Welcome to Five Branches. We are here to support you, address your questions, and give you the answers you need to enter the rewarding field of TCM. We will provide you with a thorough overview of the TCM profession, the Master’s degree program that leads to California licensure and national certification, and the career opportunities available in the field. We invite you to visit us, take a tour of our campuses, and attend an open house. We look forward to joining you in your discovery of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Five Branches Students
Our program attracts students seeking to become TCM practitioners, those currently studying at another TCM school who wish to transfer to Five Branches, and international students who have a desire to study TCM in the U.S. Our students also include professionals seeking new careers, Western medical practitioners who wish to enhance their practice, and non-degree seeking students interested in studying Chinese medicine for the enhancement of their personal health and well-being.

Representing diverse age groups with varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds, our students are self-motivated and dedicated individuals who consistently achieve the highest passing scores on both the California licensing exam and the national certification exams.

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 the beauty and culture of Chinese medicine.

We welcome you to explore our coastal campus in Santa Cruz, California where our TCM Master’s daytime program and health center has resided for over a quarter of a century. 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 high-rise office building located across from the prestigious Santana Row, within walking distance of sidewalk cafes, luxury shops and beautiful fountains. A welcoming courtyard leads you to the Health Center and University where our TCM

Eleonor Mendelson, Admissions Director, greeting a new student
Master’s degree is offered in three languages: English, Chinese and Korean. The English and Chinese Master’s are available in daytime programs while the Korean Master’s program is offered in the evenings and on Saturdays. Our flexible programs provide you with the option to complete the program on a full or part-time basis. 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.

Six open house events are held each year:
Santa Cruz campus: February, June and September
San Jose campus: April, July and November
Please refer to the Five Branches website for more information.
Attend a Seminar

The Extension program at both of our campuses offers certification in Asian bodywork, Medical Qigong, and Mind-Body medicine, 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 the TCM Master’s program, 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.

Thank you for your interest in Five Branches University!

Applying to Five Branches

Once you have made the decision to enroll in the Five Branches TCM Master’s program, you are ready to begin the application process.

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 semester basis, occurring in Spring and Fall. 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 semester.

Priority Application Dates:
- Fall Semester: May 1
- Spring Semester: September 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 Educational Requirements

All applicants must have fulfilled the minimum education requirements of 60 semester credits (equivalent to 90 quarter credits) of general education from a regionally accredited degree-granting college or university, with a minimum of 2.5 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.

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 42 semester credits may include transferable coursework towards the MTCM 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 TCM Master’s degree program.
Natural Science Requirements
The MTCM program at Five Branches University requires five natural science courses: General Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human Anatomy and Human Physiology, each with a minimum of three semester credits. It is highly recommended you complete the courses General Biology, Physics, and Chemistry prior to entry. These courses can be taken from a community college, university, or online. 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.

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 Master's degree. NDS students may take up to 50% of the Master'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 campuses 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 $45.00, payable in check or money order.

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 or Waiver 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 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 prior to enrollment in the Master’s program. This may be done through a PPD Skin Test or a QuantiFeron TB Gold Blood Test.

**Supporting documents—sent separately:**

9. **Two letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, colleagues and/or healthcare professionals.** References should list how long they have known you and in what capacity. They should state your strengths and character traits and why they recommend your admission to Five Branches University. Recommendation letters must be sent directly from the individual to the admissions office at the Five Branches campus you are applying to.

10. **Official transcripts of all college and/or university coursework.** 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 the International Applicants section of the catalog.

**Campus Addresses**

San Jose campus applicants mail information to:
Five Branches University
Attention: Admissions Office
3031 Tisch Way, Suite 507
San Jose, CA 95128

Santa Cruz campus applicants mail information to:
Five Branches University
Attention: Admissions Office
200 7th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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 $300 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 semester, you will attend the New Student Orientation and Registration. The orientation reviews financial aid and registration options, the academic calendar, college policies, and the MTCM 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 advisor 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**
Five Branches University welcomes international applicants from all over the world. We support a bicultural and bilingual environment, offering our Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine in English, Chinese, and Korean, and our Doctorate 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 a Master’s degree at the 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. Tuition and fees for international students are the same as for U.S. citizens and residents. 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, should be sent directly to Five Branches University by the evaluating agency. Two agencies we recommend are: the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), www.aacrao.org or World Educational Services (WES), www.wes.org.

*As hunger is cured by food, so ignorance is cured by study.*
—CHINESE PROVERB
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 in 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 TOEFL and IELTS may not be required.

**English Master's Program.** If you are applying for the English Master's program, and your native language is not English, you will be required to take a test which measures your ability to communicate in English in four specific areas: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOEFL</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Test</td>
<td>Computerized Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Santa Cruz campus assigned code: 4459
- San Jose campus assigned code: 5881

**Chinese or Korean Master's Program.** If you are applying for the Chinese or Korean Master's program you may be admitted with English as a second language. However, before entering internship clinic level, you will have to meet higher English requirements by testing through TOEFL or IELTS.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOEFL</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Test</td>
<td>Computerized Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Financial Statement.** A Financial Statement, certified by a financial institution, verifying the availability of at least $25,000 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 F-2 I-20 for your dependents, you will need to calculate an additional $4000 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.

5. **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 in the United States, we recommend you obtain medical records for you and your dependents from your primary physician. 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 in 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 the first page of your passport.**
2. A **photocopy of your visa, contained in your passport.**
3. A **photocopy of your I-94 Form (Arrival-Departure Form).**
4. 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 school International Student Official, verifying you have maintained your visa status and are eligible for transfer. Please contact the admissions office to receive a copy of this form.

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

If you are a student at another TCM/acupuncture school and are considering transferring to Five Branches, you can apply for our Master's program as a Transfer Student. Five Branches University offers one of the best TCM 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 MTCM program.

Five Branches accepts transfer students who will be completing at least 50% of their Master's degree at the University. If you have only one year remaining before graduation, we recommend you graduate from the school you are currently attending, if possible.

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-transferrable.

Transferring Western Medicine Courses

Western medicine courses taken prior to enrollment at Five Branches may be transferred to fulfill part or the entire MTCM 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 regionally accredited, degree-granting colleges, universities, or TCM schools. Natural science credits from non-accredited or vocational schools are non-transferrable.

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.

Transfer Student Application Requirements

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. **Syllabus 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 MTCM program, and an evaluation of your transfer credits will be completed by the admissions director. An equivalency exam may be required. Only coursework completed prior to enrollment at Five Branches, and awarded a letter grade of C or above, is transferrable.

Transfer Fees

A transfer fee will apply to the evaluation of all courses transferred into the MTCM 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 $200. 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.