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
- Student Council
- Online Bookstore
- Externships
- Student Employment
- Career Development
- Alumni Association

**Academic Advising**

The university administration offers academic advising to assist you in the planning and completion of your degree requirements. From first semester through graduation and beyond, the administrative team will support you to complete your 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 hours include evenings and weekends.

**Communications**

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

**Online Bookstore**

Order new or used books required for your upcoming courses online or by phone through MBS Direct Textbooks. At the end of the term, MBS Direct will buy back your textbooks for up to 40% of the retail price.

**Externships**

Community externships offer you the valuable opportunity to network with experienced practitioners and gain clinical experience in a broad range of 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, and Korea.

**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. Professional vacancies in the field of acupuncture and TCM are posted regularly on the Five Branches website, www.fivenranches.edu, under Career Opportunities.

**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.

“My education at Five Branches University provided me with a solid TCM foundation that I rely on in my practice. I was taught to be creative and flexible and to collaborate for success. It never fails me to mimic my teachers’ approach and treatment styles. I credit my growth as a practitioner to the high level of skill and analytical thinking that was provided by my clinical, theory and Qigong teachers.

Marcia Male Wilson
Acupuncture & Healing Arts Center
Wilson, Wyoming
On Campus

The Santa Cruz Campus
Located along California’s scenic Central Coast, renowned for its beautiful beaches and redwood forests, Santa Cruz has the cosmopolitan appeal of a college town combined with the ambiance of a small coastal California city. Our Santa Cruz campus is located in a beautiful residential community one block from the beach on the Monterey Bay and close to the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. At the heart of the campus is the Five Branches health center which has provided exceptional healthcare to patients for over 28 years.

The San Jose Campus
In the heart of Silicon Valley, our San Jose campus is part of a contemporary, high-tech metropolis, home to major players in the world of technology including Google, eBay, Twitter and Facebook. The San Jose campus resides in a modern high-rise office building, a short commute from San Francisco and the beaches of Monterey Bay, and within walking distance of the prestigious Santana Row. A welcoming courtyard leads you to the entrance of both the health center and the University, where our English, Chinese and Korean Master’s programs and our prestigious Doctoral program reside.

Here is a list of amenities our campuses have to offer:

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 firsthand 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. Classrooms may be used for continuing education seminars, workshops, and special presentations in fields related to Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Student Lounge
A place to rest, nourish yourself 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
For students working on patient cases or preparing for exams, the library is a quiet haven for research and study. Our libraries are the information conduits of our campuses, providing an expansive collection of books, journals, research materials and study programs—in print and online—to support and enhance your TCM education.

Student and instructor preparing herbal formulas in herb room
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 choices. Located within walking distance, Santana Row offers food from around the globe. Designed after the gracious shopping experiences in Europe, Santana Row offers students outdoor cafes, tree-lined walks, the latest fashions, and great people-watching.

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 280 and Highway 880, 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.

Housing
Students in need of housing should arrive in Santa Cruz or San Jose six weeks before the beginning of the semester. The distance between the two campuses is 35 miles. While it is possible to commute, students may wish to find housing closer to their home campus. The Five Branches website, www.fivebranches.edu, provides a list of resources to aid you in your housing search.