

Educational Backgrounds: Medical Acupuncturists & TCM Licensed Acupuncturists

This is an attempt to list the educational similarities and differences of Physician Medical Acupuncturists and TCM-trained (AOM) Licensed Acupuncturists. The intent is to inform all practitioners so that our varied strengths can be utilized to promote the acupuncture profession and ultimately benefit patients. This is a generalized list using an ACAOM accredited Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine institution as a model*.

Education	Medical Acupuncturists	Licensed Acupuncturists
High School	Yes	Yes
4-Year Undergraduate	Degree Required Major: Pre Med, MCAT	Degree Not Required, Specific Courses Required
4-Year Medical School	Yes	No
3-6 (+) Years Residency	Yes: In a Medical Specialty	No
Board Certification	Yes: In Medical Specialty	No
Acupuncture Training: Required to Legally Practice	Determined by Each State	Determined by Each State
Acupuncture Training: Minimum Recommended by WHO & WFAS	Not less than 200 hours	Theory: 1000 hours Supervised: 500 hours Clinical: 500 hours
Acupuncture Training: Actual Requirements for Board Certification	ABMA	NCCAOM

Comparison of General Course Material Covered for Medical Acupuncturists & TCM / AOM Trained Licensed Acupuncturists

Typical Licensed Acupuncturists Training Based on ACAOM Accredited Curriculum ^{1, 2}	Typical Medical Acupuncturists Training
Western Medical Terminology	Med School
Living Anatomy I, II, III	Med School
Anatomy & Phys I, II, III	Med School
Respectful Touch	Med School
Observation Skills	Med School
Clinical Observation	Med School
Community Health & Chemical Dependency	Med School

(continued)

¹ Taken from Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM) *Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Program*. 2007-08 Academic Catalog. http://www.ocom.edu/files/documents/catalog_web_061207.pdf

² ACAOM Accredited AOM School Course Requirements for LAcS, Section 8 (pages 20 – 26) Section 8.1 Hours Required (page 27 – 28) http://www.acaom.org/Downloads/handbook/RO_Hndbk_Pt_1_2005.pdf

Western Medical Pathology I, II, III	Med School
The Patient-Practitioner Relationship	Med School
Western Pharmacology	Med School
Clinical Observation	Med School
Adult & Child CPR / First Aid	Med School
Ethics & Jurisprudence	Med School
Clinical Internship I, II	Med School
Clinic Seminar : Case Management & Intern Evaluation I, II, III, IV	Med School
Structural Diagnosis	Med School
Western Clinical Diagnosis I, II, III	Med School
Community Health Internship	Med School
Survey of Western Physics	Med School
Intro to Issues in Public Health	Med School
Community Outreach	Med School
Point Location I, II, III	Yes
Medical History: East & West	Yes
Point Actions & Indications I, II, III	Yes
Acupuncture Techniques / Clinical Skills I, II, III	Yes
Electro-acupuncture / Micro-systems	Yes
Mental-Emotional Aspects of Acupuncture	Yes
TCM Theory I, II, III	No
Tuina I, (II, III, IV)	No
Shiatsu I (II, III, IV)	No
Qigong I, II, III	No
AOM Research	No
Chinese Herbal Med Intro	No
Chinese Herbal Med / Formulas I, II, III, IV, V	No
TCM Diagnosis Lab	No
TCM Pathology & Therapeutics I, II, III, IV, V	No
Chinese Herbal Dispensary Practicum	No
Taiji Or Advanced Qigong I, II, III	No
Oriental Therapeutic Massage Clinic	No
Herbal Prepared Medicines	No
Herbal Prescription Strategies	No
Practice Management I, II	No
Clinic Marketing	No
Chinese Nutrition	No
Research Practicum I, II, III	No
Treating Children with TCM	No
Diet & Nutrition	No
Herbal Clinic Internship	No
External Uses of Chinese Herbs	No

For more information return to [“Medical Acupuncture Training”](#)