester Total:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>112.5</b>
<b>Trimester 3</b>		<b>Units</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>FCD 951:</b>	Charting the Course for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning	1.0	15
<b>FWM 951:</b>	Research: Using TCM & Biomedical Findings to Enhance Clinical Practice II		22.5
<b>FCL 950:</b>	Clinical Experience III	1.5	45
<b>Semester Total:</b>		<b>4.0</b>	<b>82.5</b>
<b>Program Totals</b>		<b>Units</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Didactic Courses		12.0	180
Clinical Experience Hours		4.5	135
<b>Total</b>		<b>16.5</b>	<b>315</b>

# Specializations Options

While completing the DAChM, MAChM, DAc or MAc programs you can choose to train in a specialized field of study and receive a specialization upon completion of any of the following programs. Specialty programs are offered based on faculty availability and student interest.

Specialties are available in:

- Sports Medicine
- Medical Qigong
- Tuina Massage

Students may also transfer these specialty courses and programs to the Extension program for continued studies and to receive Specialization in these fields.

## Sports Medicine Specialization

Orthopedic acupuncture is used by athletes to alleviate joint pain, heal muscle strains and sprains, and prevent injury. The benefits of stress reduction and increased energy provided by orthopedic acupuncture help athletes achieve top performance and alleviate tension prior to competition.

The Sports Medicine specialty program is designed for students interested in assisting patients to increase stamina and flexibility, reduce stress, and obtain peak athletic performance. The program emphasizes the treatment of orthopedic injuries: shin splints, tennis elbow, knee injuries, low back pain, sprained ankles, and other impairments.

## Course Descriptions

### TCM Traumatology and Orthopedics

- FCM 600      3 Units/45 Hours

### Advanced TCM Traumatology and Orthopedics

- FEL 700      2 Units/30 Hours

### Sports Medicine Clinical Rounds

- FCL 300      1.5 Units/45 Hours

### Sports Medicine Clinical Internship

- FCL 800      1.5 Units/45 Hours

### TCM Traumatology and Orthopedics

This course covers the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of common diseases of the musculoskeletal system in accordance with both TCM and Western medicine. Emphasis is placed on the differentiation of bone and soft tissue injuries related to common sports and industrial injuries. You will learn to treat patients with acupuncture and herbs, perform essential orthopedic tests to evaluate the outcome of treatments, recognize red flags in orthopedics, and make appropriate referrals. You will learn how to competently instruct patients in the proper rehabilitation and the prevention of sports and industrial injuries.

### Advanced TCM Trauma and Orthopedics

This course covers the etiology, pathogenesis, differential diagnosis and treatment for traumatic

injuries of the skin, tendons, ligaments, and muscles from an integrative approach. You will learn how to review X-rays, perform specific orthopedic tests for common musculoskeletal injuries, and make proper referrals when necessary. Herbal formulas for poultices, plasters and compresses will be taught in addition to acupuncture treatment modalities.

### **Sports Medicine Clinical Rounds**

In this specialized clinical training course, you will observe senior practitioners in clinic as they apply acupuncture, Chinese medicinal herbs, and Tuina massage to a broad spectrum of patients with sports injury-related conditions.

### **Sports Medicine Clinical Internship**

In this final stage of clinical training, you will gain the skills to diagnose and treat patients, applying classical and specialized acupuncture and herbal formula treatment plans for a variety of sports injuries, utilizing Western medical examination and diagnostic techniques when appropriate.

## **Medical Qigong Specialization**

Based on the textbook, *Chinese Medical Qigong Therapy: A Comprehensive Clinical Text*, this program teaches the basic theories and practical applications of Medical Qigong.

Medical Qigong was developed to treat patients with a multitude of conditions, including internal organ diseases, immune system dysfunction, and cancer. Patients are treated with Qigong and given specific Medical Qigong prescription exercises and meditations in order to complement their treatments and enhance healing. A 200-hour Medical Qigong Practitioner specialization will be awarded upon completion of Medical Qigong I–IV (128 academic hours) in addition to 72 hours of clinical training.

## **Course Descriptions**

### **Medical Qigong I**

- FEL 310      2 Units/30 Hours

### **Medical Qigong II**

- FEL 320      2 Units/30 Hours

### **Medical Qigong III**

- FEL 330      2 Units/30 Hours

### **Medical Qigong IV**

- FEL 340      2 Units/30 Hours

### **Medical Clinical Internship Rounds**

- FCL 400      3 Units/90 Hours

### **Medical Qigong I**

In Medical Qigong I, you are led through a progressive series of Qigong (Vital Energy Skills) meditations and exercises. You will learn basic applications of Medical Qigong (purging excess conditions, tonifying deficiencies, dispersing stagnations and regulating Qi, blood and body fluid), and how and when to apply them in clinic. You will be introduced to energetic psychology, discharging toxic emotions, and will learn how to handle the emotional discharges and toxic

energetic releases coming from your patients.

### **Medical Qigong II**

In Medical Qigong II, you are led through a progressive series of advanced Shengong (Spirit Skill) meditations and exercises, specifically used for developing advanced intuitive diagnostic skills. You will learn how to establish proper energetic boundaries, and neutralize psycho- emotional interactions such as projection, transference, and countertransference. Upon completion of this course, you will be prepared to participate in the Medical Qigong clinical training and assist the instructor with performing treatment protocols.

### **Medical Qigong III**

In Medical Qigong III, you will be provided with an overview of the esoteric principles and foundational structures that govern Traditional Chinese Medical Qigong. Course content includes: the study of the Three Outer Forces and their influence on the human body, energy, food and diet, the body's energetic internal structures, advanced Shengong cultivation methods, the Eight Supernatural Powers, how to rectify Qi deviations, among other topics.

### **Medical Qigong IV**

In Medical Qigong IV, you are introduced to advanced Medical Qigong theories and their clinical application. Upon completion of this course, you will be ready to practice on your own, utilizing Medical Qigong treatment protocols in combination with other TCM modalities, empowering your patients to use modified Qigong prescriptions to suit their personal needs.

### **Medical Qigong Clinical Internship Rounds**

Conducted in a small class setting, Clinical Internship Rounds provides you with exposure and first-hand experience with Medical Qigong diagnosis and treatment. In this hands-on clinical training course, you will learn and experience the different aspects of energetic dysfunction and symptom manifestation. Through the careful guidance of the instructor, you will assist in all phases of diagnosis and treatment.

## **TCM Tuina Massage Specialization**

TCM Tuina massage practitioners work with the energy channels and points of the body using the same principles as acupuncture except that hands and fingers are used rather than needles. Utilizing a variety of hand techniques, and practiced on a clothed body, Tuina is used to release stagnant energy flow and tension, enhance the healing process, and aide in the recovery of damaged tissues. This treatment modality is highly beneficial for young children and patients that have concerns about the use of acupuncture needles.

The TCM Tuina massage specialization program consists of 176 hours of both theoretical and clinical training. This program is open to students who are not enrolled in the MAcHM program, provided they meet the general education enrollment requirements and have taken the prerequisites.

## **Course Descriptions**

### **TCM Tuina Massage I**

- FAP 610      3 Units/45 Hours

### **TCM Tuina Massage II**

- FEL 610      2 Units/30 Hours

### **TCM Tuina Clinical Internship Rounds**

- FCL 400      1.5 Units/45 Hours

### **TCM Tuina Clinical Internship**

- FCL 800      1.5 Units/45 Hours

### **TCM Tuina Massage I**

Massage and manipulation, or Tuina, comprise one of the traditional five branches of TCM. Although the TCM program emphasizes the clinical methods of acupuncture and herbology, this course introduces you to Tuina and other traditional Chinese therapeutic massage systems.

### **TCM Tuina Massage II**

This course expands on the foundation of TCM Tuina Massage I, focusing on clinical assessment and treatment protocols for a variety of common musculoskeletal and internal medicine disorders.

### **TCM Tuina Massage Clinical Internship Rounds**

In this specialized clinical training course, you will practice a broad spectrum of applications of Tuina massage with patients in a clinical setting under the direct supervision of a senior practitioner.

### **TCM Tuina Massage Clinical Internship**

A continuation of the theoretical and practical aspects of Tuina massage, this clinical training course provides you with the opportunity to work with your own patients, while under the direct supervision of a senior practitioner.

# Study Abroad Program

The Study Abroad program offers you the unparalleled opportunity to witness the authentic practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) combined with Western medicine as a primary care medical system, where large volumes of patients with a wide variety of conditions are treated.

Accompanied by Five Branches' native Chinese, Vietnamese or Korean-speaking faculty and 10 to 20 Doctor's/Master's and postgraduate Doctoral students, you can travel to Asia for a period of two to four weeks to receive specialized TCM and Integrative medicine training in an affiliated hospital and outpatient center at one of our five sister schools in China, Taiwan, Vietnam or Korea.

You can complete up to 25% of your clinical training requirements at one of the following Universities: Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, Liaoning University of TCM, Tianjin University of TCM, China Medical University, Vietnam University of Chinese Medicine and Daejeon University, and receive specialized training in Internal Medicine, Oncology, Pediatrics, Gynecology, TCM Trauma or other medical specialties, based on faculty availability.

Using a translator, you will train with world class practitioners who possess a strong knowledge in the theories and clinical applications of TCM. The schools in this program are highly respected TCM school and offer the latest in modern medical technology.

## Travel Throughout Asia

After training in the hospital, join faculty and fellow students on daily excursions to historical sites, shopping, tasting local delights or enjoying the area's scenic gardens, pagodas and museums.

### China

Considered one of the world's top travel destinations, China offers travelers stunning natural beauty, bustling city experiences and more than 5000 years of rich cultural heritage. Explore Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China in Beijing and experience the striking scenery of the mountains of Guilin and Yangshao rising up from the rice paddy fields.

### Korea

While visiting Korea, stroll the pavilions and halls within the grounds of the famous Gyeongbok Palace, and be sure to wander the streets of Seoul, known for its chic boutiques, renowned restaurants and exciting nightlife.

### Taiwan

Taiwan, one of the most diverse destinations in Asia, is full of natural wonder. Explore the lush mountains of Wulai, hike in Taroko Gorge or spend time at one of the world's best hot springs. At night, venture out to the exhilarating city of Taipei to experience a mélange of Taiwanese culture, entertainment and cuisine.

### Vietnam

Vietnam remains one of the most folkloric countries in Asia where even its large cities still reflect the old ways. This has made our Vietnam externship the most popular. Vietnam offers beautiful beaches and exciting mountains for travel.

### Other Destinations

With an infrastructure that allows easy travel by plane, ship, car or train, you can extend your stay and travel throughout Asia to engage in activities like swimming with elephants in Thailand, diving

the multitude of coral reefs that surround the islands of the Philippines or mastering the art of meditation and tea ceremony during a temple stay in Japan.

This valuable international experience will complement your academic curriculum, broaden your perspective of the Asian culture and be highly regarded by future employers.

# Departments and Courses

## Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine Theory and Traditional Chinese Clinical Medicine

**Jeffrey Pang, L.Ac. & Joanna Zhao, L.Ac.**

Department Chairs

The Traditional Chinese Medicine Theory curriculum provides you with a thorough knowledge of the language and theories of TCM's unique, yet universal, approach to understanding health and the treatment of disease. Drawing from both classical and modern texts, the curriculum creates a solid framework for the application of clinical methods, including acupuncture and herbology.

The courses in TCM Theory, Acupuncture and Herbology teach you the basic principles of Chinese medicine pattern differentiation and treatment, including the study of common functions and indications of herbs, formulas and acupuncture points. However, this knowledge alone is not enough to fully diagnose and treat disease. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinical Medicine curriculum expands on this knowledge, providing you with advanced skills in diagnosing and treating disease in the specialized fields of TCM internal medicine, external medicine, gynecology, pediatrics, traumatology, and orthopedics. Training includes detailed instruction of herbal and acupuncture treatment plans for both common and complex diseases. These courses lay the foundation for your clinical practice.

### **TCM Foundations I & II**

- FCT 100|200 6 Units/90 Hours

This two-course series is the foundation for all other TCM coursework.

The first course introduces students to the classical principles of the fundamental theories of Chinese Medicine such as the Yin and Yang, the Dao, and the Five Elements, which were universal laws in ancient China. TCM theory applies these broad principles to the realm of human physiology and pathology in a complex and powerful system for understanding the intricate balance of health. The major TCM theories are systematically covered, including Qi, Blood, Shen, Essence, Body Fluids, and Zang-Fu organs and their dynamic internal relationship.

The second course builds on the first one and covers various theories of Chinese medicine including the Six Pernicious Influences, Four Levels, Six Stages and Eight Parameters. Etiology, pathogenesis, as well as TCM treatment principles of disease and disease prevention are covered in detail.

After completing these courses, students will be familiar with the basic language and terminology of traditional Chinese Medicine as well as the theories and concepts that are the foundations of Chinese medicine's view on health and illness.

### **TCM History & Philosophy**

- FCT 110 2 Units/30 Hours

This course is designed to introduce a brief historical overview of the origin, development and changes in regard to Chinese medicine theories and practices. Students will gain an understanding, without being medically or clinically specific, of the larger and broader spectrum of TCM from antiquity to present.

Upon completion of this course, students will understand the origin and historical development of Chinese medicine from antiquity to the present day.

### **Chinese Language for TCM**

- FCT 120 1 Unit/15 Hours

This course serves as a general introduction to the spoken and written modern Chinese language (*Putonghua* or Mandarin). Emphasis will be placed on writing Chinese with the English alphabet (*Pinyin* system), pronunciation (tonal system) and terminology used to describe Chinese medical concepts. Some basic syntactical structures and characters are introduced.

After completing this course, students will be able to pronounce and spell simple characters of TCM in Chinese *Pinyin*, learn some medical words and use them in simple sentence forms.

### **TCM Diagnosis I & II**

- FCT 210|310 6 Units/90 Hours

This is a two-course series covering the four diagnostic methods in Chinese medicine as well as in-depth learning of pattern disharmony.

The first of two courses begins with thorough instruction in the four diagnostic methods: inspection, inquiring, auscultation/olfaction and palpation. The four diagnostic methods are the backbone of TCM diagnosis and are used to collect and organize the patient's signs and symptoms. Emphasis is placed on tongue and pulse evaluation.

*Prerequisites: Diagnosis I:* Completion of FCT 100, Foundations I; concurrent enrollment in FCT 200, Foundations II

The second course continues with in-depth instruction on methods of Pattern Identification, one of the most important characteristics of TCM. The course goes over the full differential diagnosis of syndromes from the various theoretical frameworks. These include: Zang Fu, Eight Principles, Six Stages, Four Levels, and the Three Burners. Case studies and role play are used to assist students in acquiring accuracy and confidence in taking a patient history and performing a physical exam using TCM assessment methods.

Upon completion of these courses, students will know how to use the four diagnostic methods to gather patient data and perform a complete patient history intake and exam. Additionally, they will be able to recognize and identify basic TCM patterns of disharmony by analyzing the information acquired from the four diagnostic methods.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of FCT 100/200, Foundations I & II; FCT 210, Diagnosis I

### **TCM Case Studies I & II**

- FCT 400/FCT X20 4 Units/60 Hours

This two-course series is designed to first transition students from pure acquisition of academic knowledge into implementation into clinical practice. Then students learn to further sharpen their differential diagnostic skills in analyzing cases. The students are expected to access traditional and contemporary literature in acupuncture and Oriental medicine, as well as biomedical research, including research in epidemiology. In each course, students will be required to write high quality case studies and give a presentation to their classmates regarding findings and recommendations.

TCM Case Studies I is designed to assist with the transition from academic knowledge to its application in clinical practice. The course reinforces the basics of case analysis by teaching students how to systematically analyze case reports using fundamental TCM Theory and Diagnosis. Students learn how to analyze a chief complaint by looking at accompanying signs,

symptoms and results from the four examinations. Students gain increased skill in differentiating among similar patterns of disease. The focus of the class is on developing diagnostic ability, from which treatment plans are established. The case reports are selected from the clinic or established TCM texts for presentation and class discussion. Students will also learn to properly format written and oral case presentations.

*Prerequisites: Case Studies I:* FCT 100/200, TCM Foundations I & II; FCT 210/FCT 310, TCM Diagnosis I & II

TCM Case Studies II is a continuation of TCM Case Studies I. In this class, students gain advanced skill in TCM pattern discrimination using TCM theory, TCM diagnosis and detailed treatment planning, including acupuncture and herbal treatment prescriptions. Western diagnostic tests will also be included in case analysis. The emphasis of the class is on critical thinking and diagnostic ability of complex cases, ensuring that students reach a correct diagnosis and the supporting logic that supports the diagnosis. This includes the ability to distinguish among similar TCM patterns of disharmony. This is a comprehensive class, which utilizes the knowledge and skills attained throughout the 4-year curriculum. The course prepares students for advanced clinical practice. Like Case Studies I, the class utilizes case studies from the clinic and from standard TCM textbooks. Students will be required to present a case to the class for discussion and evaluation.

Upon completion of these courses, students will have advanced skills in case analysis and be able to reach and justify an accurate diagnosis of a patient based upon accepted TCM theories and Western diagnostic tests. Additionally, they will demonstrate accuracy in developing treatment plans and proficiency in presenting written and oral case reports.

*Prerequisites: Case Studies II:* FCT 800/900, Internal Medicine I & II; FAP 800/900, Acupuncture Therapeutics I & II; FHB 500/600/700, Formulas I, II, & III; FWM 800/900, Western Case Management I & II;

*Corequisite:* FCL 800, Clinical Internship

### **Classics: Nei Jing**

- FCT 500 2 Units/30 Hours

This is the first course in a series of three that reviews important classical literature on Chinese medicine. In this course, the essential concepts of the Nei Jing (The Canon of Internal Medicine) will be presented from translations of the original articles. Nei Jing is attributed to the legendary Huang Di (The Yellow Emperor) and serves as the source for TCM diagnosis and acupuncture theory, covering Yin/Yang, Five Elements, Zang organs and their manifestations, and channels and their networks. The theories of pathogens and pathomechanisms, clinical diseases and symptoms, diagnostic methods, therapeutic principles and methods, and the theory of health preservation will be reviewed. The teacher and student work together to understand the true meaning of this ancient Chinese medical text.

*Prerequisites:* FCT 100/200, TCM Foundations I & II; FCT 210/FCT 310, TCM Diagnosis I & II

### **TCM Traumatology and Orthopedics**

- FCM 600 3 Units/45 Hours

This course covers the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of common diseases of the musculoskeletal system in accordance with both TCM and Western medicine. Emphasis is placed on the differentiation of bone and soft tissue injuries related to common sports and industrial injuries. You will learn to treat patients with acupuncture and herbs, perform essential orthopedic tests to evaluate the outcome of treatments, recognize red flags in orthopedics, and make

appropriate referrals. You will learn how to competently instruct patients in the proper rehabilitation and the prevention of sports and industrial injuries.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 100/200/300, Acupuncture I, II, & III

### **Classics: Shang Han Lun**

- FCT 700 2 Units/30 Hours

This is the second course in a series of three courses that reviews important classical literature on Chinese medicine. The medical classic Shang Han Lun was a text compiled in the late Han dynasty approximately 2000 years ago, which discussed conditions induced by cold. Shang Han Lun utilizes the six-channel pattern identification of diseases and relies almost exclusively on herbal formulas for treatments.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of one of the following: FHB 500/600/700, TCM Formulas I, II & III

### **TCM Internal Medicine I & II**

- FCM 800/FCM 900 6 Units/90 Hours

This two-trimester course sequence reviews the history of TCM internal medicine, the mechanisms of disease, the principles of making a diagnosis, and the common treatment methods associated with making a diagnosis. Etiology, pathogenesis, and signs and symptoms of common disease patterns of internal medicine will be reviewed. Students will learn to diagnose common internal medicine diseases from TCM and Western medicine perspectives, identify their patterns, and devise appropriate treatment plans using acupuncture and herbal formulations with appropriate modifications.

*Prerequisites:* FHB 200/300/400, TCM Herbology I, II & III; FAP 100/200/300, Acupuncture I, II & III; FCT 400, Case Studies I

### **TCM Gynecology**

- FCM 810 3 Units/45 Hours

This course presents both Western and TCM knowledge of gynecology. Differential diagnosis of the most common gynecological concerns and disharmonies are covered in detail, including common menstrual disharmonies, such as irregularity, leukorrhea, PID, PMS, infertility, pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. Emphasis is placed on the common complaints of women and the TCM herbal and acupuncture treatments for these disharmonies. Contraindications during pregnancy are also covered. The course includes training in the use of Western diagnostic reports in relation to hormonal cycles.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of two of the following: FHB 500/600/700, TCM Formulas I, II & III

### **TCM External Medicine**

- FCM 910 2 Units/30 Hours

This course teaches students the treatment of common diseases in external medicine according to both TCM and Western disease categorizations. In studying each disease, students learn its etiology and pathogenesis, syndrome differentiation (patterns), treatment principles and corresponding treatment therapies, using both herbs and acupuncture.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of two of the following: FHB 500/600/700, TCM Formulas I, II & III

## **TCM Pediatrics**

- FCM 920 3 Units/45 Hours

This course emphasizes common complaints of children, and the TCM theories, herbal, acupuncture and pediatric Tuina treatments that apply to the special circumstances of children. Child development, specific patent formulas for children, herbs for breastfeeding moms to pass onto the baby, respiratory ailments, enuresis, special children's disharmonies such as ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), and TCM health recommendations for children, will be reviewed in the course.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of two of the following: FHB 500/600/700, TCM Formulas I, II & III

## **Classics: Jin Gui**

- FCT X10 2 Units/30 Hours

This is the third course in the series which reviews important classical literature on Chinese medicine. Jin Gui Yao Lue (The Essential Prescriptions of the Golden Chamber) was written by Zhang Zhong Jing approximately 1700 years ago. Students will learn the main theoretical concepts and herbal prescriptions of the major diseases in the book as they apply to clinical use.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of one of the following: FHB 500/600/700, TCM Formulas I, II & III

## **Electives**

### **Advanced Nei Jing**

- FEL 602 2 Units/30 Hours

This course covers the original text and commentary for Huang Di Nei Jing, providing clarification of the theories of Yin and Yang, the Five Elements, and their application to diagnosis. Acupuncture treatment protocols according to Huang Di Nei Jing theory will be discussed, as well as the exploration of the Five Yun and Six Qi.

*Prerequisites:* FCT 500, Classics: Nei Jing

## **Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine Acupuncture**

### **Julie Zhu, L.Ac.**

Department Chair

The Traditional Chinese Medicine Acupuncture curriculum is divided into didactic and lab sections, emphasizing both the theoretical and practical aspects of acupuncture. TCM Acupuncture courses provide you with a thorough knowledge of traditional and modern meridian theory, including point location, functions, indications and treatment planning. The curriculum includes thorough training in moxibustion, cupping, Guasha, and electrical stimulation. Clinical labs concentrate on accuracy, needling methods, technique and precautions.

### **Acupuncture Theory & Point Location I, II, & III**

- FAP 110|120|210|220|301|320 9 Units/135 Hours

This three-term course sequence presents basic meridian theory as well as the acupuncture points of the 12 primary meridians as well as the Du (Governing) and Ren (Conception) Meridians.

Each course is also accompanied with a practicum portion where accurate point location and needling techniques are presented and practiced. Contraindications and precautions of specific points will also be emphasized throughout the course.

Each meridian and acupuncture point are covered in detail including functions, indications, location, distribution and clinical applications. This includes special point categories such as: the five shu-transporting points, five element points, luo-connecting points, yuan-source points, and xi-cleft points.

The first of three courses give a general overview on the distribution and functions of the network of meridians and collaterals. Students learn about body landmarks, point locating methods, and basic needling methods. This first course covers meridian systems pertaining to the Conception and Governing Vessels, Lung and Large Intestine.

*Prerequisites: Acupuncture I:* Completion or concurrent enrollment in FWM 100, Surface Anatomy and FWM 103, Anatomy and Physiology I

This second course in the series continues to study the meridian systems pertaining to the Stomach, Spleen, Heart, Small Intestine, and beginning the Urinary Bladder.

*Prerequisites: Acupuncture II:* FAP 100, Acupuncture I

The third and final course in this series continue with the remaining primary channels; remaining Urinary Bladder, Kidney, Triple Burner (San Jiao), Pericardium, Gallbladder and Liver.

By the end of this course series, students will know the physical landmarks and gross unit proportions used in point location as well as how to position the patient for locating acupuncture points. They will be able to locate all 365 acupuncture points and know their functions and clinical indication and cautions or contraindications.

*Prerequisites: Acupuncture III:* FAP 100, Acupuncture I

## **Acupuncture Techniques I & II**

- FAP 310/FAP 410 3 Units/45 Hours

This two-course sequence covers the full range of acupuncture treatment from the basic preparation, clean field, sterilization and safety, through complex needling techniques.

The first course is designed to introduce the three basic techniques of needling. Emphasis is placed on safety and patient comfort. Students learn how to handle acupuncture needles (with and without guide tubes), understand the use of different types and sizes of needles and their clinical applications. Students also learn how to focus their intention while performing basic techniques of reinforcing and reducing. This course includes point preparation, angle and depth of insertion, and needle removal. Students develop their clinical and acupuncture technique skills through the study of surface anatomy, point location and needling techniques. The courses cover clean needle technique, and the handling of acupuncture related clinical emergencies.

*Prerequisites: Acupuncture Techniques I:* FAP 100, Acupuncture I

The second course further develops the student's range of acupuncture treatment skills and helps students develop confidence as practitioners. Students learn how to administer treatment by practicing on each other in preparation for treating patients in the clinic. Specialized acupuncture modalities such as electro-acupuncture, through-and-through needling, seven-star needles, magnets, and dermal tacks are taught. Advanced needling techniques of reinforcing and reducing and other classical techniques are reviewed and practiced. The class includes learning cupping, moxibustion, and gua sha. Case management and how to manage potential risks in the practice of acupuncture will also be discussed.

After completing this course, students will be able to insert needles painlessly, bring qi to the points, use different types of needles to treat corresponding illnesses, be proficient in ancillary techniques such as cupping, moxibustion, electro-acupuncture and gua sha, and understand the mechanism of acupuncture treatment.

*Prerequisites:* Acupuncture Techniques II: FAP 110|120|210|220|301|320, Acupuncture I - III

### **Meridian Theory**

- FAP 500 2 Units/30 Hours

This class will review the external and internal pathways of the 12 primary and the eight extraordinary meridians. The course will also discuss the inter-relationships among the various meridians within the meridian system. Normal function and pathological signs and symptoms of each meridian will be reviewed. The class will cover the twelve primary meridians, twelve divergent meridians, fifteen Lou- connecting meridians, the twelve muscle meridians, and six cutaneous regions and eight extraordinary meridians.

Additionally, this course will review the classical points' categories and their Indications which is the key to understanding the clinical application of acupuncture points. The categories that will be covered are the Five Shu Transporting, Lower He-Sea, Yuan-Source, Luo-Connecting, Xi-Cleft, Influential, Confluents, Crossing, Front-Mu and Back-Shu Points.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 110|120|210|220|301|320, Acupuncture I - III

### **Extra Points and Microsystems**

- FAP 600 3 Units/45 Hours

This course presents the extra meridians and their associated acupuncture points. Ear and scalp acupuncture and over 40 extra points are covered in detail along with their clinical applications. The lab focuses on accurate point location and special ear and scalp needle techniques.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 110|120|210|220|301|320, Acupuncture I - III; FAP 310, Acupuncture Techniques I

### **TCM Tuina Massage**

- FAP 610 3 Units/45 Hours

Massage and manipulation, or Tuina, comprise one of the traditional five branches of TCM. Although the TCM program emphasizes the clinical methods of acupuncture and herbology, this course introduces students to various traditional Chinese therapeutic massage systems, including Tuina. Emphasis is on using specific clinical evaluations to formulate therapeutic massage treatments, which may become a part of clinical practice.

*Prerequisites:* FWM 103, Human Anatomy

### **Acupuncture Therapeutics I & II**

- FAP 800/FAP 900 5 Units/75 Hours

This course reviews treatment principles and methods according to channel theory, with a focus on acupuncture point selection for internal medicine conditions. The focus of this course is the in-depth study of the texts: Chinese Acupuncture and Moxibustion (CAM), and Acupuncture: A Comprehensive Text (Shanghai). The course complements the TCM Internal Medicine courses and provides students with a comprehensive view of how to apply different TCM theories for diagnosis, and how to select the most appropriate treatment methods including cupping, bleeding, gua sha, and dermal tacks.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 110|120|210|220|301|320, Acupuncture I - III; FAP 310|FAP 410, Acupuncture Techniques I & II; and FCM 800, Internal Medicine I or FCM 900, Internal Medicine II

### **CNT: Clean Needle Technique**

- CNT 0.5 Units/7 Hours

This course is a review of material previously introduced in the Beginning Clinical Theater and Meridians and Acupuncture I courses. Students will learn the appropriate procedures of sterilization and sanitation as they apply to the practice of acupuncture. Proper clean needle technique and disposal of needles are covered. Completion of this course is required for entry into Clinical Intern Rounds. Students are required to take a written and practical examination; passing both examinations satisfies the requirements of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) and enables the student to receive their CNT certificate, which is required for the licensing examinations.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 100, Acupuncture I; FCL 100 Beginning Theatre

## **Electives**

### **TCM Tuina Massage II**

- FEL 710 2 Units/30 Hours

Tuina Massage II may be taken in the Department of TCM Acupuncture, while also completing the requirements for the Tuina Massage specialization program. For detailed information about the Tuina massage courses and specialization please refer to the Specialty Options section of the catalog.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 610, TCM Tuina Massage I

### **Kiiko Techniques**

- FEL 560 2 Units/30 Hours

Kiiko style acupuncture utilizes a systematic, easy to learn, instantaneous feedback, palpatory method, revealing a comprehensive diagnosis and a patient-unique treatment plan. By looking deeply into structural and/or constitutional imbalances underlying a patient's symptomatic complaints, a Kiiko practitioner is able to successfully solve difficult cases and treat the most complex medical issues. In this course, you will learn the basic skills needed for abdominal, neck and back diagnosis, and their application on constitutional pathologies, regardless of the patient's major complaint. The root cause of a patient's inability to heal will be discussed and treatment strategies demonstrated.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 100|200|300, Acupuncture I - III; FAP 310/FAP 410, Acupuncture Techniques I & II

### **Advanced Needling Techniques**

- FEL 621 0.5 Unit/7.5 Hours

An eight-hour, one-day seminar on advanced forms of needling techniques, with a one-hour lecture/one-hour lab rotation. This course covers the butterfly, turtle, and Dr. Lu's special techniques.

*Prerequisites:* FAP 100|200|300, Acupuncture I - III; FAP 310/FAP 410, Acupuncture Techniques I & II

# Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine Herbology

## Jeffrey Pang, L.Ac.

Department Chair

Chinese herbology is the world's most sophisticated medical herbal system. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Herbology curriculum includes extensive training in the identification, categorization and clinical use of the traditional Chinese herbal pharmacopoeia. Six trimesters of in-depth herbology study provide you with a solid working knowledge of more than 500 individual herbs and more than 350 classical and modern formulas. Advanced courses instruct you on how to modify and enhance classical formulas in response to specific variants in a patient's diagnosed condition. All herb courses are taught using the Pinyin names of herbs.

### Introduction to TCM Herbology

- FHB 101 1 Unit/15 Hours

This introductory course provides an overview of Chinese herbal medicine and is the foundation of the program's herbal medicine courses. The course investigates the history behind the development of the tradition of Chinese herbal medicine, with specific references to classical texts. Students learn the basic characteristics of herbs (taste, temperature, trajectory in the body, and toxicity) and the 17 categories of Chinese herbs and their related characteristics. Students are introduced to herbal preparations commonly used in Chinese medicine and the situations that indicate their use.

### TCM Herbology I, II & III

- FHB 201|300|400 9 Units/135 Hours

This three-trimester course sequence of 3 units each provides students with knowledge of TCM herbology, including general theory, treatment methods, categorization, taste, temperature, entering meridians, indications, and the laws of herbal combining. Students will learn over 350 single herbs, including clinical use, contraindications, and methods of preparation and delivery.

Current research in the field of TCM herbology will augment lectures. This knowledge will serve as a foundation for the TCM Formula courses.

Prerequisites: FHB 201/300/400: FHB 101, Introduction to Chinese Herbs

### TCM Formulas I, II & III

- FHB 500|600|700 9 Units/ 135 Hours

The art of Chinese herbology lies in the practitioner's ability to combine herbs into a balanced formula tailored to meet each patient's singular pattern of signs and symptoms. During this three-terms course sequence in TCM formulas, students will implement the previous knowledge they have acquired in the single herbs courses as well as TCM differential diagnosis, into understanding how a formula is designed. Formulas are reviewed in the context of the herbs composing it, their therapeutic function and indications. In addition, the applications of herbal formula prescriptions to specific illnesses will be discussed, as well as how to modify formulas based on the patient specific sign and symptoms.

In the first course, students are introduced to the principles of creating herb formulas through in-depth study of the elegance and economy of classical Chinese herbal prescriptions. The formulas are taught in functionally related categories. Students will study 80 herbal formulas including formula composition, functions, clinical indications, modifications and contraindications.

Formulas categories taught are formulas that Release the Exterior, formulas Clear Heat, formulas Drain Downward, formulas that Harmonize, and formulas that Tonify.

*Prerequisites: FHB 500: FHB 201|300|400, TCM Herbology I - III;*

In the second course of a three-part series, students will study an additional 70 traditional formulas, including formula composition, functions, clinical indications, modifications and contraindications. Formula categories covered in this course are formulas that Expel Dampness, formulas that Warm Interior, formulas that Regulate Qi, formulas that Regulate Blood and formulas Stop Bleeding.

*Prerequisites: FHB 600: FHB 201|300|400, TCM Herbology I - III;*

In the third and final course, students will study additional 70 traditional formulas, including their composition of herbs, functions, clinical indications and the theories behind them. Formula categories covered in this course are: formulas that Treat Dryness, formulas that Stabilize and Bind, formulas that Calm the Spirit, formulas that Expel Wind, formulas that Open the Orifices, formulas that Treat Phlegm, formulas that Reduce Food Stagnation, formulas that Expel Parasites and formulas for External Applications.

Upon completion of this course, students will understand the principles of making herbal formulas. Students will also be able to identify herbal formulas, understand their therapeutic indication and be able to prescribe and modify these formulas according to TCM principles.

*Prerequisites: FHB 201|300|400, TCM Herbology I - III;*

### **TCM Dietetics**

- FHB 510 2 Units/30 Hours

Since the beginning of TCM, great physicians understood the profound influence of diet on human health. This course introduces theories of TCM dietetics and surveys the TCM functions and properties of common foods, the dietary programs appropriate for the treatment of prevalent TCM disharmonies, and their effect on health and longevity. Effective food combinations and recipes are provided for the treatment of common diseases, and to enhance general well-being.

*Prerequisites: FHB 201|300|400, TCM Herbology I - III;*

### **TCM Patent Medicines**

- FHB 800 2 Units/30 Hours

This is an invaluable course for students and every clinician using herbal pills and prepared solutions. The course covers major TCM syndromes and the patent herbs used to treat them. The lectures include the differential analysis of patent herbs used for the same diagnosis, recommended dosages for both adults and children, and contraindications. Much of the information presented is derived from various Chinese texts and clinical expertise and will not be found in any textbook. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the functions of over 150 prepared Chinese patent herbs and solutions and how to properly prescribe them.

*Prerequisites: Completion of one of the following FHB 500|600|700, TCM Formulas I - III*

### **Herbal-Pharmaceutical Drugs Interactions**

- FHB 900 0.5 Units/7.5Hours

This course addresses the increasing concern among the medical community, including TCM practitioners who prescribe medicinal herbs, regarding toxic biomedical interactions between pharmaceutical drugs and natural products, such as Chinese medicinal herbs. The course

reviews the biomedical nature of herbs and the potential interaction between them and commonly used pharmaceutical drugs and nutritional supplements. The course includes the critical analysis of literature and research reports of herb/drug interactions.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of one of the following FHB 500|600|700, TCM Formulas I - III and concurrent with FWM 810, Pharmacology

## **Electives**

### **Herb Walk**

- FEL 483 0.5 Unit/7.5 Hours

Join highly experienced faculty and herbalists on an herb walk at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden or the Henry Cowell Fall Creek State Park in Felton to learn how to identify important medicinal plants used in Chinese medicine. You will walk one to two miles on mostly flat terrain and dirt trails seeing over a dozen medicinal and/or edible species such as: huckleberry, Aralia (a relative of ginseng), nettles, lemon balm, and Asarum, a local variety of Xixin.

*Prerequisites:* At least one of the following FHB 201|300|400, TCM Herbology I – III

## **Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine Energetics**

TCM energetics are exercises that heal through rhythmic breathing and body movements. Energetics includes internal healing arts, such as the Five-Animal Exercise developed by Hua Tuo, meditation, Medical Qigong, and various styles of Taijiquan, an internal martial art practiced worldwide.

### **Qi Gong I**

- FEB 100 1 Unit/15 Hours

Qigong, or Vital Energy Skills, are the ancient Chinese methods of cultivating and using the vital energy in the body, representing the Chinese philosophy of the exercise-health connection.

Qigong is now successfully used in China for treating chronic diseases. In this practical introductory course, students learn to experience various Qigong exercises in an atmosphere of personal experimentation, with emphasis on the fundamentals of “reading” and “feeling” the Qi.

This course will enable students to become familiar with the theory, form and potential health benefits of Chinese therapeutic energetics.

*Prerequisites:* None

### **Qi Gong II**

- FEB 300 1 Units/15 Hours

In this course, students continue to explore the sensation of Qi flowing through their bodies, utilizing exercises to cultivate their Qi and increase their awareness of the dynamic state of their own body, in response to changes in the environment. Completion of this course serves as one of the prerequisites for the Qigong Instructor Training Specialization.

*Prerequisites:* None

## **Tai Ji Quan I**

- FEB 500 1 Unit/15 Hours

Taijiquan is recognized as one of the fundamentals of good health. This course is a natural extension of the Qigong courses and introduces students to more advanced exercises and sets for health enhancement. This course is aimed at teaching exercises the student can master, and that are safe for a wide spectrum of conditions.

Prerequisites: None

## **Tai Ji Quan II**

- FEB 700 1 Unit/15 Hours

This course is a continuation of the Taijiquan I course. In this energetic medicine course, the students learn through demonstration and practice of advanced Taijiquan forms to become more aware of energy pathways and flow. The emphasis of this course is on teaching the student exercises they can master and are safe for a wide spectrum of conditions.

Prerequisites: None

# **Department of Career Development**

The Career Development courses prepare students to practice TCM professionally, ethically, and successfully. The courses include exposure to professional career options, clinic management, marketing, public relations, professionalism and ethics.

## **Professional Ethics**

- FCD 300 1 Unit/15 Hours

This course covers the universal medical ethics required of a primary health care practitioner, emphasizing professional responsibility and the study of laws which regulate TCM practices in California and the U.S. Upon completion of this course, students will be thoroughly aware of the professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities of treating patients.

*Prerequisites:* Prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in FCL 400 Clinical Internship Rounds

## **Career Development I, II & III**

- FCD 500 | X10 | E10 4 Units/60 Hours

The primary focus of our program is ensuring you are honing the knowledge of the theory and practice of Chinese medicine and become a confident and competent practitioner. In the western world environment, it is also required from practitioner to be familiar with post-graduation options and learn to develop entrepreneurial skills. This three-course sequence is designed to introduce students how to apply their trade into the business world.

The first course will inform students to the various options of employment in the field of acupuncture and oriental medicine. Students will also learn the steps necessary for creating a successful practice. Topics covered will include niche, brand, positioning, competitor analysis, market share, and marketing tactics.

Prerequisites: Career Development I: FCD 300 Professional Ethics

The second course provides students with the information you need to apply your acupuncture

training skills in a business-like manner in a variety of clinical settings. The emphasis is on a practical application of the business and professional skills and information necessary to provide acupuncture health care to an ever-growing population of patients.

Prerequisites: Career Development II: FCD 500 Career Development I

In the third course students will be taught how to prepare a strong business plan. They will also learn the business and financial obligation aspects of running an acupuncture practice.

Upon completion of this course sequence students will have a clearer understanding of what they envision their acupuncture practice will look like: who they want to serve, how they will help them, how they will attract and communicate with clients, and what marketing tactics they will want to use. Students will also understand the synergistic nature of the professional, ethical, financial and marketing skills necessary to run a primary health care practice in the USA in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will write their preliminary marketing plan and present their plan in class.

Prerequisites: Career Development III: FCD X10 Career Development II

### **Community Outreach**

- FCD 900 0.5 Unit/7.5 Hours

Acupuncturists, as part of the health care delivery system, should engage in providing information about Chinese medicine to members of their community. Students will either participate in periodic health fairs organized by the university or create their own opportunity by partnering with local agencies, organizations, and schools to raise public awareness on traditional Chinese medicine and providing presentations on health topics of their choosing, lead classes in Qigong or Taiji. Participation in health fair provided by university provide interns with the opportunity to promote their practice by handing out business cards to prospective patients.

By completing this course students will gain firsthand experience in self marketing and trade promotion to the general public which will be very valuable for them upon graduation.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of 4<sup>th</sup> term courses.

## **Department of Western Medicine**

### **Alan Wong, M.D.**

Department Chair

Modern practitioners of TCM must have a fundamental understanding of Western medicine to effectively communicate with medical doctors and other healthcare professionals. Western Medicine studies are an integral part of the curriculum providing knowledge of Western diagnosis and pharmaceuticals, necessary to make appropriate referrals and to provide the best care possible for your patients. Introduced to the basic methods of Western diagnosis, you will learn the fundamental vocabulary used in diagnostic analysis and the clinical methods used in Western medical approaches to disease. With this knowledge, you can become an active part of today's dynamic healthcare network.

Our Western medicine department is enhanced by our educational and clinical relationship with Stanford University and the doctoral residency program we have with Stanford and O'Connor hospitals. These professional relationships not only benefit you as a student but also contribute to a better understanding and acceptance of TCM in the West.

## General Biology

- FWM 101 3 Units/45 Hours

This course covers the basics of the chemistry of life, molecular and cellular biology, structure and function of organisms, reproduction and development, genetics, evolution and ecology (the relations of organisms to each other and to their environment). This course, with emphasis on human biology, provides a solid basis for further biomedical studies with knowledge of vocabulary, concepts, and skills.

Prerequisites: None

## Surface Anatomy

- FWM 100 2 Units/30 Hours

This course provides an introduction to the study of human structure by presenting an integrated approach to the normal human body. Western anatomy and acupuncture energetic anatomy are bridged in this course that emphasizes musculoskeletal anatomy through lecture, palpation and movement. Major landmarks are described and are related to interior anatomical structures, emphasizing key acupuncture point location with physical assessment. Human skeletons, anatomical charts, models and full color digital images will be used for demonstration.

After completing this course, students will understand human structure at cell, tissue, organ, system and organism levels. Throughout knowledge of human structure will be a foundation for further study of physiology, pathophysiology, western medicine and acupuncture.

Prerequisites: None

## Anatomy & Physiology I & II

- FWM 103|FWM 203 5 Units/75 Hours

This two-course series covers the human body structure (anatomy) and function (physiology) and their interrelationships. Human skeletons, anatomical charts, models and full color digital images will be used for demonstration. The course also touches upon some common human disease processes.

The first of this two-term sequence includes the study of structure and function of cells, tissues, as they apply to the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and lymphatic/immune systems.

*Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I: Concurrent enrollment in Surface Anatomy.*

The second course in the sequence covers the study of the nerve system, endocrine, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems.

After completing this course, students will understand human structure at cell, tissue, organ, system and organism levels. Knowledge of human structure & function is the foundation for further pathology, pathophysiology as well as acupuncture point location & function.

*Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology II: Completion or concurrent enrollment in Anatomy and Physiology I*

## Chemistry

- FWM 202 3 Units/45 Hours

This introductory course explores various topics of inorganic chemistry including the periodic table

of elements, atomic structure of matter, nuclear chemistry, molecular bonding, atomic quantum numbers and orbitals, equilibrium states, acid/base chemistry and thermodynamics. The basic organic chemistry of alkanes and unsaturated hydrocarbons will also be examined throughout the course.

Prerequisites: None

### **Pathophysiology I & II**

- FWM 300/FWM 400 7 Units/105 Hours

Pathophysiology is the study of the mechanism of disease in humans from a western medical perspective. In this two-trimester course sequence, students receive a brief overview of healthy physiology of the body's major systems, focusing on disease processes and the body's attempt to adapt to them. These courses link western anatomy, physiology and biochemistry to clinical practice. The first course will cover infectious, psychiatric, hematological, cardiac and pulmonary diseases. In the second course, students learn about selected diseases in the departments of oncology, neurology, rheumatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, musculoskeletal and nephrology.

*Prerequisites:* FWM 100, Surface Anatomy; FWM 103/FWM 203, Anatomy & Physiology I & II

### **Physics**

- FWM 303 2 Units/30 Hours

Designed for health science students, this is an introductory course on physics with minimum calculations. It will conceptually explore various topics of physics, including motions and forces of a body, properties of matter, heat, sound, light, and electricity and magnetism. Basic atomic and nuclear physics, as well as the theory of relativity will be introduced.

Prerequisites: None

### **Lab Analysis & Imaging & Advanced Lab Analysis**

- FWM 505|FWM 925 2.5 Unit/37.5 Hours

This course provides an introduction to the application, interpretation and limitations of biomedical laboratory diagnostic studies and medical imaging. The class reviews routine labs and radiographic techniques that apply to the major body systems and correlate with clinical diseases. The class will discuss lab methodology, normal values, variation in laboratory results as well as the limitations and power of lab findings. Laboratory findings are reviewed in the context of practice as a licensed acupuncturist.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of laboratory testing and medical imaging application.

*Prerequisites:* FWM 300-400, Pathophysiology I & II

### **Western Physical Examination /Lab**

- FWM 510 3 Units/45 Hours

In this course, students are instructed in Western methods of information gathering and evaluation. They will study and perform adult history and physical exams, including the use of blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes. Laboratory tests and x-rays are presented and discussed, and students will gain a basic understanding of their use and results. The course also covers how and when to make referrals to other providers, as well as how to recognize and respond in emergency situations. Students will be required to give an oral and written presentation of a

patient's history and physical exam.

*Prerequisites:* FWM 300/FWM 400 Pathophysiology I & II

### **Patient Communication & Counseling**

- FWM 650      2 Unit/30 Hours

The dramatic technological innovations of the past few decades have substantially altered the manner in which diseases are diagnosed and managed. In this era of modern-technologically based medicine, one of the primary principles of compassionate and patient centered care is often overshadowed by the results of imaging studies and laboratory tests. Quality medical care requires a combination of comprehensive scientific knowledge along with sophisticated communication skills

This course aims to train students in the art of 'treating the patient and not the disease' by using effective communication strategies, namely proper interpersonal communication skills, listening skills and interviewing skills. Students will also learn how to incorporate the broader psychological and social context of the patient into an understanding of the patient's overall health. In addition, students will learn through example case studies how to properly and professionally handle various clinical situations and difficult patients.

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to demonstrate effective interpersonal and professional communication skills with patients and other health care providers.

This course provides a structure for students to develop case reports and case presentations, as well as an opportunity to discuss clinical cases in groups. This course introduces clinical case review and management in a clinical setting, including history taking, data collection from subjective findings and objective findings, case assessment, treatment plan and treatment outcomes, analyzing data to modify patient care and continuity of care, follow-up care and clinical outcomes, prognosis and future medical care, referral and risk management, emergency procedures, as well as collaboration with other healthcare providers. Case analysis and presentation skills are emphasized.

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to evaluate and treat clients with mental disorders. The class introduces the psychotherapeutic diagnostic system (DSM IV-TR) and the vocabulary to empower practitioners to more effectively interact with western clinicians. The course covers suicide, psychosis, chemical dependency, depression, anxiety and the psychopharmacology used in western medicine. Emphasis is placed on developing solid boundaries, interviewing and communication skills, and setting up a safe and trusting environment. The course presents an introduction to western counseling skills and also addresses eastern influences on counseling. Various modalities of psychotherapy are presented.

*Co-requisites:* Concurrent enrollment in FCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds

### **Diet, Nutrition and Vitamins**

- FWM 610      2 Units/30 Hours

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the fundamentals of human nutrition and how excess or deficiency of essential nutrients affects our health throughout life. Students will learn digestion and assimilation, including useful assessment tools and lab tests, and how to counsel patients on developing a healthy diet. There will also be a discussion of vitamins and minerals, recommended intake, the role of diet in the various stages of the life cycle, the way chronic disease is influenced by excessive or deficient states, and the bio- variability of needs among different patients. The course will cover special issues like food allergies, detoxification, and weight loss as well as possible nutritional approaches to illness commonly encountered in

clinical practice.

*Prerequisites:* FWM 202, Chemistry

### **Research & Medical Literature Review**

- FWM 700 3 Units/45 Hours

The amount of information available these days on-line can be overwhelming and sometimes contradictory or false. Acupuncturists must be versed in the up-to-date medical literature to inform their patients on the one hand, and to effectively communicate with other health care providers on the other.

This course will first introduce students to the fundamental principles of research and evidence-based medicine, with emphasis on clinical trials. Then students will learn the techniques for assessing medical or research literature. Students will also learn how to use library and online research. Emphasis will be placed on critically analyze and evaluate medical research literature. Students will review a variety of published research studies in biomedical medicine as well as in the acupuncture and oriental medicine field and will learn to compare their strengths and limitations. Students will conduct literature searches and develop bibliographies related to research topics. Upon completion of this course students will be able to read and critique medical literature. They will be able to keep up to date with new information appearing and become versed in methods to finding the latest medical information.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of FWM 103/FWM 203, Anatomy & Physiology I & II

*Co-requisites:* Concurrent enrollment in FWM 300, Pathophysiology I

### **Pharmacology**

- FWM 810 3 Units/45 Hours

This course is designed to familiarize students with the use of Western pharmaceutical drugs. The lectures will focus on the categorizations of the Western pharmacopoeia, and the broad principles and mechanisms of action of drugs commonly used in a Western paradigm, including biochemistry. A large percentage of patients seeking TCM care will already be taking prescription medications, and this course offers the student an opportunity to understand how these drugs are used in the treatment of disease.

*Prerequisites:* FWM 300/FWM 400 Pathophysiology I & II

### **Western Case Management I, II, & III**

- FWM 800|900|X10 9 Units/135 Hours

This three-term course sequence is intended to help students bring together information from all prior Western medicine classes. Instruction includes appropriate assessments and interventions including laboratory testing and X-ray. Results of such testing will be discussed and analyzed in class. Courses also include recognizing severe or life-threatening emergencies that warrant referral to a western physician. Proper management of serious conditions that fall under “red flags” and “yellow flags” will be reviewed. Appropriate procedures for making referrals to other interdisciplinary team members such as physicians, physical therapists, nutritionists, chiropractors, naturopaths and others will be presented.

The procedures for referral include determining whether the referral is to an ER or an outpatient clinic. Students will be required to derive a list of differential diagnosis, including assignment of ICD 9/10 codes. Particular emphasis will be placed on conditions commonly encountered in an acupuncture practice. Emphasis will also be placed on when to refer and how to treat patients in

an integrative way with other health care providers. Students will be required to present one case study, with written analysis, as part of the course assignment.

This first course will concentrate on musculoskeletal, neurological, psychiatric and dermatological conditions. The second course will attend to cardiovascular, pulmonary, hematological, gastrointestinal and autoimmune conditions. The third and final course will focus on endocrinal, gynecological, and urological conditions.

Upon completion of these courses, students will have acquired the basic skills to assess cases from a biomedical perspective. Based on history, physical exam and lab findings, students will be able to arrive at a differential diagnosis, treat accordingly and know when to refer.

*Prerequisites:* Completion of FWM 300/FWM 400, Pathophysiology I & II; FWM 700 Research & Medical Literature Review; and FWM 500, Lab Analysis and Imaging.

### **System Based Medicine**

- FWM 751 3 Units/45 Hours

Students learn how the current US health care system functions so they can apply that knowledge as a part of emerging integrated healthcare systems and serve as members of interdisciplinary teams of practitioners. More specifically, students study how the current US health care system works and the impact of national, state, and institutional policies on the system's functioning and compare it to that of other developed nations. Students drill down into various components of the US health care system organization and how they affect access to care. These include the role of insurance, types of practitioners and their scope of practice, and the impact of the pharmaceutical industry on care. As a culminating activity, students are asked to create an effective and accessible health care system synthesizing all they have learned.

### **Public Health and Epidemiology**

- FWM 910 2 Units/30 Hours

This course explores the impact of disease and wellness in regard to populations. Factors in epidemiology such as prevalence of incidence of disease in given populations and sensitivity and specificity of tests in diagnosis will be discussed. Environmental, socio-economic and cultural factors that contribute to health and illness in our society will be explored, as well as the role of evidence-based medicine. Particular emphasis is paid to the ways TCM practitioners interface with and are affected by this system. Topics will include the effects of economics on the current healthcare system, especially to the underprivileged segments of our population and the role of LAc.'s in the public health setting.

*Prerequisites:* None

### **CPR/ First Aid**

- CFA 0.5 Units/8 Hours

This is a required class that students must take through an outside provider. Completion of this course is required before entry into Intern Rounds. Upon completion of this course, students will have certification in CPR and First Aid and will have the necessary skills to respond to emergencies within the clinic.

*Prerequisites:* None

# Department of TCM Clinic Training

## Joanna Zhao, L.Ac.

Department Chair

In-depth clinical training comprises approximately one-third of the Doctor's/Master's curriculum, preparing you to practice the theoretical knowledge you gained in the classroom. Throughout the program, starting in your first trimester, you will observe a faculty-practitioner diagnosing and treating patients. In your last year, you will diagnose and treat patients with acupuncture, Chinese herbs and other methods of the five branches, under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The Five Branches medical centers in Santa Cruz and San Jose assist over 160 patients a day, allowing you to experience working with highly skilled faculty in a busy clinical environment and to gain hands-on experience working with patients. By the end of clinical training, you will have performed at least 350 patient treatments, a basic requirement for graduation.

### Beginning Clinical Theater

- FCL 100      1.5 Units/45 Hours

In Beginning Clinical Theater, newly enrolled students receive a comprehensive introduction and orientation to the clinic's protocols on patient care, safety, herb formula preparation and patient records. This is the first opportunity for students to see how TCM theory and practice are combined. In each class, scheduled patients are interviewed, diagnosed and treated by faculty, as students observe. Following each patient's intake, diagnosis and treatment, a general forum-discussion of the patient's case is conducted. Students begin learning professional conduct within this clinical setting: how to take a patient's medical history, and how to create and maintain patient records. Students observe all aspects of treating patients as a TCM professional, including diagnostic data gathering, syndrome identification, treatment planning, herb prescription formulation, and acupuncture needling techniques. Students also participate in the preparation of herbal formulas.

Prerequisites: None

### Clinical Theater

- FCL 200      1.5 Units/45 Hours

This class is a continuation of Beginning Clinical Theater. Conducted in a classroom setting, students will have the opportunity to see how TCM theory and practice are combined. In each class, scheduled patients are interviewed, diagnosed and treated by faculty as students observe. Following each patient's intake, diagnosis and treatment, a general forum-discussion of the patient's case is conducted. Students begin learning professional conduct within this clinical setting: how to take a patient's medical history, and how to create and maintain patient records. Students observe all aspects of treating patients as a TCM professional, including diagnostic data gathering, syndrome identification, treatment planning, herb prescription formulation, and acupuncture needling techniques. Students also participate in the preparation of herbal formulas.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 100, Beginning Clinical Theater

### Clinical Rounds

- FCL 300      3 Units/90 Hours

Clinical Rounds provides students with experience in observing and assisting licensed faculty practitioners in interviewing, diagnosing and treating patients. In Rounds, four to five students

follow a practitioner, treating patients in the school's teaching clinic. Students participate in taking and recording a patient's history and exam. Students take the patient's pulses and observe the patient's tongue to understand the instructor's diagnosis, choice of acupuncture treatment and herbal prescription. This close assistantship is invaluable in the study of TCM. Students will learn how to fill an herbal prescription from the clinic's pharmacy and give patients instructions regarding its preparation and use. Students are evaluated on their knowledge and their developing patient skills.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 200, Clinical Theater

### **Clinical Internship Rounds**

- FCL 400 9.0 Units/270 Hours

In Clinical Internship Rounds, students advance to hands-on treatments in a clinical setting under the direct supervision of a licensed practitioner. A small, intimate group of students attend to the patient's intake and treatment with constant monitoring by a licensed faculty supervisor, who develops a diagnosis and treatment strategy. Students will learn to treat patients with a variety of TCM modalities, and prepare formulas or prescribe patent herbs, under the direct supervision of a licensed faculty supervisor. Clinical Internship Rounds is designed to provide a setting for the students to develop comprehensive clinical skills in preparation for Internship.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 300, Clinical Rounds; CNT: Clean Needle Technique; CPR/First Aid

*Co-requisite:* Concurrent enrollment in FRA 440, Assessment I

### **Clinical Internship**

- FCL 800 15 Units/450 Hours

Clinical training at Five Branches University culminates with Clinical Internship. Clinical Internship is designed to simulate an actual clinical environment, in which students diagnose, treat and develop long-range treatment goals and plans for their patients. Interns work independently under a licensed clinical faculty supervisor who is there to answer questions and provide recommendations and support as needed. Clinical Internship imparts the ultimate clinical education for students, in which autonomy with patients is supported by the guidance and wisdom of experienced licensed faculty members. Students will be able, upon licensure, to treat patients unsupervised with confidence and expertise.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds; *Co-requisite:* Concurrent enrollment in FRA 770, Assessment II

### **Clinical Integrative Intern Theater**

- FCL 750 1.5 Units/45 Hours

A member of the Western faculty and the TCM faculty supervise interns in this integrative setting. In rotating groups of three, interns will perform the history and relevant examination of a patient from both Western and Eastern perspectives and develop an assessment and plan from each perspective. The diagnosis and the plan will be evaluated and discussed. A second group of students will perform the Eastern treatment and carry out and make appropriate recommendations for the Western treatment with the exclusion of administering medications.

*Prerequisites:* MCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds

### **Clinical Grand Rounds**

- FCL 720 1.5 Units/45 Hours

In a group setting, Grand Rounds offers interns an opportunity to present their difficult cases to one or more senior TCM faculty for feedback and assistance. Interns present their patient's history, signs and symptoms, diagnoses and treatments, and discuss and explore the case with the faculty member and other interns in order to develop new approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of the patient.

*Corequisite:* Current enrollment in FCL 800, Clinical Internship

## **Electives**

The following is a partial list of electives offered in the department of TCM Clinical Training. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives please refer to the Five Branches website.

The following electives may be taken as part of MAChM clinical training, while also completing the requirements for each specialization program. For detailed information about these specializations please refer to the Specialty Options section of the catalog.

## **Sports Medicine**

### **Sports Medicine Clinical Rounds**

- FCL 300, 1.5 Units/45 Hours

### **Sports Medicine Clinical Internship**

- FCL 800, 1.5 Units/45 Hours

## **Medical Qigong Practitioner**

### **Medical Qigong Clinical Internship Rounds**

- FCL 400, 2.25 Units/72 Hours

## **TCM Tuina Massage**

### **TCM Tuina Massage Clinical Internship Rounds**

- FCL 400, 1.5 Units/45 Hours

### **TCM Tuina Massage Clinical Internship**

- FCL 800, 1.5 Units/45 Hours

## **Clinical Training in China**

Students may choose to complete up to 25% of their clinical training in the affiliated hospitals of our five sister colleges in China, Taiwan and Korea. For further details, please refer to the Study Abroad section of the catalog.

## **Community Externships**

Up to 25% of your clinical training hours may be completed through an externship. The diverse externships we offer allow you to become exposed to different patient populations, treat a wide variety of conditions, and explore new fields of specialization.

Offered in a broad range of settings, our community externships provide you with valuable hands-on clinical experience in a private practice, community clinic, or integrative medical environment. Community externship opportunities include working with senior citizens, veterans of war, mental health patients, those struggling with substance abuse, and treating individuals in a community clinic setting. The following community externships are currently available:

### **Sutter Hospital**

A leading hospital in Oakland and Berkeley, the Sutter Hospital offers students, together with Western medical students, an opportunity to follow medical doctors and licensed acupuncturists in an outpatient and inpatient environment. Five Branches students learn the protocols of a modern community hospital, an invaluable experience after graduation. Students may enroll in one trimester or up to a year of hospital residency.

### **Janus**

Since its founding in 1976, Janus has successfully assisted thousands of individuals in their efforts against chemical dependency. In this clinical setting, you will have the opportunity to become proficient using the National Acupuncture Detoxification (NADA) protocol as an integral part of chemical dependency treatment and recovery. For more information about NADA go to [www.acudetox.com](http://www.acudetox.com).

### **Mental Health Client Action Network**

The Mental Health Client Action Network (MHCAN) is a valuable community service, helping adults with mental illness to live without crisis. The MHCAN drop-in center receives 12,000 visits annually from approximately 600 mental health clients. They lobby for improved health care, and affordable independent housing. MHCAN clients demonstrate that people with serious mental illness can work, go to school, maintain stable housing, and help their peers do the same.

### **Veteran's Clinic**

You will be treating veterans of all ages with a host of complaints, primarily chronic and long-term health issues. While primary care is often provided by the Veterans' Administration, you may also be treating homeless and drug addicted veterans. In this clinical setting, you will have the opportunity to use acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine to treat a variety of conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Although this externship does not provide the capacity to make herbal formulas on site, you will be expected to recommend formulas to your patients when appropriate. This externship is offered at both the Santa Cruz and San Jose campuses.

### **Community Clinic**

In a community clinic group setting, you will have the opportunity to provide donation-based Traditional Chinese Medicine treatments to low income patients. You will experience how acupuncture is commonly practiced in China, providing acupuncture, Tuina massage, or herbal medicine treatments in a group setting, in short 15-30-minute intervals. By offering this affordable service, clients can receive acupuncture treatments more frequently to improve their health and well-being.

### **Akiyama Wellness Center**

Akiyama Wellness Center is part of Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Community Senior Service Center. Akiyama provides wellness programs to their senior members, including acupuncture, yoga, and Taiji classes. The treatment setting at Akiyama is community room style. Interns are required to see patients on a pre-scheduled basis. Although this externship does not provide the

capacity to make herbal formulas on site, you will be expected to recommend formulas to your patients when appropriate.

## **Clinical Private Externships**

Multiple off-campus externships are offered by TCM practitioners located throughout California. In a clinical private externship, you will work alongside the practitioner through a normal day's activities as well as assist with client treatments. You will have the opportunity to learn about the specializations they offer and to gain hands-on experience working in a private-practice environment.

## **Community Events**

Five Branches University students participate in a Career Development Fair prior to the completion of their Doctor's/Master's degree. This requirement is fulfilled through a community health fair or a classroom outreach event where students demonstrate their knowledge and mastery of TCM to inform and recruit new patients. Often, these events address the needs of low income or otherwise disenfranchised groups in communities throughout the Bay Area.

These events are always free to the public and are just a small representation of the philanthropic efforts that Five Branches engages in throughout each academic year.

## **International Externships**

You may choose to study in Asia to experience the authentic practice of TCM integrated with modern Western medicine. Our relationship with five universities in China, Korea and Taiwan provide you with the opportunity to learn TCM from highly knowledgeable doctors and clinical experts, to receive training.

## **Department of Career Development and TCM Energetics**

To enrich and round out your professional TCM training, the DAChM/MAChM curriculum includes Energetics courses to introduce you to the ancient Chinese practices of Qigong and Taijiquan, and Career Development courses to prepare you to practice TCM professionally, ethically, and successfully.

### **Career Development**

#### **Career Development I-III**

- FCD 500, FCD E10      1 Unit/15 Hours, 1 Unit/15 Hours

This course provides students with the steps necessary to create a successful practice. Topics covered will include: the legal requirements of starting a practice, setting up a practice space, creating a financial budget, managing an office, medical billing, patient management, and practice marketing. Upon completion of this course, students will have a clearer understanding of what is involved in starting and maintaining a successful practice.

*Co-requisite:* Completion of 2nd-trimester

#### **Professional Ethics**

- FCD 300              1 Unit/15 Hours

This course covers the universal medical ethics required of a primary healthcare practitioner, emphasizing professional responsibility and the study of laws which regulate TCM practices in California and the U.S. Upon completion of this course, students will be thoroughly aware of the professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities of treating patients.

*Prerequisites/Co-requisites:* Prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in MCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds

### **Community Outreach**

- FCD 500      0.5 Units/7.5 Hours

Five Branches University participates in periodic health fairs for the public to raise awareness of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Supervised clinical interns provide mini-treatments or give lectures to participants. Types of treatments include community-style acupuncture, tongue and pulse diagnosis, Tuina massage, cupping, and gua sha. Advanced students are encouraged to give short presentations on health topics of their choosing, or lead classes on preparing Chinese herbal prescriptions, and practicing Qigong or Taijiquan. Our Career Development Fairs provide interns with the opportunity to promote their practice by handing out business cards to prospective patients and by demonstrating their knowledge and mastery of TCM. In a four-hour period, interns are able to treat a wide variety of patients, providing excellent clinical experience.

*Co-requisites:* Concurrent enrollment in MCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds

### **Marketing and Management**

- FCD X10      2 Units/30 Hours

This course provides students with the information they need to apply their acupuncture training skills in a business-like manner, in a variety of clinical settings. The emphasis is on the practical application of the business and professional skills necessary to provide acupuncture health care to an ever-growing population of patients. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the synergistic nature of the professional, ethical, financial, and marketing skills necessary to run a primary health care practice in the U.S. in the 21st century. They will know how to set up, run and maintain a viable practice and will understand the inner workings of an acupuncture office.

*Prerequisites:* FCD 500, Professional Ethics

## **Energetics**

### **Qigong I**

- FEB 100      1 Unit/15 Hours

Qigong, or Vital Energy Skills, are the ancient Chinese methods of cultivating and using the vital energy in the body, representing the Chinese philosophy of the exercise-health connection.

Qigong is now successfully used in China for treating chronic diseases. In this practical introductory course, students learn to experience various Qigong exercises in an atmosphere of personal experimentation, with emphasis on the fundamentals of “reading” and “feeling” the Qi.

This course will enable students to become familiar with the theory, form and potential health benefits of Chinese therapeutic energetics.

*Prerequisites:* None

## **TCM Qigong**

- FEB 140      1 Unit/15 Hours

Qigong is a system of exercises that cultivates life force energy and is at least as old as the I Ching (Book of Changes), one of the first Chinese recordings of Qi, dating from 3000 years ago. Qigong studies the relationship of the three natural energies of the universe, Tian (Heaven), Di (Earth), and Ren (Man). The practice of Qigong can be classified as martial, medical, or spiritual in nature. TCM Qigong teaches medical aspects of this exercise by integrating physical postures, breathing techniques, and mental intentions. TCM Qigong practice can reduce stress, increase stamina, strengthen and balance internal organ systems, and enhance the immune system. This course will provide students with foundational skills in improving health for both practitioner and patient through TCM Qigong.

Prerequisites: None

## **Wild Goose Qigong**

- FEB 150      1 Unit/15 Hours

Originating over 1000 years ago from the Daoist Kunlin School, this once secretly passed down, classic set of movements is one of China's most respected Qigong styles. Dayan (Wild Goose) style imitates the movements of wild geese with dynamic and static postures, combining strength and stretching. This easy to learn yet elegant form opens channels and points, expels toxins from the tissues, and draws in healthy air to improve the health of the body, mind, and spirit. Upon completion of this course, students will be familiar with the sequence of the first 64 movements and postures of Dayan Qigong.

Prerequisite: None

## **Qigong Stretch**

- FEB 160      1 Unit/15 Hours

Qigong Stretch utilizes the posture, breath, and mental intentions found in the disciplines of Qigong to gently extend the body's joints, tendons, ligaments and muscles to provide elasticity and fluidity of movement. With proper stretching the body opens up and the vital energy moves freely, alleviating pain caused from stagnation and tonifying the body by allowing energy to properly nourish deficiencies. Qigong Stretch is a great way to relieve stress. This course provides students with the understanding of the fundamentals of Qigong Stretch and its therapeutic application for both practitioner and patient.

Prerequisites: None

## **Qigong II**

- FEB 300      1 Unit/15 Hours

In this course, students continue to explore the sensation of Qi flowing through their bodies, utilizing exercises to cultivate their Qi and increase their awareness of the dynamic state of their own body, in response to changes in the environment. Completion of this course serves as one of the prerequisites for the Qigong Instructor Training Specialization.

Prerequisite: FEB 100, Qigong I

## **Taijiquan I**

- FEB 500      1 Unit/15 Hours

Taijiquan is recognized as one of the fundamentals of good health. This course is a natural extension of the Qigong courses and introduces students to more advanced exercises and sets for health enhancement. This course is aimed at teaching exercises the student can master, and that are safe for a wide spectrum of conditions.

Prerequisites: None

## **Taijiquan II**

- FEB 700 1 Unit/15 Hours

This course is a continuation of the Taijiquan I course. In this energetic medicine course, the students learn through demonstration and practice of advanced Taijiquan forms to become more aware of energy pathways and flow. The emphasis of this course is on teaching the student exercises they can master and are safe for a wide spectrum of conditions.

Prerequisites: MEB 450, Taijiquan I

## **Electives**

### **Medical Qigong I**

- FEL 310, 2 units, 30 Hours

### **Medical Qigong II**

- FEL 320, 2 units, 30 Hours

### **Medical Qigong III**

- FEL 330, 2 units, 30 Hours

### **Medical Qigong IV**

- FEL 340, 2 units, 30 Hours

### **Yin Tuina I**

- FEL 491 1 Unit/15 Hours

This course explores the methods of TCM diagnosis and treatment using the ancient art of Yin Tuina. Diagnostic methods include the TCM standards of Ba Gong, Six Evils, Zang Fu, Wen Bing and San Jiao. A combination of lecture and hands-on practice, this course will deepen your understanding and confidence in diagnosis through palpation of energetic patterns, both healthy and aberrant. Lectures will allude to the classics and key cornerstone quotes.

Prerequisite: Completion of first trimester

## **Department of Review and Assessment**

The program offers a series of courses that comprehensively review the materials and skills learned at key stages of the program. At each stage, you will have the opportunity to review the materials you have learned and to receive assessment of your progress. This evaluation assists you in developing good study and test-taking skills, ensuring full comprehension of courses, and skills to pass the national certification and the California licensing exams.

Clinical skills in diagnosis, acupuncture and Chinese herbology are also assessed through a

series of staged clinical examinations integrated into the appropriate courses.

### **Review and Assessment I**

- FRA 440      2 Units/30 Hours

The core curriculum of the first two semesters of study, including TCM Theory, TCM Herbology, TCM Acupuncture and Western Medicine are systematically reviewed to strengthen and solidify the students' understanding and mastery of the material. The objective of this course is to help students develop good study and test-taking skills, and to learn to maintain a controlled pace in studying the curriculum. The course is designed to assimilate the coursework covered during the first year, preparing students for the first cumulative examination.

*Prerequisites:* FCT 100/200, Foundations I & II; FCT 210/310, Diagnosis I & II; FCD 300, Professional Ethics; FWM 100, Surface Anatomy; FWM 101, Biology; FWM 103/203, Anatomy & Physiology I & II;

### **Review and Assessment II**

- FRA 770      2 Units/30 Hours

The core curriculum of the first four semesters of study, including TCM Theory, TCM Herbology, TCM Acupuncture and Western Medicine will be systematically reviewed in order to strengthen and solidify the students' understanding and mastery of the material. The objective of this course is to help students develop good study skills, strong test-taking skills, and to learn to maintain a controlled pace in studying the curriculum. The course is designed to assimilate the coursework covered during the first two years and to prepare students for the second cumulative examination.

*Prerequisites:* FCM 600, Trauma & Orthopedics; FAP 100|200|300 Acupuncture I, II, & III; FAP 310/410, Acupuncture Techniques I & II; FAP 500, Meridian Theory; FAP 600, Extra Points Microsystems; FHB 200|300|400, Herbology I, II, & III; FHB 510, Dietetics; FWM 200, Patient Relations; FWM 300/400, Pathophysiology I & II; FWM 510, WPE; FWM 610, Diet, Nutrition, & Vitamins;

### **Review and Assessment III**

- FRA X10      3 Units/45 Hours

The core curriculum of the first six semesters of study, including TCM Theory, TCM Herbology, TCM Acupuncture, TCM Clinical Medicine, and Western Medicine will be systematically reviewed in order to strengthen and solidify the students' understanding and mastery of the material. The objective of this course is to help students develop good study skills, strong test-taking skills, and to learn to maintain a controlled pace in studying the curriculum. The course is designed to assimilate the coursework covered during the first three years and to prepare students for the third cumulative examination.

*Prerequisites:* FCM 800/900, Internal Medicine I & II; FCM 810, Gynecology; FCM 910, External Medicine; FCM 920, Pediatrics; FAP 800/900, Acupuncture Therapeutics I & II; FHB 100|200|300, Formulas I, II, & III; FHB 900, Herb-Pharm Interactions; FWM 500, Lab Analysis & Imaging; FWM 600, Psychology & Counseling; FWM 800|900|X10, Western Case Management I, II, & III; FWM 810, Pharmacology

### **Final Review**

- FRA E10      3 Units/45 Hours

This course is designed to prepare students for the final cumulative exam and to assimilate the coursework covered during the complete four years of study. This course provides a solid foundation and study guide for preparing for the California State Board licensing (CALE), and national certification (NCCAOM) examinations. Key TCM concepts, study methodology, analysis and integrative skills will be emphasized. Upon completion of this course, students will be primed and prepared for the final cumulative exam, the California State Board and the NCCAOM examinations.

*Prerequisite:* FRA X10, Assessment III

### **Clinic Competency I**

- FCL 201      0.1 Units/3 Hours

After completing the initial clinic orientation and two clinic Theater classes, students are assessed in their clinic competencies in clinic charting, clinic protocols and professionalism.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 100, Beginning Theater; FCL 200, Theater

### **Clinic Competency II**

- FCL 301      0.1 Units/3 Hours

The Clinic Competency II exam is a prerequisite for students advancing to the Intern Rounds (Assistant Intern) stage of clinical training. The competency examination confirms students' knowledge and skills in clinic protocols, patient relations, TCM diagnosis, acupuncture and Chinese herbs. Students who pass the examination advance to the next stage of clinical training and attend the Intern Rounds Orientation.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 300, Rounds

### **Internship Rounds Orientation**

- FCL 401      0.1 Units/3 Hours

This course is an orientation to prepare students moving from purely observation to assisting faculty in the treatment of patients with acupuncture and Chinese herbal formula preparation in Intern Rounds.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 300, Rounds

### **Clinic Competency III**

- FCL 701      0.1 Units/3 Hours

This third and last clinic competency exam confirms that a student is ready to greet, diagnose and treat patients with acupuncture and Chinese herbal formulas following all clinic protocols and standards of professionalism. Passing this exam is a prerequisite for students advancing to the Senior Internship stage of clinical training.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 400, Intern Rounds

### **Internship Orientation**

- FCL 801      0.1 Units/3 Hours

This course is an orientation for the clinical and professional protocols that students will follow in their final stage of senior internship training.

*Prerequisites:* FCL 400, Intern Rounds; FCL 701, Clinical Competency III

# DAcHM / MAcHM / DAc / MAc Faculty

Just as the Qi, or vital life energy, animates our bodies, it is the Five Branches faculty that breathes life into its curriculum.

The Five Branches faculty has been carefully selected from the many experienced Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) teachers in the United States and China. Many of our faculty descend from a lineage of TCM Masters in China and have over 40 years' experience practicing and teaching TCM. Several have trained in China's most prestigious TCM universities and hospitals, such as Shanghai University of TCM, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou Sun Yat Sen Medical University, Liaoning University of TCM, Fujian University of TCM and Zhejiang Chinese Medical University. Our faculty also includes seasoned medical doctors who teach academic and clinical Western Medicine classes. All of our instructors are fluent in English and are experienced and successful, teacher-practitioners.

As a student of Five Branches you will learn from highly skilled teachers who bring a strong foundation of both Chinese and Western medicine into the classroom. You will have the opportunity to absorb their wisdom, through direct teaching, and to observe the intangible qualities of compassion and caring in their interactions with patients. You will experience faculty who are passionate about Chinese medicine, interested in achieving academic excellence and who are eager to assist you with your personal growth, and success as a TCM practitioner.

The Five Branches faculty is a dedicated community of practitioners, teachers, international lecturers and published authors whose exceptional qualities are reflected in the skill and confidence of Five Branches graduates and in the school's 30-year history of academic excellence.

## Up-To-Date Listing

The reader may access the most up-to-date listing and biographies of the department chairs and faculty of the DAcHM, MAcHM, DAc and MAc degree programs on the University's website [here](https://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/master-program-faculties/539).

<https://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/master-program-faculties/539>

### **Marilyn Allen**

- M.S.
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2002

### **Robert Barry**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2006

### **Mariposa Bernstein**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2000

### **Marketa Bilkova**

- L.Ac.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2009

### **Anji Buckner**

- M.S.
- Instructor
- Faculty since 2008

### **Jacquelyn Byrd**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2011

### **Lynne Caryl**

- L.Ac.
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2012

### **Yi-Shou (Flynn) Chang**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2022

**Florence Chen**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2008

**Carissa Cheung**

- L.Ac, DAOM
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2015

**Samson Cheung**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2018

**Ching Ching Chi**

- L.Ac., Ph.D., DAOM
- Professor
- Faculty since 2009

**David Chi**

- L.Ac.
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2010

**Eddie Chu**

- L.Ac.
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2024

**Thomas Dicklin**

- L.Ac.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2014

**Harry Ding**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty since 2014

**Yue Miao Fang**

- L.Ac.
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2007

**Rachel Farber**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2014

**Cary Friedman**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2011

**Anna Goldfarb**

- M.D., L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2012

**Jian An Guo**

- L.Ac.
- Senior Professor
- Faculty since 2008

**Nicholas Hancock**

- L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)
- Instructor
- Faculty since 2018

**Kristina Hanley**

- L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), DAOM
- Instructor
- Faculty since 2008

**Stephanie He**

- L.Ac., M.D. (China), DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2000

**Denise Hsu**

- L.Ac.
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2019

**Lucy Hu**

- L.Ac.
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 1989

**Yue-Fen Hu**

- L.Ac.
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2010

**Darren Huckle**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2006

**Jundong Jie**

- L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2024

**Guang Jin**

- M.D.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2018

**LeTa B. Jussila**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2009

**Christine Klein**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 1995

**Fengli Lan**

- L.Ac., PhD
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2017

**Jing Lao**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2013

**Thomas Leichardt**

- L.Ac.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2008

**Sally Lewis**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2000

**Juan Li**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2016

**Ding Ming Liou**

- L.Ac., M.D. (Taiwan)
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2015

**Wei Lou**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 1993

**Nancy Lowe**

- L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 1993

**George Lu**

- L.Ac. Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), DAOM
- Associate Professor
- Faculty since 2008

**Mary F. Lyell**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2007

**Raqib Lynn-Katz**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2006

**Boya Ma**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2021

**Hal Malmud**

- L.Ac.,
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2023

**Jaime Marquez**

- L.Ac., DAOM Fellow
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 1995

**Jennifer Minor**

- L.Ac., Dipl.OM (NCCAOM)
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2006

**Doc Mitchell**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 1995

**Maria Mitchell**

- L.Ac.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty since 2011

**Bina Moghaddam**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2009

**Xiu Fen Pan**

- L.Ac., M.D. (Taiwan), DAOM
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2011

**Jeffrey Pang**

- L.Ac.
- Senior Professor, Dept. Chair
- Faculty Since 1984

**Heerei Park**

- R.N., L.Ac., DAOM
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2006

**Tunan Peng**

- L.Ac.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2016

**Kate Perkins**

- L.Ac., CMT
- Instructor
- Faculty since 2008

**Judy Pruzinsky**

- L.Ac., Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2005

**George Samuel**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2007

**Christine Sanmiquel**

- L.Ac.
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2011

**Bill Schoenbart**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Senior Professor, Dept. Chair
- Faculty Since 1997

**Eleonor Seiff-Mendelson**

- L.Ac., B.Pt. (Israel), DAOM
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2004

**Susanna Shen**

- L.Ac., M.D. (China), DAOM Fellow
- Professor
- Faculty Since 1995

**Sally Sherriff**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Associate Professor
- Faculty since 2008

**Po-Lin Shyu**

- L.Ac., M.D. (China), Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2002

**Shawn Smolinski**

- L.Ac.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2012

**Wenru Sun**

- L.Ac.
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2019

**Phu Tran**

- L.Ac., D.C.
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2006

**Jacquelyn Van Deusen-Byrd**

- L.Ac., Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)
- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2011

**Tentcho Voynikov**

- LAc., M.D. (Bulgaria), Ph.D.
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2013

**Janice Walton-Hadlock**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 1999

**Chao Wen (Joann) Wang**

- L.Ac., DDS, MS, Dipl. Ac
- Assistant Professor
- Faculty Since 2023

**Huijuan Wang**

- L.Ac. Physician (China)
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2017

**Douglas Wang**

- L.Ac.
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2004

**Frank Wang**

- Instructor
- Faculty Since 2017

**Alan Wong**

- M.D.
- Senior Professor, Dept. Chair
- Faculty Since 2000

**Robert Yao**

- L.Ac., DAOM, M.D. (China)
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2016

**Joanna Zhao**

- L.Ac., DAOM Fellow
- Senior Professor, Dean
- Faculty Since 1984

**Julie Zhu**

- L.Ac., DAOM
- Senior Professor, Dept. Chair
- Faculty Since 2005

**Kevin Zhu**

- L.Ac., M.D. (China), DAOM
- Senior Professor
- Faculty Since 2001

**Greg Zimmerman**

- L.Ac.
- Associate Professor
- Faculty Since 2020

**Bingzeng Zou**

- PhD, DC, L.Ac., MD (China)
- Professor
- Faculty Since 2022

# Admissions

## Visit Five Branches

The best way to experience Five Branches University is to visit. We invite you to meet the individuals who are the essence of our community and to immerse yourself in the environment of our classrooms and health centers, rich in beauty and culture of Chinese medicine.

We welcome you to explore our coastal campus in Santa Cruz, California where our TCM and Acupuncture Doctor's/Master's dual-degree programs and health center has resided for 36 years. Santa Cruz is renowned for its beautiful beaches and redwood forests, fresh ocean air, mild weather, and year-round cultural and recreational activities.

In the heart of Silicon Valley, our San Jose campus resides in a modern building surrounded by four shopping centers with a variety of cafes, wonderful Asian cuisine and shops. While on campus, review our doctoral program schedule of events, providing licensed acupuncturists the opportunity to train with TCM and Western medicine experts from China and Stanford University.

## Campus Visit

A campus visit is the most effective way to get an up-close and personal look at the Five Branches community. Enjoy a personal tour, a free treatment in our clinic, observe our classes and clinical training, and meet the faculty, staff and students of Five Branches. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the programs we offer, the admissions process, financial aid, scholarships, and to gain the information necessary to assist you with your decision to attend Five Branches University. Contact us to schedule an appointment for a campus visit.

## Open House

While attending an Open House, learn what makes Five Branches distinctive from other TCM colleges and hear about the exciting growth in the field of Chinese medicine. Join us for a campus tour to explore how comfortable the facilities and environment feels to you. Engage in a student panel discussion, a treatment demonstration, and talk with faculty and staff to gain a better understanding of the programs we offer, as well as the social community you will enjoy at Five Branches. Many open house events are held each year: Please refer to the Five Branches [website](#) for more information.

## Attend a Seminar

The Extension program at both of our campuses offers specialization in Asian bodywork and Medical Qigong as well as seminars in the healing arts. Attending a seminar is an excellent way to become acquainted with the healing modalities associated with Traditional Chinese Medicine and to experience the rich heritage of the Asian culture.

## Request Information

If your schedule does not allow you to visit at this time and you would like to receive detailed information about our Doctoral/Master's dual-degree programs, you can request information online, via email, call the admissions staff at the campus you are interested in attending, or simply download our online catalogs to review our programs. As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement. Thank you for your interest in Five Branches University!

## **Applying To One of The Following Four Degree Programs:**

- **DAcHM/MAcHM Dual-Degree Program**
- **MAcHM Degree Program**
- **DAc/MAc Dual-Degree Program**
- **MAc Degree program**

## **Educational Requirements**

All applicants must have fulfilled the minimum education requirements of 90 semester credits (equivalent to 135 quarter credits) of general education from a regionally accredited degree-granting college or university, with a minimum of 2.75 GPA. Students who have 3 years (90 units) of undergraduate study receive both the DAcHM and MAcHM degrees. Students who have 2 years (60 units) of undergraduate study receive the MAcHM degree, which is the requirement to take the California licensing exam and the National certification exam for licensure in all other States.

Up to 30 semester credits of general education may be earned through successful testing assessment using a combination of acceptable assessment modalities such as: College Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Programs (CLEP), American College Testing Proficiency Program (ACT/PEP), and U.S. Armed Forces Institute Programs (USAFI). Although you may be awarded credit for these testing assessments, some state licensing agencies may not accept these credits if they were awarded by non-regionally accredited institutions.

If you have not completed an AA degree or higher, your general education must include: one course in English composition with critical thinking, two courses from different departments in Arts and Humanities, one course in College Algebra or higher, one course in General Psychology and one course in Social Sciences. Each of these courses must be a minimum of three semester credits each, a total of 18 semester credits. The remaining 72 semester credits may include transferable coursework towards the DAcHM/MAcHM Dual-Degree or any other topic of your interest. For a list of approved, transferable courses please contact the admissions office.

## **Pre-Qualification Services**

If you prefer to apply before you have met the educational requirements, the admissions department will provide pre-qualification counseling services to assist you with the necessary steps to become eligible for the DAcHM/MAcHM Dual-Degree Program.

The Admissions office provides Transfer Planning services to applicants who have completed coursework at a regionally accredited degree-granting college or university. Five Branches University has not entered into an articulation or transfer agreement with any other college or university.

## **Natural Science Requirements**

The DAcHM/MAcHM Dual-Degree Program at Five Branches University requires five natural science courses: General Psychology, General Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human Anatomy and Human Physiology, each with a minimum of three semester credits except two semester credits each for Physics and General Psychology. It is highly recommended that you complete the

courses in General Biology, Physics and Chemistry prior to entry. These courses can be taken from a community college, university, or on-line. If these courses have not been taken prior to enrollment you may take them concurrently, within your first two years of study. Please contact the admissions director regarding transfer credit of natural science courses or for a list of approved schools providing these courses.

**For personal service please call or email our Admissions department :**

San Jose – (408) 260-0208 or [sjadmissions@fivebranches.edu](mailto:sjadmissions@fivebranches.edu)

Santa Cruz – Eleonor – (831) 476-9424 Ext 31 or [admissions@fivebranches.edu](mailto:admissions@fivebranches.edu)

Once you have made the decision to enroll in one of the Five Branches degree programs in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or Acupuncture, you are ready to begin the application process. The majority of students apply to the DAChM/MAChM Dual-Degree Program which is required to become a Licensed Acupuncturist in California.

**Priority Application Dates**

Applications are reviewed throughout the year on a priority status basis. The priority status application process gives preference to early applicants. Entering classes are formed on a trimester basis, occurring in Fall, Spring and Summer. To ensure space in an entering class, we strongly recommend you apply by the priority application dates listed. If all entering class spaces have been filled, you will receive priority status for the following trimester.

Priority Application Dates:

- Fall Trimester May 1
- Spring Trimester      September 1
- Summer Trimester      March 1

Transfer students, or students interested in taking natural science courses at Five Branches, must complete their application no later than March 1 to be admitted during the summer term, beginning in mid-May.

**General Education Requirements**

Applicants to the DAChM/MAChM or DAc/MAC dual-degree programs must have fulfilled the minimum education requirements of satisfactory completion of at least three (3) years of undergraduate-level education (90 semester credits, or 135 quarter credits) from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, or an equivalent international entity, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Applicants to the MAChM or MAC program must have fulfilled the minimum education requirements of satisfactory completion of at least two (2) years of undergraduate-level education (60 semester credits, or 90 quarter credits) from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, or an equivalent international entity, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Up to 30 semester credits of general education may be earned through successful testing assessment using a combination of acceptable assessment modalities such as: College Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Programs (CLEP), American College Testing Proficiency Program (ACT/PEP), and U.S. Armed Forces Institute Programs (USAFI). Although you may be awarded credit for these testing assessments, some state licensing agencies may not accept these credits if they were awarded by non-regionally accredited institutions.

**Pre-Qualification Services**

If you prefer to apply before you have met the educational requirements, the admissions department will provide pre-qualification counseling services to assist you with the necessary

steps to become eligible for the DAchM/MAchM Dual-Degree Program.

The Admissions office provides Transfer Planning services to applicants who have completed coursework at a regionally accredited degree-granting college or university. Five Branches University has not entered into an articulation or transfer agreement with any other college or university.

### **Natural Science Requirements**

The DAchM/MAchM Dual-Degree Program at Five Branches University requires six natural science courses: General Psychology, General Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human Anatomy and Human Physiology, each with a minimum of three semester credits except two semester credits each for Physics and General Psychology. It is highly recommended that you complete the courses in General Biology, Physics and Chemistry prior to entry. These courses can be taken from a community college, university, or on-line. If these courses have not been taken prior to enrollment you may take them concurrently, within your first two years of study. Please contact the admissions director regarding transfer credit of natural science courses or for a list of approved schools providing these courses..

### **Five-Year History**

Courses completed more than five years before enrollment will be evaluated to assure applicants have the requisite knowledge and skills.

### **Non Degree-Seeking Applicants**

Five Branches University will consider Non Degree-Seeking (NDS) applicants including: students participating in the California Acupuncture Board-approved tutorial program, licensed acupuncturists, medical doctors and other health professionals who may be seeking to meet an educational objective other than the Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine degree. NDS students may take up to 30% of the Doctor's degree program, receive an official transcript showing coursework that has been successfully completed, and request to become a degree-seeking student at any time. NDS students must follow the same application and admissions procedures as required of degree-seeking students. NDS students are not eligible for federal financial aid.

### **Completing the Application**

To be considered for admission to Five Branches University, the following items are required:

1. **Application for Admission** – Use your full legal name on all admissions documents. The campus you prefer should be clearly indicated on the application form. If your choice of campus is undetermined, mail your application package to the Santa Cruz campus.
2. **Recent photograph** – One recent passport style photograph.
3. **Statement of Purpose** – A one-page, typed essay describing your background, how you became interested in TCM and your plans beyond graduation.
4. **Resume** – An up-to-date resume listing all previous education, job experience, accomplishments and volunteer work.
5. **Application fee** – A non-refundable application fee of \$65.00, payable in check or money order. The application fee for international students is \$350.00.
6. **Health Evaluation** – The course of study at Five Branches University includes clinical training. In order to ensure the maintenance of safety precautions and a healthy environment in the Five Branches clinics, we require the completion of a Health Evaluation. This health evaluation must be signed by a qualified primary health care practitioner.

7. **Hepatitis B Vaccination Form** – Due to possible occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, we recommend receiving a Hepatitis B vaccination. A copy of this immunization record or blood test must be provided. If vaccination is declined, a waiver form must be signed.
8. **Tuberculosis Test** – Tuberculosis is a common and often deadly infectious disease caused by mycobacterium. It usually attacks the lungs but can also affect other body systems. Tuberculosis is spread through the air, when people who have the disease cough, sneeze or spit. To ensure the maintenance of safety precautions in the Five Branches clinic, we require all applicants to have a tuberculosis clearance test prior to enrollment in the program. This may be done through a PPD Skin Test or a QuantiFeron TB Gold Blood Test.

### **Supporting documents—sent separately:**

1. **Letter of Recommendation** – Provide the Letter of Recommendation form to two references of your choice (teachers, employers, colleagues, and/or healthcare professionals). References are encouraged to provide additional information regarding your strengths and character traits and why they believe you would be a good candidate for our graduate program. The Letter of Recommendation form must be completed in full, placed in a sealed envelope, signed across the flap, and mailed directly from the evaluator to the appropriate campus.
2. **Official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities attended** – Academic transcripts must be sent directly from the institution to the attention of the admissions office at the Five Branches campus you are applying to. If you have taken Natural Science AP courses, make sure to contact the College Board at P.O. Box 6671 Princeton, NJ 08541-6671.

**Please note:** Education obtained abroad at an institution not accredited by the U.S. Department of Education must go through a credential evaluation agency. For more information go to: [International Applicants](#)

**Please note:** Education obtained abroad at an institution not accredited by the U.S. Department of Education must go through a credential evaluation agency. For more information go to the International Applicants section of the catalog.

### **Application Checklist**

- Application for Admission
- Recent Photo
- Statement of Purpose
- Resume
- Application Fee (\$65 domestic; \$350 international)
- Health Evaluation
- Hepatitis B Vaccination or Waiver Form
- Tuberculosis Test

Supporting documents sent from original sources:

- Two letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, colleagues or healthcare professionals
- Official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities attended

## **Campus Addresses**

San Jose campus applicants mail or email information to:

Five Branches University  
Attention: Admissions Office  
1885 Lundy Ave, Suite 108  
San Jose, CA 95131

Email: [sjadmissions@fivebranches.edu](mailto:sjadmissions@fivebranches.edu)

Santa Cruz campus applicants mail or email information to:

Five Branches University  
Attention: Admissions Office  
200 7th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Email: [admissions@fivebranches.edu](mailto:admissions@fivebranches.edu)

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the application process, our admissions staff is available to assist you.

## **The Admissions Process**

### **Admission Interview**

Once your application package and all supporting documents have been received, you will be invited to Five Branches for a personal interview with one of the members of the admissions committee. The admissions interview is a mutually beneficial process, allowing you the ability to acquire additional information not gained in previous interactions with Five Branches, while the admissions committee has the opportunity to get to know you on a more personal level.

### **Application Review**

After your interview, your file will be reviewed by the admissions committee. In evaluating applicants the committee takes into consideration many factors: academic achievement, professional experience, recommendations, accomplishments, personal character, and future potential.

Five Branches University selects students who have a sincere interest in TCM and integrative medicine, who have an interest in serving others as health care professionals, and who have demonstrated the aptitude to successfully complete the program. Our most successful students are prepared for their TCM education with well-developed study skills and a solid financial plan.

### **Admissions Decision**

You will be notified in writing once a decision has been made by the admissions committee, within two weeks after your interview.

### **Deposit**

Upon notification of acceptance, you will be asked to reserve your space with a \$150 non-refundable deposit which will be applied to your first semester tuition. This deposit will reserve your place in the upcoming semester as space allows.

### **Waiting List**

If there is not available space in the next entering class, accepted applicants will be placed on a

waiting list. We will inform you of your position on the waiting list and you will be notified if space becomes available. If space is not available, those on the waiting list can elect to have their application brought forward to the following semester.

### **New Student Orientation and Registration**

One week prior to the beginning of the trimester, you will attend the New Student Orientation and Registration. The orientation reviews financial aid and registration options, the academic calendar, college policies, and the DAChM/MAChM Dual-degree Program. This is an excellent time to meet fellow students, faculty, and members of the administration. Student registration is scheduled on the day following orientation. During registration you will meet with the admissions director or an academic adviser to review your class schedule. If you need special assistance with the registration process or with specific scheduling needs, please contact the admissions office for assistance prior to registration day.

## **International Applicants**

**Notice:** Only International applicants whose native language is not English are required to provide proof of English proficiency for admission to degree, certificate, and non-degree graduate programs.

Five Branches University welcomes international applicants from all over the world. We support a bicultural and bilingual environment, offering our Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Dual-Degree Program, and our Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Program in English and Chinese.

Five Branches defines an international applicant as someone who is a citizen or permanent resident of a country, other than the United States, who wishes to pursue the DAChM/MAChM Dual-Degree or Postgraduate DAOM Degree at our university. Five Branches University is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students and complies with all federal guidelines and directives of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

International applicants follow the same application and admissions procedures as required of resident students, in addition to meeting the international application requirements. We recommend international applicants begin the admissions process six months to one year prior to the desired priority application date. International students are not eligible for U.S. federal financial aid.

### **International Application Requirements**

If you are an international applicant applying for an F-1 student visa through Five Branches University, you must submit the following documents along with the completed application. It is important to write your name as it appears on your passport on your application and all supplemental documents.

1. **A photocopy of the first page of your passport**
2. **Transcript evaluation**

If you have completed college or university level education in another country, you must have your transcripts reviewed by a credential evaluation agency that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. Transcripts need to be evaluated on a course-by-course basis. The evaluation, containing the total number of earned credits and cumulative GPA, needs to be sent directly to Five Branches

University by the evaluating agency. We recommend World Educational Services (WES), [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

**3. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**

If you are an international applicant and have completed at least a two year (60 semester credit or 90 quarter credit) baccalaureate level education from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education or from an equivalent English language institution in another country, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is not required.

**Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Dual-Degree Program**

If you are applying for the DAChM/MACHM Dual-Degree Program, and your native language is not English, and you did not complete two years of college in the U.S., you are required to complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) internet-based test (iBT) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam.

The minimum scores to achieve on these tests are as follows:

ASSESSMENT TOOL	ACCEPTABLE SCORE
Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT)	Total: 61
International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Academic Format	Overall band: 6
Duolingo English Test	90
China Standard of English Language (CSE)	CSE 6
Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE)	C
Cambridge English Advanced (CAE)	C
Common European Framework Reference (CEFR)	B2
Occupational English Test (OET)	250, C
Pearson Test of English (PTE), Academic	Overall: 45

If you do not meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements prior to enrollment, you may be conditionally admitted with the understanding that you will study English and meet the TOEFL or IELTS requirements before you enter clinical internship.

When taking the TOEFL, please enter the appropriate Five Branches University assigned code on the Score Report Request Form:

**Santa Cruz campus code: 4459**

**San Jose campus code: 5881**

If you are applying the DAChM/MAChM program in Chinese, you also need to meet with one of the following requirements:

- Chinese is the student's primary language
- Previous education degree in Chinese language or program delivered in Chinese
- Complete assessment test with FBU Admissions (Statement writing, Interview, and language background in Chinese)

### **Financial Statement**

A Financial Statement, certified by a financial institution, verifying the availability of at least \$35,000 in U.S. dollars. This amount should cover your education and living expenses for one academic year. If you need the university to issue an I-20 for your dependents, you will need to calculate an additional \$5,000 for each dependent. In addition, you may want to consider having additional funds for off-campus months and miscellaneous expenses. We recommend having approximately \$7,000 for this purpose. If your tuition or living expenses are going to be partially or fully paid by a sponsor, the Financial Statement must be signed by your sponsor, stating they assume financial responsibility for the designated amount.

### **Health Insurance**

International students must provide proof of health insurance coverage prior to student registration. Due to the high costs of medical insurance in the United States it may be advantageous to purchase health insurance coverage in your home country. We recommend you purchase a healthcare policy for yourself and any dependents, with a minimum coverage of 250,000 per incident, and a deductible of no more than \$500 per person, per year. Prior to your arrival into the United States we recommend you obtain from your primary physician, medical records for you and your dependents. These should include a medical history describing previous illnesses, surgeries, and records of all immunizations, including those received in childhood. In addition, since dental costs in the United States tend to be considerably higher than most other countries, you are advised to have any necessary dental work completed in your home country prior to your arrival in the U.S.

### **International Applicants Currently Studying in the U.S.**

If you are an international student who is currently on an F-1 student visa, enrolled at another college or university, you must submit the following documents along with your application materials:

1. A photocopy of your visa, contained in your passport
2. A photocopy of your I-20 Form

Once you have been accepted to Five Branches University, a Transfer Release Form must be signed by your current school's admissions office, verifying you have maintained your visa status and are eligible for transfer. Please contact the Five Branches University admissions office to receive a copy of this form.

### **Transfer Students**

If you are a student at another TCM or acupuncture school and are considering transferring to

Five Branches, you can apply for our Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine programs or Doctor and Master of Acupuncture as a Transfer Student. Five Branches University offers one of the best TCM and acupuncture educational programs in the United States. Our transfer policies ensure that a transfer student's training from another school will meet the high standards of our DAChM, MAChM, DAc and MAc programs. Transfer students may transfer into one of four programs:

- DAChM/MAChM Dual-Degree Program (Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine)
- MAChM Degree Program (Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine)
- DAc/MAc Dual-Degree Program (Doctor and Master of Acupuncture)
- MAc Degree Program (Master of Acupuncture)

Students with a Master's degree in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or in Acupuncture will transfer into the DAChM or DAc programs by completing 315 hours of courses. This series of courses are called the:

- DAChM Bridge Completion Program
- DAc Bridge Completion Program

Five Branches University does not currently have any articulation or transfer agreements with any colleges or University. At the same time, the admissions office provides a list of courses offered by neighboring colleges that are accepted for transfer into the degree programs.

The University does not offer an Ability-to-Benefit plan.

### **Transferring Into the DAChM/MAChM Dual-Degree Program**

Students transferring into the DAChM/MAChM Dual-Degree Program need to have at least three years (90 semester units) of undergraduate studies with a GPA of 3.0 and need to complete at least 50% of the academic courses and 75% of their clinical training at the University.

### **Transferring into the MAChM Degree Program**

Students transferring into the MAChM Degree Program need to have at least two years (60 semester units) of undergraduate studies with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and need to complete at least 50% of the academic courses and 75% of their clinical training at the University.

### **Transferring Into the DAc/MAc Dual-Degree Program**

Students transferring into the DAc/MAc Dual-Degree Program need to have at least three years (90 semester units) of undergraduate studies with a GPA of 3.0 and need to complete at least 50% of the academic courses and 75% of their clinical training at the University.

### **Transferring into the MAc Degree Program**

Students transferring into the MAc Degree Program need to have at least two years (60 semester units) of undergraduate studies with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and need to complete at least 50% of the academic courses and 75% of their clinical training at the University.

### **Transferring into the DAChM or DAc Bridge Completion Program**

If you already hold a Master's degree in Chinese medicine or acupuncture and would like to earn the DAChM or DAc degree, please read the section below titled DAChM/DAc Bridge Completion Program.

### **Transferring TCM Courses**

Transfer credit will be accepted for TCM courses taken from a nationally accredited TCM college,

approved by the California Acupuncture Board, if the courses are equivalent in content to Five Branches courses.

TCM-related courses from a TCM college not approved by the California Acupuncture Board will only be accepted within the 50% limitations of the Board. TCM courses from tutorial or apprenticeship programs are non-transferable.

### **Transferring Western Medicine Courses**

Western medicine courses taken prior to enrollment at Five Branches may be transferred to fulfill part or the entire DAChM/MACChM Western medicine track, including natural science requirements. If the natural science courses: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Human Anatomy, and Human Physiology have not been taken prior to enrollment, students may take them concurrently, within their first two years of study. These courses can be taken from a community college, a university, or online. Western medicine courses are transferable only from accredited degree-granting colleges, universities, or TCM schools. Natural science credits from non-accredited or vocational schools are non-transferable.

### **Transferring Complementary Studies Courses**

Five Branches accepts the transfer of classes from non-accredited schools or colleges for courses such as Qigong and Taijiquan, if equivalent in content and duration. A copy of a certificate of completion or diploma, or a letter from a teacher or school, will serve as a transcript.

### **Transferring Clinical Training Courses**

Five Branches accepts up to 25% of clinical training requirements for the DAChM, MACChM, DAc and MAc programs.

### **Transferring Credit Earned through Challenge Examination or Achievement Tests**

Students may petition to receive credit for one course per department via a challenge examination, with the exclusion of the Clinical Training department. You may qualify to take a challenge examination only under the following circumstances: (1) The course was previously taken and passed at another institution with a grade lower than C, and did not qualify for transfer credit, or (2) The course was previously taken and passed at another institution, but the course material was not sufficient to qualify for full transfer credit.

Upon qualification, you will be provided with the course syllabus to aid in preparation for taking the challenge examination. The examination must be taken prior to the start of the program term in which the course is required. The passing score for a challenge examination is 70%. A course can be challenged by examination only once. If you fail to pass the examination, you will be required to enroll in the course in the appropriate term at the full tuition cost.

Credit earned through assessment or achievement examinations at other Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine schools are non-transferable. Transfer credit is not available for work, experiential learning or life experience.

### **Transfer Student Application Procedure and Requirements**

You must submit your admission application by the priority application dates of May 1 (Fall trimester), September 1 (Spring trimester), and March 1 (Summer trimester).

Transfer students follow the same application and admissions procedures required of new students, in addition to meeting the transfer student requirements listed below. If you are a transfer student transferring to Five Branches University from another TCM college, you must submit the following documents along with the completed application:

1. **Cover letter** stating your reasons for seeking a transfer from another TCM college, and a list of the courses you wish to transfer.
2. **Letter of recommendation** from a previous TCM/Acupuncture instructor, located at the TCM school you attended.
3. **Catalog** from your previous TCM college, stating its approval agencies and accreditation.
4. **Syllabi** outlining the course content for each course you wish to transfer.

Upon acceptance to Five Branches, you will be informed of your placement in the DAChM program, and an evaluation of your transfer credits will be completed by the admissions director. An equivalency exam may be required for courses taken more than five years before applying to confirm sufficient knowledge and competency of the course materials. Only coursework completed prior to enrollment at Five Branches, and awarded a letter grade of C or above, is transferable.

### **Transfer Fees**

A transfer fee will apply to the evaluation of all courses transferred into the DAChM/MAChM program, with the exception of the five natural science courses. The transfer fee is 15% of the current tuition, per unit, up to a maximum of \$500. If an equivalency exam is required, an additional fee of 30% of the current tuition, per unit, will apply.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the transfer student application requirements, our admissions staff is available to assist you.

## **Students with a Master's Degree Transferring into the DAChM or DAc Bridge Completion Program**

Licensed Acupuncturists with an accredited Master's degree in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or Acupuncture, or equivalent, may apply to the 315-hour DAChM/DAc Bridge Completion program and earn the Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or Doctor of Acupuncture degree.

The DAChM/DAc Bridge Completion program is a series of courses of the DAChM or DAc degree program that students transferring with a Master's degree in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine or Acupuncture need to complete in order to earn the DAChM or DAc degree.

To apply to the DAChM or DAc Bridge program, applicants need to submit:

- DAChM/DAc Bridge Program Application form
- Letter of Reference
- Statement of Purpose
- Resume
- Copy of acupuncture license
- TCM education transcripts
- Undergraduate education transcripts. The DAChM and DAc programs require a pre-requisite of 90 semester units of undergraduate coursework and a minimum GPA of 3.0

# Financial Aid

Five Branches University is an accredited institution of higher education approved to participate in Federal financial aid programs. Our financial aid programs assist approximately 50% of our students in meeting the financial costs of their education. Five Branches University does not participate in State financial aid programs.

Federal financial aid programs provide financial assistance to students who, without such assistance, would be unable to meet educational costs at the University. Financial Aid for the DAChM/MAChM, DAc/MAC and DAOM programs includes educational costs: tuition, fees, books and supplies, and a reasonable allowance for living during the academic year.

Financial aid is not available for the short DAChM/DAc Bridge Completion program.

The financial aid office can assist you in finding the sources of financial aid that best suit your educational needs. We understand that furthering your education requires a significant investment of your time, energy and resources and deciding how to fund your education involves solid information and careful planning. We recommend that you determine your financial plan as early as possible so you can focus on your academic responsibilities once the DAChM/MAChM, DAc/MAC programs begin.

Students who believe they will need financial assistance to attend Five Branches University and who meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply for financial aid. Financial aid awards are made for one academic year at a time and must be reapplied for each academic year.

To receive financial aid from Five Branches, the applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be accepted for enrollment as a matriculated student
2. Be a U.S citizen or eligible non-citizen
3. Maintain measurable satisfactory academic progress according to the standards and practices established by Five Branches while enrolled.
4. Not owe a refund on or be in default of any Title IV loan previously received for attendance at any postsecondary institution.
5. Be in compliance with Selective Service

## Applying for Financial Aid

Please follow the steps below to apply for financial aid at Five Branches University:

1. Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step in applying for financial aid. The FAFSA needs to be completed each academic year and is available online at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). When completing the FAFSA, use the Five Branches Federal School Code: 03131300. You will need an FSA ID- a username and password to electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents.
2. Once the FAFSA is submitted you are required to complete the DAChM/MAChM, DAc/MAC Supplemental Financial Aid Form available online at: <https://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/financial-aid/financial-aid-forms/>
3. The Department of Education randomly selects students for Verification, a federally mandated process designed to verify the accuracy of information reported on the FAFSA.

If you are selected for verification, you will be required to complete a Verification Worksheet along with other supporting documentation. You may also be required to provide IRS tax return transcripts.

To obtain an IRS tax return transcript go to: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Click on the “Order a Return or Account Transcript” link. Make sure to request the “IRS tax return transcript” and not the “IRS tax account transcript.” You will need your social security number, date of birth, and the address on file with the IRS (normally this will be the address used on your 2019 IRS tax return). It takes up to two weeks for IRS income information to be available for electronic IRS tax returns, and up to eight weeks for paper IRS tax returns. If you are married and you and your spouse filed separate 2018 tax returns, you must both submit tax return transcripts. You can also call to request an IRS tax return transcript at 1-800-908-9946.

It is important to return the requested information as soon as possible so the disbursement of your financial aid will not be delayed. To download Verification forms please go to: <https://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/financial-aid/financial-aid-forms/>. For more information regarding verification, refer to: [www.finaid.org/fafsa/verification.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/fafsa/verification.phtml)

1. If the Department of Education is unable to confirm your citizenship status, then you will need to provide the financial aid office with documents proving citizenship. Citizenship documents that are acceptable are:
  - a. Copy of current United States Passport
  - b. Copy of current Alien Registration Card (Eligible Non-Citizen) For more information go to: [www.us-immigration.com](http://www.us-immigration.com).
2. If you are a Male (any person assigned the sex of male at birth), age 18-25, you are required to register with the Selective Service System (SSS). This requirement covers all males residing in the United States who are U.S. citizens or noncitizens. If the Department of Education is unable to verify proper registration with the Selective Service, then you are required to provide the financial aid office with verification that you have successfully registered or are exempt from registration. Please refer to the Selective Service web page for more information: [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).

Once you are successfully admitted to Five Branches University you will be notified by email and sent a Financial Aid Award Letter in the mail along with supporting documents. For more detailed information on applying for financial aid refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of our website: <https://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/financial-aid/fags/>

## Federal Work Study

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is funded by the federal government, with some matching Five Branches funds. FWS enables students to earn part of their financial aid award through part-time employment on campus. Except for certain community-service jobs, FWS employment is limited to on-campus jobs. To participate in the FWS program, a student must be eligible for and be awarded a FWS award as part of their financial aid package. If you are interested in the FWS program contact the Financial Aid Office.

## Direct Loan Program

The Direct Stafford Loan Program consists of low-interest, unsubsidized loans funded by the federal government. Loans are available to graduate and professional students who are U.S citizens or permanent residents. Loan repayments begin six months after graduation or after a student drops below half-time enrollment. Direct loans are IOans and must be repaid.

Graduate students may receive up to \$20,500 per academic year in Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, depending on remaining aggregate eligibility. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans have a six-month grace period (following graduation) before principal payments are due; however interest begins accruing upon the disbursement of the loan. Students can elect to pay the

interest while enrolled in the DAChM/MAChM, DAc/MAC program, or allow it to accrue and be capitalized (added to the principal).

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans are available to graduate students with a good credit history, determined in the credit pre-approval process. The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan is available to students who have received the aggregate maximum amount of Stafford loans. The amount a graduate student can borrow is the difference between the cost of attendance and other financial aid received. Graduate PLUS Loans have a six-month post-enrollment deferment period, following graduation (or if you are no longer enrolled on at least a half-time basis), before principal payments are due; however interest begins accruing upon the disbursement of the loan. Students can elect to pay the interest while enrolled in the DAChM/MAChM /MAC program, or allow it to accrue and be capitalized (added to the principal) at repayment.

**Please Note:** Students who receive federal loans must participate in Entrance Loan Counseling prior to the disbursement of their loan. Students are also required to complete Exit Loan Counseling prior to graduation.

Students at Five Branches University that are participating in the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program will have their funds sent by the Department of Education by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). Direct Loans Servicing Center will mail your loan disclosure statement to you. Five Branches University will deduct tuition and fees from your loan funds and will issue you a credit balance check for any remaining loan funds.

## Loan Repayment

If a student obtains a loan to pay for an educational program, the student will have the responsible to repay the full amount of the loan plus interest, less the amount of any refund, and that, if the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of the moneys not paid from federal student financial aid program funds. For more detailed information on loan repayment refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of our website: <https://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/financial-aid/faqs/>

## Financial Aid Policies

Students who receive federal financial aid while attending Five Branches University will be subject to the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy as well as the College Academic Progress Policy.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal regulations require that academic progress be monitored using qualitative and quantitative measurements. These standard measurements apply to all students. Academic progress is reviewed after every term. If at any point it is clear the student will not be able to meet qualitative and/or quantitative standards for **timely** completion of degree, the student becomes ineligible for financial aid.

1. Masters students must maintain a cumulative and term GPA of 2.75 or above.
2. Completion of 67% of all units attempted in any incremental period.
3. MAChM / DAChM students must maintain at least half-time enrollment status.
4. DAOM students must maintain a full-time enrollment status.
5. MAChM / DAChM students must pass all courses with an A, B or C letter grade and are not permitted to exceed one Incomplete (I) grade per term.
6. DAOM must not exceed two unsatisfactory grades per year (NC, NP, I, W). DAOM must maintain a passing grade P (Pass) Satisfactory of all required coursework.

7. Maximum program timeframe:
  - a. May not exceed the time limits for coursework as described in syllabi and course descriptions.
  - b. Master/Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine – 12 terms (Spring, Summer, Fall)
  - c. Master of Acupuncture – 10 terms (Spring, Summer, Fall)
  - d. Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine – 6 terms (Spring, Summer, Fall)

Financial Aid Warning Reason	SAP Requirement
Term / Cumulative GPA less than 2.75	Complete subsequent term with 2.75 GPA or above and with grades sufficient to raise cumulative GPA to 2.75
MAcHM / DAcHM students must pass all courses with an A, B or C letter grade and are not permitted to exceed one Incomplete (I) per term.	Complete affected course work with a passing letter grade in the following term.
DAOM students must not exceed two unsatisfactory grades per year (NC, NP, I, W)	Complete affected course work with a passing letter grade.
Incremental Unit/Pace Requirement(s) not met	Complete more than 67% of attempted units in following term.
Breach in professionalism	Requirement contingent upon SPRC review
Exceed maximum program time frame	Requirement contingent upon SPRC review

## Academic and Financial Aid Warning

- Students who fail to meet the Qualitative and/or Quantitative progress requirements in any term will be placed on Academic and Financial Aid Warning for the following term of enrollment.
- Students are placed on Warning status for a period no longer than one (1) term.
- **During the Financial Aid Warning term, students may receive financial aid and must meet all SAP requirements.**
- A letter will notify students when they placed are on Academic and Financial Aid Warning. The reason(s) for the Financial Aid Warning and SAP Requirements for the following term will be explained in the letter.

If you receive federal financial aid and withdraw from Five Branches University after classes have begun, you will be subject to the Federal Return of Title IV Funds Regulations and must notify the school according to school policy. The Return of Title IV Funds Regulations will be applied first, after which the school's refund policy will be applied. Both the Federal Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and the Return of Title IV Funds Policy are described in the student handbook.

During registration, state law requires all students to sign a contract to protect their student rights and specify their enrollment and financial agreement with Five Branches University.

## Return of Title IV Funds

According to federal guidelines (Section 668.22 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998), withdrawing students who have received Title IV financial aid will have their financial aid recalculated according to the following guidelines:

- Only the amount of financial aid that has been earned (disbursed or could have been disbursed) based on the prorated amount of time the student has been in school for the semester will be retained on the student's behalf. Any aid that is not earned (based on the prorated amount of time) must be returned to the appropriate federal account/lender. For example, if a student receiving \$10,141 in federal aid completes 20% of the trimester, he/she would have earned that percentage and the approved federal aid (\$2,028) therefore, 80% (\$8,113) of the disbursed aid remains "unearned" and must be returned to the federal programs. The college would refund 80% of the tuition charges (i.e if tuition charges of \$4,200, the refund would be \$3,360) to the appropriate federal program. No tuition refund would be disbursed to the student until Title IV (federal loans/grants) funds are repaid. A student withdrawing after the 60% point has earned 100% of the disbursed federal aid. Any unearned funds disbursed to the student in the federal loan programs would be repaid based on the terms of the borrower's promissory note.
- The date of withdrawal is the date the University receives notification (e.g., submitting a withdrawal request form) from the student on his/her intent to withdraw.
- The amount of refundable institutional charges (tuition and fees) will be set by school policy. The University's treatment of tuition and other fees related to student withdrawal may be found in the student handbook. If there is a balance due resulting from the calculation of unearned aid, the student may be responsible for payment.
- For students who have received federal financial aid, any refundable portion of tuition and fee costs that has been covered by a Federal Stafford Loan will be refunded directly to the lender, who will credit it against the student's outstanding balance.
- The Financial Aid Office determines specific amounts according to applicable federal regulations. If the calculation shows that the student had eligibility for aid that had not yet been disbursed, the student will be given the option of receiving those funds. The applicable tuition and fees are listed in the student handbook. Non-mandatory and fees for professional organizations are not included in the refund calculation.

Five Branches University refund policy will then be applied. This states that there is a prorated refund for the unused portion of the tuition if the student has completed 60% or less of the course. There is no refund for courses after 60% of the course has been completed. This means that you will be billed for any funds returned in the Title IV Return of Funds that do not warrant a refund according to the stated school refund policy.

Return of Title IV Funds states that a student who withdraws after completing more than 60% of the semester is determined to have earned 100% of his/her aid. This means that Five Branches University will not be returning any aid paid for tuition and fees to Title IV Funds.

Students who have received Federal Title IV Funds and withdraw from Five Branches University are required to notify the Director of Financial Aid and complete the Exit Counseling online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) to receive an official Transcript from the school.

## Scholarships

The majority of our scholarship funds come from private donors and TCM-affiliated organizations with a sincere interest in supporting Five Branches students and the growth of the TCM profession. Qualifications for scholarships are primarily based on financial necessity, academic

merits and strength of essay. For a list of current scholarship resources, refer to the Five Branches website, [www.fivebranches.edu](http://www.fivebranches.edu), under Financial Aid/Scholarships.

<http://www.fivebranches.edu/dtcm-mtcm/financial-aid/61>

## **Veteran Education Policies**

### **Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**

Veterans or dependents applying for VA educational benefits must obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or a Notification of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) from the Department of Veteran Affairs:

<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/>

When the VA processes an application for education benefits, a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is mailed directly to the student. COE letters provide the eligibility percentage for the service member or dependent's housing, tuition and fees. If the student receives an eligibility percentage that is less than 100% for tuition and fees, the student must provide a payment method for the portion that the VA will not pay. This form must be submitted to the Registrar's office 10 business days prior to the student's anticipated program entry date.

### **Standards of Progress [CFR21.4253 (d) (1) (ii)]**

Students certified to receive VA benefits are subject to the same enrollment, attendance, tardiness, student conduct, minimum term and cumulative GPA requirements (3.0 GPA) and all other satisfactory academic progress requirements as laid out in the University catalog and the DAChM/MAChM Student Handbook.

Students enrolled in a program and receiving VA benefits in the state of California have two additional evaluation points. These are not for purposes of determining academic standing but, rather, are for the purposes of determining continued eligibility to receive VA benefits:

Students certified to receive veteran benefits who fail to comply with the aforementioned policies will be placed on an academic review period no longer than two (2) terms. Failure to return to good academic and/or professional standing after two (2) consecutive terms will result in an interruption of benefits.

### **Previous Education and Training [CFR21.4253 (d) (3)]**

This institution maintains a written record of previous education and training of the veteran or eligible person, which clearly indicates the appropriate credit has been given by the institution for previous education and training, with the training period (or length of the program) shortened proportionately, and the veteran notified accordingly.

For more information on Veteran education policies please contact our Veterans Affairs School Administrator:

Gina Huang  
1885 Lundy Ave, Ste 108  
San Jose, CA 95131  
Tel: (408) 260-0208 ext 233

[sjstudentservices@fivebranches.edu](mailto:sjstudentservices@fivebranches.edu)

# Tuition and Fees

## Tuition Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Programs

### Tuition (2024-2025 Academic Year)

Tuition for the DAchM and MAchM degree program academic units is \$310 per unit. Each academic unit is equivalent to 15 hours of classroom instruction. Tuition for the DAchM/MAchM program clinical units is \$620 per unit. Each clinical unit is equivalent to 30 hours of clinical training.

The total tuition for the 3435-hour DAchM/MAchM program is \$70,990.00, approximately \$17,747.00 per year or \$6,450 per trimester. Tuition for each trimester and year is based on the number of units in which the student enrolls.

DAchM/MAchM Program Tuition (3435 hours)	\$70,990
- Tuition (1 Unit/15 contact hours)	\$310 per academic unit
- Tuition (1 Unit/30 contact hours)	\$620 per clinical unit

## Tuition Doctor of Acupuncture and Master of Acupuncture Programs

### Tuition (2024-2025 Academic Year)

Tuition for the Doctor of Acupuncture and Master of Acupuncture (DAc/MAc) program academic units is \$310 per unit. Each academic unit is equivalent to 15 hours of classroom instruction. Tuition for the DAc/MAc program clinical units is \$620 per unit. Each clinical unit is equivalent to 30 hours of clinical training.

The total tuition for the 2647.5-hour DAc/MAc program is \$54,715, approximately \$18,238 per year or \$6,080 per trimester. Tuition for each trimester and year is based on the number of units in which the student enrolls.

DAc/MAc Program Tuition (2647.5 hours)	\$54,715
- Tuition (1 Unit/15 contact hours)	\$310 per academic unit
- Tuition (1 Unit/30 contact hours)	\$620 per clinical unit

## Additional Costs

Tuition does not include the cost of books or additional fees. Elective courses and specialization programs are additional and not included in the total tuition cost. Required books are estimated to cost approximately \$1000. For room, board and miscellaneous expenses, students should calculate approximately \$2000 per month.

### **DAcHM/MAcHM /DAc/MAc Program Fees (2024-2025 Academic Year)**

- Repeat course: 50% of course tuition
- Audit course: 25% of course tuition
- Malpractice insurance: \$60 per trimester
- Student council: \$25 per trimester
- Herbs sample kits: \$45 (three trimesters only)
- Transfer fee: 15% of current tuition up to a maximum of \$500
- Make-up exams: Quiz: \$25, Midterm: \$50, Final: \$75
- Challenge exam: 30% of tuition cost per unit
- Drop course fee after first week: \$50
- Installment payment fee: \$25
- Transcript request: \$20
- Application fee: \$100
- Student activities fee: \$50 per trimester
- Student Tuition Recovery Fund (Non-Refundable \$0 PER \$1,000 Tuition Subtotal)

Registration occurs three times per year: in November for the Spring term, in April for the Summer term, and in August for the Fall term. Students pay for the total number of units they register for each trimester, which is due in full on the first day of the trimester. For entering students, tuition is due at registration. Tuition and fees for international students are the same as for U.S. citizens and residents. Five Branches University reserves the right to change tuition and fees as necessary.

### **Installment Tuition Payment**

If you are unable to pay in full at registration, an extended payment plan can be arranged whereby 50% of tuition costs are due the first day of the trimester, with the balance due on the 5th Monday of the trimester. The installment payment fee is \$25.

## Student Right to Cancel, Withdrawal and Refund

### **Drop / Withdraw Course(s) and Tuition Refund**

Students not attending a class in which they are enrolled must drop or request to withdraw from the class; failure to do so will result in a failing grade on the student's record.

#### **Full Refund:**

To obtain a full refund, a student must submit a drop form/request no later than the seventh (7) day after Term begins. If a student is unable to do so an e-mail from university issued account to the Registrar stating your request will be accepted. The deadline to drop course(s) and obtain a full-refund is specified in the Enrollment Agreement. A \$50 drop fee will apply for each course that is dropped after the deadline.

### Pro rata Refund:

If a student chooses to drop a course after seventh (7) day after Term begins, a student may obtain a pro rata refund for the unused portion of the tuition without receiving W grade if 20% or less of the course time has lapsed.

A Student wishing to withdraw course(s) after 20% of the course time has lapsed. A withdraw course form is required to be submitted and Withdrawal (W) grade will be issued. A Student must state in writing on a Withdraw course form or an e-mail from university issued account to the Registrar. The effective date of withdrawal is the date emailed, postmarked or turned in to the Registrar. A student will receive a pro rata refund for the unused portion of the tuition and other refundable charges if the student has completed 60% or less of the enrollment period.

Please note that there is no refund for course absence(s) of any period during a term or session, or for dropping a course after 60% of the course time has lapsed. If the University cancels or discontinues a course, the school will make a full refund of all charges.

The amount refunded for a student who has received Title IV Financial Aid will be returned to the direct loan program to reduce the Student's federal direct loan debt. If the University cancels or discontinues a course or educational program, the school will make a full refund of all charges.

### Tuition Refund Schedule

	% Completed	Tuition Refund	Drop Fee/Course	Grade Assigned
Week 1	6.6%	100%	\$0	-
Week 2	13.3%	86.7%	\$50	-
Week 3	20%	80%	\$50	-
Week 4	26.7%	73.3%	\$50	W
Week 5	33.3%	66.7%	\$50	W
Week 6	40%	60%	\$50	W
Week 7	46.7%	53.3%	\$50	W
Week 8	53.3%	46.7%	\$50	W
Week 9	60%	40%	\$50	W
Week 10-12	No Refund			W
Week 13-15	Dropping courses not permitted			

### Withdrawal from the University

Students have the right to withdraw from Five Branches University. To do so they must obtain a Withdrawal form from the Registrar's Office. If they are unable to do so, a letter, e-mail or fax addressed to the Registrar with the Student's signature stating your cancellation of enrollment will be accepted.

### Full Refund

If enrollment is canceled by the seventh day after enrollment or notice of cancellation is made through attendance at the first class session, whichever is later, the University will refund the student any tuition monies paid, less the deposit or application fee not to exceed \$250.00. The deadline to cancel program enrollment and obtain a full-refund is detailed in the Enrollment Agreement.

## **Pro rata Refund**

Students may withdraw from the program after instruction has started and receive a pro rata refund for the unused portion of the tuition and other refundable charges if the Student has completed 60% or less of the enrollment period.

Withdrawal forms or Letter of Withdrawal should be sent to:

Five Branches University, Attn: Registrar.

San Jose Campus: 1885 Lundy Avenue, Suite 108, San Jose, CA 95131 / Fax (408) 261-3166 / email: [sjadmin@fivebranches.edu](mailto:sjadmin@fivebranches.edu)

Santa Cruz Campus: 200 7th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 / Fax (831) 476-8928 /

email: [studentservices@fivebranches.edu](mailto:studentservices@fivebranches.edu)

The amount refunded for a student who has received Title IV Financial Aid will be returned to the direct loan program to reduce the Student's federal direct loan debt.

## **Student Tuition Recovery Fund**

The State of California established the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic loss suffered by a student in an educational program at a qualifying institution, who is or was a California resident while enrolled, or was enrolled in a residency program, if the student enrolled in the institution, prepaid tuition, and suffered an economic loss. Unless relieved of the obligation to do so, you must pay the state-imposed assessment for the STRF, or it must be paid on your behalf, if you are a student in an educational program, who is a California resident, or are enrolled in a residency program, and prepay all or part of your tuition.

You are not eligible for protection from the STRF and you are not required to pay the STRF assessment, if you are not a California resident, or are not enrolled in a residency program

It is important that you keep copies of your enrollment agreement, financial aid documents, receipts, or any other information that documents the amount paid to the school. Questions regarding the STRF may be directed to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, 1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 225, Sacramento, California, 95834, (916) 574-8900 or (888) 370-7589.

To be eligible for STRF, you must be a California resident or are enrolled in a residency program, prepaid tuition, paid or deemed to have paid the STRF assessment, and suffered an economic loss as a result of any of the following:

1. The institution, a location of the institution, or an educational program offered by the institution was closed or discontinued, and you did not choose to participate in a teach-out plan approved by the Bureau or did not complete a chosen teach-out plan approved by the Bureau.
2. You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution within the 120 day period before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, or were enrolled in an educational program within the 120 day period before the program was discontinued.
3. You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution more than 120 days before the closure of the institution or location of the institution, in an educational program offered by the institution as to which the Bureau determined there was a significant decline in the quality or value of the program more than 120 days before closure.
4. The institution has been ordered to pay a refund by the Bureau but has failed to do so.
5. The institution has failed to pay or reimburse loan proceeds under a federal student loan program as required by law, or has failed to pay or reimburse proceeds received by the institution in excess of tuition and other costs.

6. You have been awarded restitution, a refund, or other monetary award by an arbitrator or court, based on a violation of this chapter by an institution or representative of an institution, but have been unable to collect the award from the institution.
7. You sought legal counsel that resulted in the cancellation of one or more of your student loans and have an invoice for services rendered and evidence of the cancellation of the student loan or loans.

To qualify for STRF reimbursement, the application must be received within four (4) years from the date of the action or event that made the student eligible for recovery from STRF.

A student whose loan is revived by a loan holder or debt collector after a period of non-collection may, at any time, file a written application for recovery from STRF for the debt that would have otherwise been eligible for recovery. If it has been more than four (4) years since the action or event that made the student eligible, the student must have filed a written application for recovery within the original four (4) year period, unless the period has been extended by another act of law.

However, no claim can be paid to any student without a social security number or a taxpayer identification number.”

## **Office of Student Assistance and Relief**

“The Office of Student Assistance and Relief is available to support prospective students, current students, or past students of private postsecondary educational institutions in making informed decisions, understanding their rights, and navigating available services and relief options. The office may be reached by calling (888) 370- 7589, option #5, or by visiting [osar.bppe.ca.gov](http://osar.bppe.ca.gov).”

Note that the phone number and web address provided above may be subject to change. Please subscribe to Bureau updates at [bppe.ca.gov](http://bppe.ca.gov) to receive notifications of changes.

# Student Services

The university provides a wide array of services to make your experience at Five Branches both rewarding and successful. Our student services include:

- Academic Advising
- Registration
- Mentor Program
- Health Services
- Library
- Communications
- International Student Services
- Student Council
- Externships
- Student Employment
- Career Development
- Placement Assistance
- Alumni Association

## Academic Advising

The university administration offers academic advising to assist you in the planning and completion of your degree requirements. From the first trimester through graduation and beyond, the administrative team will support you to complete your Doctor's/Master's degree, to become a nationally certified and licensed TCM practitioner, in your advanced studies as a Doctoral or PhD student, and as an alumnus of Five Branches University.

## Registration

The registrar's office ensures that determining your class schedule and registering for classes flows smoothly. During registration you may enroll in specialized elective courses, review the dates for our annual Study Abroad program, and receive updates regarding changes in programs, campus facilities and support services.

## Mentor Program

The administration and student council coordinate a mentoring program for students who need additional guidance to complete their course work, and for students who enjoy teaching as a way of learning.

## Health Services

The Five Branches Health Centers are a flourishing environment for both student education and quality healthcare. As a prospective student, you may receive a free acupuncture treatment during your tour of the campus. Enrolled students receive healthcare services at the clinic with significant discounts.

## Library

The Santa Cruz and San Jose library collections contain a broad selection of over 6,000 books and 40 journals on Traditional Chinese Medicine, Western medicine, and related topics. The collection includes texts and journals in Chinese and Korean. The library has a modern web-based site detailing its holdings, offering extensive guidelines for research, and a wide variety of medical software and TCM study and testing programs. The library provides wireless internet, copy and laser print services, and a professional librarian and staff to assist you. Library opens Monday to Friday.

## **Communications**

The University maintains internet and data platforms to facilitate effective administration, student and alumni interaction. Communications include direct email, the university's student information system, web and blog sites, and the Five Branches email and forum platform.

## **International Student Services**

The university assists international students with guidance in their application and student visa process, and upon arrival, with advice on housing, insurance, driving license and orientation to the local community.

## **Student Council**

The Student Council plays many roles, from sending representatives to the National AAAOM meetings, to inviting eminent TCM lecturers to speak on campus. The Council, made up of representatives from each class, meets regularly with the administration, faculty and the board, playing a vital role in enhancing the further development and growth of the university and its students.

## **Externships**

Community externships offer you the valuable opportunity to network with experienced practitioners and gain clinical experience in a broad range of health care settings. Externship opportunities include working with senior citizens, veterans of war, mental health patients, those struggling with substance abuse, and treating individuals in a community clinic setting. The annual Study Abroad program is a coveted international externship, allowing you to travel to Asia to gain clinical experience at leading hospitals in China, Taiwan, Korea and Vietnam.

## **Student Employment**

Students who qualify for need-based financial aid are eligible to earn money through the Federal Work Study program. Eligibility is awarded on the basis of financial need and is earned money that does not have to be repaid.

## **Career Development**

The university offers on-going courses in practice management and marketing to assist you in your development as a successful TCM practitioner. You can refine your presentation skills by giving TCM lectures at universities, participating in annual health fairs, and speaking at public events. Five Branches supports the alumni association and promotes the exchange of ideas to foster professional development. Graduates are invited to share their expertise with students during on-campus lectures.

## **Placement Assistance**

Five Branches corresponds with medical professionals who may be looking for qualified TCM graduates and regularly posts professional vacancies in the field of acupuncture and TCM on the Five Branches University website under TCM Careers: [www.fivebranches.edu/careers](http://www.fivebranches.edu/careers).

Five Branches University and Clinic receive referral requests nationwide for competent, qualified, licensed acupuncturists. If Five Branches alumni are located within the requested area, patients are referred to these practitioners. Alumni referral information is available on the Five Branches

University website under Alumni Practitioner

Directory: <http://www.fivebranches.edu/welcome/alumni/788>. Five Branches University provides placement assistance for licensed graduates whenever possible.

### Career Opportunities

The DAChM/MACChM and DAc/MAC programs prepare graduates for careers in the field of TCM as practitioners, educators and researchers. These are detailed by the US Department of Labor as SOC codes 29-1199 (Acupuncture), 29-9099 (Traditional Chinese Herbalist), and 25-1071, 25-1191, 25-3011 (Instructor).

## Alumni Association

The nascent Alumni Association connects graduates to each other and to the university, on both social and professional levels. Continuing education courses and social events invite graduates to return to the university and meet with faculty, other alumni, and students. Graduates play an important role in the definition of our successful doctoral program and continue to play valuable roles in the profession.

## Campus Facilities and Amenities

### Health Center

Patients await their treatments in a beautifully designed reception area, while practitioners treat over 160 patients each day in our busy health centers. With a combined 38 treatment rooms, herbal pharmacies containing over 500 medicinal products, and expert patient care and clinical instruction, our health centers are the ideal place to gain experience in a clinical environment and to learn how to provide exceptional healthcare to your patients.

### Herb Room

The herb room is a fragrant experience. Walls lined with wooden drawers full of Chinese herbs emanate earthy aromas, as practitioners prepare herbal remedies for their patients in the traditional way. In the herb room you will meet with practitioners to learn first-hand how to use herbal medicines to effectively treat your patients.

### Classrooms

Spacious classrooms and small class sizes provide the optimal environment for dynamic discussion and meaningful teacher-student interaction. The Santa Cruz campus has five fully furnished and equipped classrooms accommodating approximately 35 students each. The San Jose campus has five fully furnished and equipped classrooms, providing ample instruction and meeting space to both faculty and students. Classrooms may be used for continuing education seminars and special presentations in fields related to Traditional Chinese Medicine.

### Equipment and Materials

Standard teaching equipment is provided in every classroom including tables and chairs, white boards, computers and overhead projectors, video equipment, anatomical models, acupuncture charts, and treatment tables for acupuncture training demonstrations. Classrooms used for clinical training are supplied with necessary acupuncture supplies such as treatment tables, sterile disposable acupuncture needles, heat lamps, electronic stimulation machines, an herbal dispensary, and TCM reference texts.

## **Student Lounge**

A place to rest, nourish and socialize, the student lounge is fitted with comfortable seating, tables for study, a kitchen to prepare meals, wireless Internet, and a bulletin board to check out current campus events.

## **Library and Learning Resources**

The Five Branches University Library serves both the Santa Cruz and San Jose campuses; providing access to resources that support the instructional, clinical and research needs of students, faculty and staff. You may use the library during its hours of operation and may check out library resource materials using your Five Branches Student ID card. Library hours are posted at the beginning of each trimester; hours vary by campus and trimester.

As a new student, you will receive an orientation to the library within the first two weeks of enrollment. During this orientation, you will be given a general tour of the library including the computer lab, wireless Internet, online catalog, and other available learning resources. You will be provided with a set of instructions and regulations for library use. For detailed information regarding library procedures and policies please refer to the Student Handbook or the Library and Research section of our website: <http://www.fivebranches.edu/student-life/108>

## **Administrative Offices**

The open, friendly and accessible administrative team considers students their top priority. Whether you need assistance to plan your class schedule, secure financial aid or to voice your concerns, our administrative staff is available to assist you.

## **Conference Rooms**

Students, faculty and staff may reserve the conference rooms for confidential consultations and meetings.

## **Parking**

Both of our campuses have free, ample parking to accommodate the needs of students that commute.

## **Local Favorites**

At the Santa Cruz campus, one block from the beach, lunch breaks on the ocean are a favorite pastime. Enjoy one of the many restaurants within walking distance, pick up food at a local natural food store and have a picnic on the beach, or venture over to the neighborhood park, a great place to sit and enjoy the sunshine.

The San Jose campus has a bountiful supply of restaurant and café choices in four shopping centers within walking distance offering food from around the globe. The campus is in the center of Silicon Valley, a 10-minute drive to San Jose International Airport and the modern Apple Park Circle headquarters.

## **Transportation**

Transporting yourself to the Santa Cruz campus is easy with two designated free parking areas, numerous bike racks, and a bus stop directly in front of the student lounge. To obtain information on the bus routes in the Santa Cruz area, go to <http://www.scmtd.com>.

The San Jose campus is conveniently located at the major freeway intersection of Highway 880 and Highway 101, making your commute to and from school a breeze. To obtain information on public transportation in the San Jose area, go to [www.511.org](http://www.511.org).

## **Housing**

The Five Branches University's programs are non-residential and student dormitories or other housing is not provided. There are many available housing options in the area, from rooms available in a household to 3 bedroom-plus homes. Rentals costs range from \$500 to \$4500 per month based on size and location.

Five Branches University does not provide housing search assistance to students. If you are in need of housing, we recommend you arrive in Santa Cruz or San Jose six weeks before the beginning of the trimester. The distance between the two campuses is 40 miles. While it is possible to commute, you may wish to find housing closer to your home campus. Go to <http://www.fivebranches.edu/student-life/on-campus/549> for a list of resources to aid you in your housing search.

## **Campus Safety and Security**

The Clery/Campus Security Act of 1990 (Title II of Public Law 101-542) requires that all colleges and universities provide annual statistics on several specific categories of crime. This report is published by October 1st of each year on the Five Branches University website: <http://www.fivebranches.edu/five-branches-university/4095>.

Any crime occurring on campus or on streets and sidewalks directly adjacent to the campus must be reported to the Student Services Director at your affiliate campus in Santa Cruz: (831) 476-9424 or San Jose: (408) 260-0208.

# Academic Policies

## Student Handbook

The academic policies of Five Branches University are detailed in the student handbook that is given to students during registration. To assist new students, the handbook describes student services, administrative policies, and guidelines such as grading, attendance, examinations, and leave of absence. The student handbook is edited regularly to reflect updated policies.

## Maximum Program Time Frame and Part Time / Full Time Studies

The dual-degree Doctor and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM/MAcHM) and the Doctor and Master of Acupuncture (DAc/MAc) degrees are full-time programs requiring a considerable commitment of time and energy. We recommend that students regard their studies at Five Branches as their primary objective throughout their matriculation at the University. The average curriculum load for timely completion (4 years) of the DAcHM/MAcHM program is 18 to 22 units per term. Five Branches University policies for the DAcHM/MAcHM program stipulate that full-time enrollment is a minimum of 18 program units and part-time enrollment is a minimum of 12 units. Students who need to enroll in the program part-time have up to six years to complete the DAcHM/MAcHM program and five years to complete the DAc/MAc program.

## Academic and Clinic Class Size

To optimize learning, academic classes average 20 students. Classes that have insufficient enrollment (less than 8 students) may be postponed to the following trimester. Clinical Theater classes range from 10 to 18 students, and Clinical Rounds, Clinical Internship Rounds, and Clinical Internship classes are limited to four to eight students per section.

## Attendance

If circumstances occur that cause absences of up to 13% for academic courses and clinic courses, the student is responsible to meet with the instructor to assess their academic standing in the course. Frequent tardiness and/or continued absences that interfere with a student's academic progress will be brought to the attention of the Student Progress Review Committee. Please note that instructors may have their own attendance policies that are stricter than the University policy.

## Leave of Absence

The purpose of a Leave of Absence (LOA) is to provide a student with the opportunity to leave the college for an extended period of time without withdrawing or affecting their SAP calculations. A student in good standing who has successfully completed at least one (1) term may apply for a LOA not to exceed 180 calendar days. The student must complete a Leave of Absence form and submit it to the Registrar's Office for approval. The effective date for the LOA must be at the beginning of the term the student is requesting the leave and comply with appropriate requirements. All loans and other sources of funding for the term of an approved LOA will be returned to the appropriate parties. If a student was scheduled to be on Academic Probation for the term the LOA is effective, the conditions of the Academic Probation will be effective the term the student returns from the LOA. If a student does not return from an approved LOA, the grace period for applicable federal loans will begin with the last date of attendance the student was

enrolled in the program for at least a part-time study status. Students who do not return from a LOA to resume courses on or before the approved return date, will be automatically withdrawn from the program. Excluding the time taken for leave, students must complete the program within the maximum program timeframe. International Students must speak with the International Student Designated School Officer if they wish to go on leave.

## **Withdrawal from the Program**

Withdrawal from the program requires the submission of a Withdrawal form and an exit interview with the admissions director. If you have received financial aid, you will be required to complete an exit interview with the financial aid director. Following withdrawal from the program, if you wish to reapply you are required to complete a new application for admission. Upon readmission, after an absence of one year or more, you will be required to complete the program of study that is in place in the term in which you return. All readmission is subject to approval.

## **Grading Policy**

Five Branches University uses a letter grading system (A, B, C, F) for all academic and clinic courses. Each course syllabus describes the course's grading procedure. To remain in good academic standing, students are required to take the DAChM/MAChM or DAc/MAc program in sequential order and maintain a minimum term and cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

## **Cumulative Review and Competency Exams**

The program offers a series of review classes to prepare students for the annual cumulative exams which are required for all students to continue their studies in good standing. Besides measuring progress, these examinations are designed to prepare students for the California state licensing and national certification exams. Students entering clinical internships are required to pass clinic competency exams.

## **Review Process**

Review of a student's academic progress is performed each term, including the review of all final course and clinic grades, evaluations by the faculty, and attendance rosters. Any student who does not meet the established criteria for normal academic progress and professionalism will be referred to the Student Progress Review Committee.

## **Student Progress Review Committee**

The Student Progress Review Committee (SPRC) reviews academic progress of students to ensure their success in the program. Students who need assistance to maintain good academic standing are required to meet with the SPRC to devise a plan to improve their academic performance. Students may ask the SPRC for help in finding tutors and/or other resources to assist with successful completion of the program. The SPRC is responsible for ensuring a fair and impartial disciplinary process for students who breach standards of professionalism. Most cases are resolved in ways that serve to foster the ethical development and personal integrity of students, and to provide a safe and comfortable campus environment.

## **Standards of Professionalism**

The Standards of Professionalism policies are intended to protect the rights of all students, faculty,

staff and patients at Five Branches University while on campus and at all sponsored events. Five Branches University may impose discipline for violation of these standards of professionalism including, but not limited to dishonesty, disrespect, disrupting a professional atmosphere, substance abuse, and sexual harassment. For detailed information about the standards of professionalism policies refer to the Student Handbook.

## **Academic Warning and Probation**

Students unable to maintain good academic or professional standing are placed on academic warning or probation. Students will be notified by letter of the reasons that led to this action and an explanation of the corresponding satisfactory academic progress requirements for the ensuing term. Student enrollment is subject to review until the student returns to good academic or professional standing. For detailed information regarding the academic warning and probation policy refer to the Student Handbook.

## **Academic Dismissal**

Academic dismissal is termination of enrollment at the University for the in-ability to meet academic or professional standards. Failure to comply with the requirements set forth by the Student Progress Review Committee for remediation of a probationary status will result in academic dismissal. Students may appeal this action through the academic appeal process outlined in detail in the Student Handbook.

## **Academic Appeal**

The Student Progress Review Committee (SPRC) is responsible for reviewing and approving appeals. Appeals must be submitted to the SPRC in writing, describing any extenuating or mitigating circumstances that prevented compliance with Five Branches University policies. An appeal must explain what has changed in the student's situation, and the precise steps the student will take or is taking to regain good academic standing. For detailed information regarding the academic appeal process, refer to the Student Handbook.

## **Grievance Procedure**

Students who have complaints concerning administrative or academic policy may submit the grievance in writing to the Student Progress Review Committee (SPRC). The SPRC will review the complaint and gather all relevant information prior to making a decision.

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the SPRC, she/he may submit a written appeal with all relevant documentation to the Academic Dean and the President. Following this, the matter may be given to the Board of Directors for further review. The Board will then make one of two determinations: (1) The issue is not appropriate for the Board to consider, in which case, the decision of the SPRC is final, or (2) the Board may decide to consider the grievance, confirming or overturning the decision of the SPRC. In either case, the decision of the Board of Directors will be final.

If the complainant has made full recourse of the University's grievance process, including the Board of Directors, and believes that the University did not address and assist with their complaint, the Student may contact the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) at 500 Lake Street, Suite 204, Excelsior, MN 55331.

## **Student Records**

In compliance with the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA), student academic records are maintained by the Office of the Registrar. A student record contains all documents relating to a student's activities at Five Branches including, but not limited to: admissions, grade reports and transcripts, registration, tuition payments, correspondence, and health documents.

The University does not release school records or any other information about a student to any third party without the consent of the student, except as allowed by law. Students may view an unofficial copy of their transcript and/or request an official copy through the University's student web portal. The University permanently maintains records of academic progress.

## **Non-discrimination Policy**

Five Branches University is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, in the administration of admission, educational policies or employment. The University abides by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against any "qualified individual with a disability."

## **Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and Credentials Earned at Our Institution**

The transferability of credits you earn at Five Branches University is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the DAChM, MAChM, DAc or MAc degrees that you earn at Five Branches University is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the degree(s) that you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason, you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending Five Branches University to determine if your DAChM, MAChM, DAc or MAc degrees will transfer.

## **Graduation and Licensing Requirements**

### **Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine**

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine and Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Degrees are awarded to students who complete the entire DAChM/MAChM program in good academic standing and with no outstanding financial obligations to the University. The DAChM and MAChM degrees fulfill the requirements you need to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination and the National Certification Exam.

### **Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine**

The Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Degree is awarded to students who complete the entire MAChM program in good academic standing and with no outstanding financial obligations to the University. The MAChM degree fulfills the requirements you need to take the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination and the National Certification Exam.

## **Doctor of Acupuncture and Master of Acupuncture**

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Master of Acupuncture Degrees are awarded to students who complete the entire DAc/MAC program in good academic standing and with no outstanding financial obligations to the University. The DAc/MAC degree fulfills the requirements you need to sit for the National Acupuncture Certification Exam.

## **Master of Acupuncture**

The Master of Acupuncture Degree is awarded to students who complete the entire MAC program in good academic standing and with no outstanding financial obligations to the University. The MAC degree fulfills the requirements you need to sit for the National Acupuncture Certification Exam.

## **Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine and Doctor of Acupuncture – Bridge Program**

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM) or Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) Degree is awarded to students who complete the entire DAcHM or DAc Bridge Completion program in good academic standing and with no outstanding financial obligations to the University.

## **Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine**

The postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine candidate is eligible for graduation once s/he has satisfactorily completed all didactic and clinical courses, fulfilled all requirements, and obtained a passing mark at the final capstone project/oral defense. Upon graduation, students will be awarded the Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) degree.

## **Becoming a Licensed Practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine**

Licensure to practice acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine is regulated by individual states in the United States. Other countries also have varying requirements for licensure.

Applicants who wish to practice outside California need to investigate licensure regulations in the state or country they are interested in practicing, prior to applying to Five Branches University.

## **Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Codes**

Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners and Acupuncturists are classified under code 29-1291 of SOC: Diagnose, treat, and prevent disorders by stimulating specific acupuncture points within the body using acupuncture needles. May also use cups, nutritional supplements, therapeutic massage, acupressure, and other alternative health therapies.

## **California Licensure Examination**

Students wishing to practice acupuncture in California must first obtain the state license, which requires qualifying for and passing California's written examination administered by the California Acupuncture Board. All program required coursework of the Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM) or Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (MAcHM) must be successfully completed to be eligible to sit for the California Acupuncture Board licensing examination. All accounts with the administration, clinic, and library must be clear, as well as proof of an exit interview with the financial aid advisor. Students must notify the administration of their intention to sit for this examination one month prior to the examination application deadline, allowing adequate

time for processing paperwork to the California Acupuncture Board.

For the latest information about the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination and licensure in California contact:

The California Acupuncture Board  
1625 N. Market Blvd, Suite N-219  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Phone: (916) 515-5200  
Fax: (916) 928-2204  
Email: [acupuncture@dca.ca.gov](mailto:acupuncture@dca.ca.gov)

[www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov)

## **National Certification Examination**

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) is the only national organization that validates entry-level competency in the practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine through professional certification. NCCAOM certification or a passing score on the NCCAOM certification examinations are documentation of competency for licensure as an acupuncturist by 43 states plus the District of Columbia which represents 98% of the states that regulate acupuncture.

For the latest information concerning the national licensing exam and licensure in other states, see NCCAOM's website at <https://www.nccaom.org/state-licensure/>

Or contact:

NCCAOM  
2001 K Street, NW  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North  
Washington DC 20006

Phone: (888) 381-1140  
Fax: (202) 381-1141

[info@thennccaom.org](mailto:info@thennccaom.org)

[www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)

For additional information on state certification requirements and contact information for the regulatory agency for acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine located in each state go to: <https://www.nccaom.org/advocacy-regulatory/state-relations/>

# Publication Information

This Catalog is a publication of:

**Five Branches University**  
**Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine**

200 7th Avenue, Suite 115, Santa Cruz, California 95062 | (831) 476-9424  
and

1885 Lundy Ave, Suite 108, San Jose, California 95131 | (408) 260-0208

[www.fivebranches.edu](http://www.fivebranches.edu)

This catalog covers the following programs:

All courses and clinical training, except for the fully online Completion Bridge Program, are offered in the classrooms and clinics at the two campuses indicated above.

- Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DAcHM)
- Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (MAcHM)
  - Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc)
  - Master of Acupuncture (MAc)
- DAcHM/DAc Completion Bridge Program (transfer program for LAc's)

The catalog was published on January 1, 2025, is effective through December 31, 2025, is updated annually or as needed, and is subject to change without notice.

The following three programs are covered in separate catalogs:

- Postgraduate Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM catalog)
  - Asian Bodywork and Qigong (Extension catalog)
  - Medical Qigong Practitioner (Extension catalog)