

Admissions

Choosing to enroll in a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Master's degree program is an important decision. We understand it is a process that will involve many questions and much consideration. We are here to support you by spending time with you on the phone, via email and in person to address your questions and provide you with the answers you need to enter the rewarding field of TCM. We believe it is important for you to have 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 private and group practice, hospitals and clinics, and related fields such as herb companies, publishing and TCM education. We look forward to joining you in your discovery of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Five Branches Students

Five Branches University students demonstrate the aptitude and determination to successfully complete the program, and have a sincere interest in the study of TCM and integrative medicine. 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 TCM for the enhancement of their personal health and well-being. Our students represent diverse age groups, with varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

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 the 25 year history of our coastal campus in Santa Cruz, California where our TCM Master's daytime program was originated, and experience the vibrant energy of our San Jose campus in the heart of Silicon Valley, where our TCM Master's degrees are offered in both daytime and evening programs, in three languages: English, Chinese and Korean. While on campus, review the doctoral program schedule of events, providing licensed acupuncturists



Eleonor Mendelson, Admissions Director, greeting a new student

the opportunity to take their practice to the highest level and train with TCM and Western medicine experts from China and Stanford University.

The extension department at both of our campuses offers certification in Asian bodywork and Medical Qigong, as well as seminars in the healing arts. Attending a seminar is an excellent opportunity for individuals who are interested in getting acquainted with the healing modalities associated with Traditional Chinese Medicine and the experience of the Asian culture.

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 also an 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 changes 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 University.

Request Information

If your schedule does not allow you to visit us at this time, and you would like to receive detailed information about the TCM Master's program, you can request information online, email or call the admissions staff at the campus you are interested in attending, or simply download our online catalogs to review our programs.

Applying to Five Branches

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

Priority Application Dates

Applications are reviewed throughout the year on a priority status basis. A 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, please apply by the priority application dates listed below. 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

Educational Requirements

All applicants must have fulfilled the minimum education requirements of 60 semester units (equivalent to 90 quarter units) 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 different 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). Please be informed that although you may be awarded credit for these prior learning assessments for our purposes, some state licensing agencies may not accept these credits as they were awarded by non-regionally accredited institutions.

If you have not completed an AA degree or higher, your general education must include: two courses in humanities and arts, two courses in social behavioral sciences, one course in English/communications, and college level algebra. Please contact the admissions director for more information.

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, Introduction to Physics, Human Anatomy and Human Physiology, each with a minimum of three semester credits. It is highly recommended that students complete the courses General Biology, Introduction to Physics and Chemistry prior to entry. These courses can be taken from a community college, a university, or on-line. If these courses have not been taken prior to enrollment, students may take them concurrently, within their first two years of study. Please contact the admissions director regarding transfer credit of these natural science courses, or for a list of acceptable schools providing these courses.

Non Degree-Seeking Applicants

Five Branches University will consider Non Degree-Seeking (NDS) applicants. These include 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 will receive an official transcript showing coursework that has been successfully completed. NDS students may take up to 50% of the Master's degree program; they may also elect to become a degree-seeking student at any time. In this case, coursework successfully completed at Five Branches will be applied toward the degree. NDS students must follow the same application and admissions procedures as required of degree-seeking students. NDS students are not eligible for 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 photo.** One 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.

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.

Please note: Education obtained abroad at an institute not accredited by the U.S. Department of Education must go through a credential evaluation agency. See information on following page under International Applicants.

Campus Addresses

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

Santa Cruz campus applicants mail information to:
Five Branches University, Santa Cruz
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, including academic achievement, professional experience, recommendations, accomplishments, personal character and future potential.

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. 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 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 that 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.



**GINA
ESCOBAR
ALUMNA**

“So many people are getting acupuncture these days that it really has become a mainstream treatment. I know the field is growing and I'm excited to be a part of it. I wanted to be on the cutting edge of medicine and I know I'm following the perfect path going into this profession.”

International Application Requirements

If you are an international applicant who is 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. Upon completion of review, the evaluation 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.
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. International applicants are advised to speak to the admissions office for further details.

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 in these tests are as follows:

TOEFL			IELTS
Paper Test	Computerized Test	Internet Test	
500	173	61	5.0

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

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, 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:

TOEFL			IELTS
Paper Test	Computerized Test	Internet Test	
450	133	45-46	4.0

Santa Cruz campus assigned code: 4459

San Jose campus assigned code: 5881

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. 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 partially or fully being paid by a sponsor, then the Financial Statement must be accompanied by the Financial Sponsorship Form. Please contact the admissions office to obtain this form.

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 also 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-94 Form (Arrival-Departure Form).**
3. **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. Courses from accredited institutions are generally transferrable, if they are equivalent to the courses listed in the Five Branches MTCM catalog. Five Branches may also award transfer credits for Western medicine courses and complementary studies such as Qigong, Taijiquan, and Asian massage courses taken from another school. Only coursework completed prior to enrollment at Five Branches and awarded a letter grade of C or above is transferrable.

Transferring TCM Courses

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 at another school meets the high standards of the Five Branches program. Transfer credit will be accepted for TCM courses taken from a nationally accredited TCM college, which has been 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 not transferrable. Please contact the admissions office for more information.

Transfer Requirements for TCM Students

Five Branches prefers to accept transfer students that will be completing at least 50% of their Master's degree at Five Branches. If you have only one year remaining before graduation from another TCM school, we recommend that you graduate there, if possible.

Applicants who wish to transfer from another TCM college must submit the following materials:

1. **Five Branches University Application, along with the required supporting documents.**
2. **Cover letter.** This should state your reasons for seeking a transfer and the courses you wish to transfer from another TCM college.
3. **Letter of recommendation.** This should be written by a previous TCM/acupuncture instructor located at the TCM school you attended.
4. **Catalog of the TCM college where you studied, stating its approval agencies and accreditation.**

5. Syllabus outlining the course content for each course you wish to transfer.

Once you are accepted to Five Branches, an evaluation of your transfer credits will be completed by the admissions director. You will then be informed of your placement in the MTCM program. A transfer fee will apply, upon enrollment. An equivalency exam may be required. Contact the admissions office for further information.

Transferring Western Medicine Courses

Western medicine courses taken prior to Five Branches enrollment may be transferred to fulfill part or the entire MTCM Western medicine track, including natural science requirements. If the natural science courses Biology, Introduction to Physics, Chemistry, Human Anatomy, and Human Physiology have not been taken prior to enrollment at Five Branches, 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 not transferable. A transfer fee will apply to all courses, with the exception of the five natural science courses.

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 class hours. A copy of a certificate of completion or diploma, or a letter from a teacher or school will serve as a transcript. A transfer fee will apply.

Transfer Fees

A transfer fee will apply to the evaluation of all courses transferred into the MTCM program. The transfer fee is 15% of the current tuition, per unit, up to a maximum of \$200.00. 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.

*As hunger is
cured by food, so
ignorance is
cured by study.*

—CHINESE
PROVERB