



## Admissions Information Packet Master of Science in Traditional Asian Medicine

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Campus & Academic Offices  | 2215 W Mission Rd Suite 280, Alhambra, CA 91803   |
| Clinic                     | 28 South Palm, Alhambra, CA 91801   |
| Mailing Address:           | 55 South Raymond Avenue, Suite 105, Alhambra, CA 91801  |
| Contact                    | 626.289.7719  |
| website   email            | <a href="http://www.amu.edu">www.amu.edu</a>   <a href="mailto:start@amu.edu">start@amu.edu</a> |
| Learning Management System | acustudy.instructure.com  |

### Distance Education

Due to public health requirements related to the Covid-19 pandemic, Alhambra Medical University is offering both didactic and clinical training under the ACAOM emergency distance education waiver. Effective Nov 2020 and during the period of COVID19 interruption, ACAHM is extending its current flexibilities until further notice subject to any Federal, State and/ or local limitations.

### Accreditation and Approval

Alhambra Medical University and its Master's in Traditional Asian Medicine programs (in English and Chinese) are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM). Institution/program accreditation history, notes, and dates of review may be viewed at: <http://acaom.org/directory-menu/directory/>

Alhambra Medical University is a private institution and licensed to operate by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). Approval to operate means compliance with state standards as set forth in the Education Code. 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.

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



Several states, including California, have a governmental agency that governs, supervises and controls the licensure and practice of acupuncture. In California, the Acupuncture Board is responsible for such duties.

The Master's program is approved by the California Acupuncture Board. Graduates who have successfully completed all graduation requirements are eligible to sit for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination (CALE). The Acupuncture Board is an autonomous body under the umbrella of the Department of Consumer Affairs, which licenses and regulates acupuncturists in California. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4925 et seq., the board administers an examination that tests an applicant's ability, competency, and knowledge in the practice of an acupuncturist; issues licenses to qualified practitioners; approves and monitors students in tutorial programs; approves acupuncture schools and continuing education providers and courses; and enforces the Acupuncture Licensure Act. [www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov)

If you desire to practice in another state, it is recommended that you contact that state's medical board or other appropriate agency, for licensure requirements. The NCCAOM's website provides information regarding the various degree and other certification requirements for all fifty states.

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM®) is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization established in 1982. The NCCAOM is the only national organization that validates entry-level competency in the practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM) 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. [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)

The Master's program prepares the students to be employed as Acupuncturist (Standard Occupational Code (SOC) for Acupuncturists from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) as SOC – 29-1291). Detail information about the list of Standard Occupational Code (SOC) can be looked at: [https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/major\\_groups.htm#29-0000](https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/major_groups.htm#29-0000)

Alhambra Medical University publishes a checklist information to guide the graduates from the program related with the information of the acupuncturist licensure checklist and eligibility across the states in the U.S. once they have graduated from the AMU Master's program. This checklist can be accessed in [here](#) (this checklist maybe updated according to the current available information). Prospective and current students may inquire to the Dean of Students for more information or advice regarding licensure to practice acupuncture and traditional medicine in the state of California or outside of California. The list of states for which AMU Master program curriculum meets, does not meet or unable to determine to meet each state educational requirements can be inquired as well to the Dean of Students. Graduates are required to directly inquire to the local governing state board to acquire more accurate and detail information



regarding eligibility, requirements and procedures to practice acupuncture and traditional medicine in the related state.

## **Academic Operational**

The University operates on a quarter system and applications are accepted for program four times a year in January, April, July and October.

## **Admissions Requirements**

The Master's Program Admissions requirements are as follows:

1. The satisfactory completion of 60 semester/90 quarter units (equivalent to approximately two academic years) of education at a baccalaureate level with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.25. This course work must be completed at an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education or, in the case of foreign candidates, recognized by the appropriate agency in that country.
2. A completed and signed application form along with the non-refundable application fee. (U.S. citizens/residents: \$100; international students: \$150)
3. Provide Official Transcript(s) from all colleges and/or universities attended. If the transcripts are from a country where English is not the primary language, they must be translated into English and must be sent to a reputable foreign credentials evaluation agency to evaluate equivalent levels of educational achievement in the U.S.
4. Two recommendation letters.
5. A personal essay describing yourself and your interest in medicine.
6. Two recent 2"x2" color headshot photos.
7. An interview with a member of the Admissions Team.

Alhambra Medical University welcomes students from foreign countries. We are authorized by the US Department of Homeland Security to issue an I-20 and enroll non-immigrant international students into the MSTAM program only.

For international applicants, in addition to the above requirements, the following must also be submitted:

1. A financial statement showing at least \$22,000 in assets to verify the availability to pay educational and living expenses for one year.
2. A copy of a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after the date of entry into the US for the purposes of education at our institution.
3. Applicants currently studying in the United States on an F-1 visa must submit a photocopy of their I-94 form, I-20 form, visa, and the first page of the passport. A completed transfer release form must be sent to AMU by the school from which the applicant is transferring.
4. Additional fees may apply for postage and handling overseas/expedited mailing

## Language of Study in MSTAM Program

The didactic part of the MSTAM program is currently offered in two languages: English and Mandarin Chinese. Clinical training is taught in English only.

## English Language Proficiency Requirements

English language competency is required in accordance with the Admissions requirements. English language competency must be demonstrated by all students prior to admissions through the completion of one of the following:

1. Four (4) years at a U.S. high school demonstrably delivered in English;
2. At least two-years (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) of undergraduate- or graduate-level education in an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education;
3. At least two-years (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) of undergraduate- or graduate-level education demonstrably delivered in English;
4. High school or two-years (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) of undergraduate- or graduate-level education in an institution in one of the following countries or territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Cameroon, Canada (except Quebec), Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Cook Islands, Dominica, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guam, Guyana, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Montserrat, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, St. Helena, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
  - a. In all cases, English must have been both the language of instruction and the language of the curriculum used
5. Completion one of the following assessments at the required level:
  - a. Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT) - acceptable score: total score 61
  - b. International English Language Testing System (IELTS), academic format - acceptable score: overall band score 6.0
  - c. Duolingo English Test - acceptable score: 90
  - d. China Standard of English Language (CSE) - acceptable score: CSE 6
  - e. Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE) - acceptable score: C
  - f. Cambridge English Advanced (CAE) - acceptable score: C
  - g. Common European Framework Reference (CEFR) - acceptable score: B2
  - h. Occupational English Test (OET) - acceptable score: 250, C
  - i. Pearson Test of English (PTE), academic - acceptable score: overall score 45

## Admissions Review Process

Once all application packages and all supporting documents have been received, the applicant will be contacted for a personal interview with one of the members of the admissions team. Following the interview, the application file will be reviewed by the admissions. The applicant will be notified in writing once a decision has been made by the admissions. Students who are fully admitted are expected to commence enrollment in the quarter they are admitted.

All new students admitted into the program will be provided with the new student orientation and registration session. The orientation reviews the institution and program related curriculum, policy and procedures. Please contact the admissions office for assistance prior to orientation for assistance ([start@amu.edu](mailto:start@amu.edu)).

## Transfer Credit

The Master's program accepts transfer credits towards its program that it judges to be equivalent to its requirements for graduation. Before transfer credit will be awarded, all official transcripts containing the coursework for which the prospective student seeks credit must be received by the Office of Admission. The following guidelines apply:

- Only transfer credit for actual coursework successfully completed at a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or, in the case of foreign institutions, recognized by the appropriate government agency.
- Credits earned more than five (5) years prior to admission may only be accepted for transfer after validating and documenting that the student has retained the content knowledge and competencies of the respective course(s) for which transfer credits are being assessed.
- For institutions approved by the California Board of Acupuncture, 100% transfer credit may be awarded, provided that the actual coursework to be transferred has been successfully completed and is equivalent to the relevant required coursework.
- For candidates applying from institutions not approved by the California Board of Acupuncture, but are accredited by ACAHM or from foreign institutions which are evaluated as the equivalent of a regionally accredited college in the U.S., the following guidelines will apply:
  1. Up to 100% transfer credit may be awarded for courses completed successfully in basic sciences, clinical medicine, case management, practice management, public health, and professional development if the actual number of hours completed is equal to or greater than that required.
  2. Up to fifty percent (50%) credit, by transfer or challenge exam, for clinical practice and instruction in acupuncture and Oriental medicine principles, theories and treatment procedures may be awarded. The actual number of hours completed must be equal to or greater than that required by



Alhambra Medical University. At least 50% of the course hours in the above individual subjects must be taken at Alhambra Medical University.

After a careful course-by-course evaluation of the contents of the Official Transcript(s), a written evaluation will be sent to the student indicating what coursework will be applied as transferable credits against the graduation requirement, and the entire record of the evaluation and award of the student's transfer credit will be included in the student's academic file.

Initial transcript evaluation for transfer credits performed is free. A \$100 per course transcript evaluation fee applies after full admission or two quarters of enrollment. Under Title 5. Education Division | 7.5. Private Postsecondary Education | Chapter 3. Institutional Operating Standards | Article 2. Admissions and Academic Achievement Standards | 5 CCR § 71770 | § 71770. Admissions Standards and Transferred Credits Policy.

(2) No more than 20% of graduate semester units or the equivalent in other units awarded by another institution may be transferred for credit toward a Master's degree. An institution may accept transfer credits only from the institutions of higher learning described in subsection (1)(A).

(3) No more than 30 graduate semester credits or its equivalent awarded by another institution may be credited toward a doctoral degree.

"This subdivision does not apply to graduate programs that lead to a profession or an occupation requiring state licensure where the licensing agency has a regulation permitting a different standard."

## **Tuition and Fees**

Master's program didactic course tuition: \$160 per Unit

Master's program clinical internship tuition: \$12 per hour

Estimate total tuition (Master's program): \$47,710

**\*Please see detail of tuition and fees in the program catalog**

Estimate Cost of Living for Studio or single bedroom apartment near the school is approximately \$1200/month.

## **Financial Aid Eligibility**

Eligibility is determined by federal and state regulations and university policy. The amount of your financial aid is determined by subtracting the family contribution from the estimated cost of attendance. You may qualify for both Pell Grant and Federal Direct Loans. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in



order to determine their eligibility for Federal financial aid. For more information on applying for Federal student aid, go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

To apply a Federal Financial Aid, student required to meet the following:

- Be a US Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have a valid social security number.
- Register with Selective Service (if required)
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements
- Have no defaulted loans or owe any grant repayment.
- Not participate in the sale or possession of drugs while receiving federal student aid.

### **Length of Program**

The maximum time a student has to complete this four year program is six years (24 quarters). All students in attendance at Alhambra Medical University must maintain a quarter-to-quarter, as well as a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.0 and passing at least 67% of the registered courses. The course work shall extend over a minimum of 3 academic years or 12 quarters, with the average units earned per quarter of 12 for full time students and 6 for part time students. In addition, all students will also have to pass the institutional exams conducted by AMU. AMU institutional exams include Level 1 Entrance Exam, Level 1 Exit Exam, Level 2 Exit Exam, and Level 3 Exit Exam.

**\*Please see detail in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) information in the program catalog.**



## Coursework

| Didactic Curriculum     |                                   | Units      | Hours        |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|
|                         | Basic Sciences                    | 36         | 360          |
|                         | Traditional Chinese Medicine      | 39         | 390          |
|                         | Acupuncture                       | 27         | 270          |
|                         | Herbal Medicine                   | 45         | 450          |
|                         | Adjunctive Therapies              | 9          | 90           |
|                         | Western Medicine                  | 27         | 270          |
|                         | Professional Development          | 27         | 270          |
|                         | Electives                         | 6          | 60           |
|                         | <b>Total Didactic</b>             | <b>216</b> | <b>2,160</b> |
| Clinical Curriculum     |                                   |            |              |
|                         | Orientation and Herbal Dispensary | 4          | 80           |
|                         | Clinical Observation              | 6          | 120          |
|                         | Assisted Practice                 | 16         | 320          |
|                         | Guided Practice                   | 22         | 440          |
|                         | <b>Total Clinical</b>             | <b>48</b>  | <b>960</b>   |
| <b>Total Curriculum</b> |                                   | <b>264</b> | <b>3,120</b> |

These credit requirements are over and above the 60 semester credits required for admissions. A credit hour is 50 minutes of instruction per week for a specified 10 week instructional quarter term. Clock to Credit Hour Conversion is quarter credit is granted for each:

- 10 hours of classroom contact plus appropriate outside preparation or the equivalent;
- 20 hours of supervised clinical instruction plus appropriate outside preparation; and
- 30 hours of clinical externship or independent study.





## Graduation Requirements

The Masters of Science Traditional Asian Medicine degree is awarded upon satisfactory completion of the following:

- Completion of the core curriculum with a minimum of 2160 hours of didactic instruction (216 quarter units that consists of 210 required didactic units and 6 required elective didactic units) plus 960 hours of clinical internship (200 hours observation plus 760 hours of supervised clinical internship which comprises 48 quarter units). As such, 264 quarter units are required for graduation.
- Completion of all clinical requirements.
- Successfully passing all required AMU institutional exams.
- Fulfillment all financial obligations to the University.
- In terms of residency, a quarter is defined as twelve (12) units or more. The minimum residency is 12 quarters. For transfer students, the minimum residency requirement is 45 quarter units of classroom instruction.