Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine Program

The Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (MTCM) program is a four-year graduate professional degree program comprising 3208 hours in length and a total of 170.5 units. The program, taught on a semester basis, is presented in English at our Santa Cruz campus, and in English, Chinese and Korean at our San Jose campus. 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. You can obtain a Master’s degree in four years or enroll in classes during the summer term to accelerate the program and finish your degree early. Enrollment on a part-time basis is available based on consideration and approval by the Academic Dean and Admissions Director.

Program Overview

Taught by highly accomplished faculty in TCM education, the curriculum is offered through eight academic and clinical departments, providing comprehensive instruction and practical clinical experience in the “five branches” of traditional Chinese medicine (Acupuncture, Herbology, Tuina Massage, Energetics and Chinese Dietary Medicine). The program emphasizes extensive clinical training, integrative Western medicine, and the latest TCM research.

TCM Theory

The TCM Theory curriculum provides you with a thorough knowledge of the language and theories of TCM’s unique, yet universal, approach to understanding health and the treatment of disease. Drawing from both classical and modern texts, the curriculum creates a solid framework for the application of clinical methods, including acupuncture and herbology.

TCM Acupuncture

The TCM Acupuncture curriculum is divided into didactic and lab sections, emphasizing both the theoretical and practical aspects of acupuncture. TCM Acupuncture courses provide you with a thorough knowledge of traditional and modern meridian theory, including point location, functions, indications and treatment planning. The curriculum includes comprehensive training in moxibustion, cupping, Guasha, and electrical stimulation. Clinical labs concentrate on accuracy, needling methods, technique and precautions.

Intern practicing acupuncture in the Five Branches clinic
Our Western medicine department is enhanced by our educational and clinical relationship with Stanford University and the doctoral residency program we have with Stanford and O’Connor hospitals. These professional relationships not only benefit you as a student but also contribute to a better understanding and acceptance of TCM in the West.

**TCM Clinical Training**

In-depth clinical training comprises approximately one-third of the Master’s curriculum, preparing you to practice the theoretical knowledge you gained in the classroom. Throughout the program, starting in your first semester, you will observe a faculty-practitioner diagnosing and treating patients. In your last year, you will diagnose and treat patients with acupuncture, Chinese herbs and other methods of the five branches, under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The Five Branches medical centers in Santa Cruz and San Jose assist over 160 patients a day, allowing you to work with highly skilled faculty in a busy clinical environment and to gain hands-on experience with patients. By the end of clinical training, you will have performed at least 350 patient treatments, a basic requirement for graduation.

**TCM Herbology**

Chinese herbology is the world’s most sophisticated medical herbal system. The TCM Herbology curriculum includes extensive training in the identification, categorization and clinical use of the traditional Chinese herbal pharmacopeia. Six semesters of in-depth herbology study provide you with a solid working knowledge of more than 500 individual herbs and 350 classical and modern formulas. Advanced courses instruct you how to modify and enhance classical formulas in response to specific variants in a patient’s diagnosed condition. All herb courses are taught using the Pinyin names of herbs.

**TCM Clinical Medicine**

The courses in TCM Theory, Acupuncture and Herbology teach you the basic principles of Chinese medicine pattern differentiation and treatment, including the study of common functions and indications of herbs, formulas and acupuncture points. However, this knowledge alone is not enough to fully diagnose and treat disease. The TCM Clinical Medicine curriculum expands on this knowledge, providing you with advanced skills in diagnosing and treating disease in the specialized fields of TCM internal medicine, external medicine, gynecology, pediatrics, traumatology, and orthopedics. Training includes detailed instruction of herbal and acupuncture treatment plans for both common and complex diseases. These courses lay the foundation for your clinical practice.

**Western Medicine**

Modern practitioners of TCM must have a fundamental understanding of Western medicine to effectively communicate with medical doctors and other healthcare professionals. Western Medicine studies are an integral part of the curriculum providing knowledge of Western diagnosis and pharmaceuticals, necessary to make appropriate referrals and to provide the best care possible for your patients. Introduced to the basic methods of Western diagnosis, you will learn the fundamental vocabulary used in diagnostic analysis and the clinical methods used in Western medical approaches to disease. With this knowledge, you can become an active part of today’s dynamic healthcare network.
Complementary Studies

Complementary studies enrich and round out your professional TCM training. The Complementary Studies curriculum includes Energetics courses, introducing you to the ancient Chinese practices of Qigong and Taijiquan, and Career Development courses to prepare you to practice TCM professionally, ethically, and successfully.

Review and Assessment

At the end of each semester you will have the opportunity to review the materials you have learned and to receive assessment of your progress. This evaluation assists you in developing good study and test-taking skills, ensuring full comprehension of courses, and the ability to pass the national certification and the California licensing exams.

Specialty Certification

As an MTCM student, you can receive specialty certification in Sports Medicine, Medical Qigong, Five Element Acupuncture, and Tuina Massage to enhance and distinguish your TCM practice.

Electives and Externships

Up to 25% of your clinical training hours may be completed through an externship. The diverse externships we offer allow you to become exposed to different patient populations, treat a wide variety of conditions, and explore new fields of specialization. Multiple off-campus externships are offered by TCM practitioners in private practice throughout the Bay Area, and are also available in a community clinic setting—treating senior citizens, veterans of war, mental health patients, and those struggling with substance abuse. You may also choose to study abroad to experience the authentic practice of TCM integrated with modern Western medicine. Our relationship with five universities in China, Korea and Taiwan provide you with the opportunity to learn TCM from highly knowledgeable doctors and clinical experts, to receive training in a hospital setting, and to explore the beauty and diversity of Asia.

MTCM Educational Objectives

The educational objectives of the MTCM program provide guidelines for the development of the curriculum, assessment of the program’s quality and success, and the measurement of the achievements of our graduates. Upon completion of the program our graduates will be:

• Highly skilled TCM clinical practitioners who assist in the prevention and treatment of disease and effectively diagnose, prescribe and provide medical treatment within the parameters of Traditional Chinese Medicine and integrative medicine
• Primary healthcare providers with thorough knowledge and skills of the five branches of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture, Herbology, Tuina Massage, Energetics, Chinese Dietary Medicine) and the integrative components of Western medicine
• Competent in the assessment of patients and qualified to recognize medical conditions which require referrals of patients to other healthcare providers
• Qualified healthcare providers who understands the importance of adhering to universal and professional medical ethics, and the social responsibilities of providing primary healthcare to the public
• Capable of achieving high passing scores on the national board certification and the California acupuncture state licensing exams required to become a licensed acupuncturist (L.Ac.)
• Successful in establishing and managing a private practice or working as an integral part of a professional team of healthcare providers
**MASTER OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**170.5 Units**

- **3208 Hours**

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**Master of Acupuncture Program**

The Master of Acupuncture (MAc) program is specifically designed for the following individuals:
- Students who wish to practice outside California
- Students interested in developing a practice emphasizing acupuncture, including MDs and other licensed Western medical practitioners authorized to use acupuncture needles in the state of California.

The program includes both academic and clinical training, with a focus on practicing acupuncture in an integrative medical environment.

If you plan to practice in California, and are not an MD or licensed Western medical practitioner, you will need to complete the MTCM program which includes both acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine studies.

**Community Acupuncture Clinic**

The MAc program is designed for students who wish to develop a practice emphasizing acupuncture and especially for those interested in implementing the fast-growing community clinic model. The program includes instruction on how to establish and manage a community acupuncture clinic.

**Program Overview**

The Master of Acupuncture program is a three-year professional degree program consisting of 2208 hours and a total of 117.25 units. Students who have a Western science or Western medicine education can complete the program in two years. The curriculum is taught on a semester basis with clinical training and other designated courses continuing during the summer term.

Taught by highly accomplished faculty in TCM education, the curriculum is offered through the following seven academic and clinical departments:
- TCM Theory
- TCM Acupuncture
- TCM Clinical Medicine
- TCM Clinical Training
- Western Medicine
- Complementary Studies
- Review and Assessment

For detailed course descriptions refer to the MTCM Program section of the catalog and the applicable Master of Acupuncture Program Overview.

The MAc program meets the accreditation requirements of the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). Upon completion of the program you can become certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine as a Diplomate in Acupuncture, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM).
## MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**2208 Hours • 117.25 Units**

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*Course required for program, but not taught at Five Branches University and must be transferred in. If not taken prior to initial enrollment, may be taken concurrently at another institution. Must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is required in order to progress to the next semester.

**CCAOM Clean Needle Technique (8 hours) and American Red Cross or American Heart Association 8-hour CPR/First Aid for Adult/Child/Infant must be transferred in and completed to be eligible for Internship Rounds.

***Course recommended to be taken during summer term.
Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Program

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) program is designed for licensed acupuncturists who are interested in developing advanced TCM knowledge and skills, achieving a medical specialization, and gaining valuable experience in research and teaching.

As a DAOM student you will:
• Expand and refine your knowledge and expertise in TCM patient care
• Gain the clinical treatment skills needed to work in an integrative medical setting
• Build professional relationships with TCM clinicians and other healthcare providers
• Develop yourself as a leader in the field of TCM as a practitioner, teacher or researcher

The DAOM program is offered at the San Jose campus in both English and Chinese. The program is 1280 hours in length, comprising 614 didactic and 666 clinical hours. DAOM courses are offered once per month during four-day weekend intensives with a flexible clinical training schedule, allowing you to earn a doctorate degree in as little as 24 months while maintaining your private practice. The program features:

A Modern Integrative Medical Curriculum
Our modern integrative medical curriculum bridges the gap between TCM and biomedicine approaches, promoting cross-referrals and inter-disciplinary medicine. The program covers both the TCM and Western medicine perspective of a core TCM practice and each medical subspecialty.

Clinical Training with TCM and Western Medicine Experts
Receive extensive clinical training from renowned senior TCM practitioners and biomedicine experts from China, the U.S., and Europe in the following clinic environments: the Five Branches health centers, local community clinics and hospitals, major hospitals affiliated with our sister colleges in China.

Medical Specialization
The DAOM curriculum emphasizes advanced clinical TCM with broad exposure to family medicine, (the core of a L.Ac.’s practice), and the option to specialize in Women’s Health and Endocrinology, Neuromuscular Medicine and Pain Management, and Auricular Medicine.

Meets California and National CEU Requirements
Almost all DAOM courses offered throughout the year fulfill both California and national CEU requirements.

Research and Capstone Project
Learn how to assess evidence-based medicine, review new trends in TCM research and enhance your TCM scientific thinking skills. The capstone, an extensive research project in the final phase of the program, will allow you to demonstrate mastery in formal presentation, clinical evaluation and practice, and research capability. The capstone project, focused on your chosen field of specialization, will require quantitative and qualitative analyses as well as inductive and deductive research methods.

Earn a Ph.D. in China
Upon completion of the program, you will be awarded a Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine degree by Five Branches University. With an additional year of study, partially in China, you may earn a Ph.D. degree awarded by one of our sister colleges: Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The Ph.D. degree is acknowledged by foreign credentials review agencies as equivalent to a Ph.D. in the U.S.

Please Note: The course descriptions provided in this catalog pertain to the MTCM and MAc programs. For a list of DAOM courses, please consult the Five Branches DAOM catalog.
Jeffrey Pang, L.Ac.
Department Chair

The Traditional Chinese Medicine Theory curriculum provides you with a thorough knowledge of the language and theories of TCM’s unique, yet universal, approach to understanding health and the treatment of disease. Drawing from both classical and modern texts, the curriculum creates a solid framework for the application of clinical methods, including acupuncture and herbology.

TCM Foundations

MCT 100  4 Units/64 Hours
This course introduces the classical principles of Yin and Yang and the Five Elements, which were universal laws in ancient China. TCM theory applies these broad principles to the realm of human physiology and pathology in a complex and powerful system for understanding the intricate balance of health. The major TCM theories systematically covered include: Qi, Blood, Body Fluids, Shen, Essence, Zangfu Organs, Six Pernicious Influences, Four Levels, Six Stages and Eight Parameters. Etiology, pathogenesis, and TCM treatment principles of disease and disease prevention will be covered in detail. This course is the foundation for all other TCM coursework.

Prerequisite: None

Course requisite: Completion during first semester

TCM History & Philosophy

MCT 110  1 Unit/16 Hours
This course presents a brief historical overview of the origin, development and changes in regard to Chinese medicine theories and practices. Students will gain an understanding, without being medically or clinically specific, of the larger and broader spectrum of TCM from antiquity to present.

Prerequisite: None

Chinese Language for TCM

MCT 130  1 Unit/16 Hours
This course is a general introduction to the spoken and written modern Chinese language (Putonghua or Mandarin). Emphasis will be placed on pronunciation (tones and Pinyin system), essential TCM-related vocabulary and basic syntactical structures.

Prerequisite: None

TCM Diagnosis/Lab

MCT 200/MCT 201  5 Units/80 Hours
This course begins with thorough instruction in the four diagnostic methods: inspection, inquiring, auscultation/olfaction and palpation. These methods are the backbone of TCM diagnosis and are used to collect and organize patients’ signs and symptoms. Among them, complexion, pulse, and tongue diagnosis are unique methods in TCM. The course continues with in-depth instruction on methods of pattern identification, one of the most important characteristics of TCM. The lab focuses on assisting students in acquiring skill, accuracy and confidence in performing a patient history and physical exam using TCM assessment methods.

Prerequisite: MCT 100, TCM Foundations

Course requisite: Completion during second semester

Classics: Nei Jing

MCT 301  2 Units/32 Hours
This is the first course in a series of three that reviews important classical literature on Chinese medicine. In this course, the essential concepts of the Nei Jing (The Canon of Internal Medicine) will be presented from translations of the original articles. Nei Jing is attributed to the legendary Huang Di (Yellow Emperor) and serves as the source for TCM diagnosis and acupuncture theory, covering Yin/Yang, Five Elements, Zang organs and their manifestations, and channels and their networks. The theories of pathogens and pathomechanisms, clinical diseases and symptoms, diagnostic methods, therapeutic principles and methods, and the theory of health preservation will be reviewed. The teacher and student work together to understand the true meaning of this ancient Chinese medical text.

Prerequisite: MCT 100, TCM Foundations; MCT 200/MCT 201, TCM Diagnosis/Lab

I am dedicated to bringing the Five Element tradition, with its emphasis on the emotional and spiritual levels, to a predominantly TCM institution. I see this approach as complementary, expanding the range of conditions that can be addressed in the treatment room. I appreciate the academic freedom I have at Five Branches to bring in Jungian psychology, spiritual poetry and other sources.

Dr. Gary Dolowich, Professor
TCM Case Studies I
■ MCT 401  2 Units/32 Hours

TCM Case Studies I is designed to assist with the transition from academic knowledge to its application in clinical practice, reinforcing the basics of case analysis by teaching students how to systematically analyze case reports using fundamental TCM theory and diagnosis. Students learn how to analyze a chief complaint by looking at accompanying signs and symptoms and results from four examinations. Students gain increased skill in differentiating among similar patterns of disease. The focus of this course is on developing diagnostic ability, from which treatment plans are established. The case reports are selected from the clinic or established TCM texts for presentation and class discussion. Students will learn the proper format for written and oral case presentations.

Co-requisite: Concurrent enrollment in one of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III

Classics: Shang Han Lun
■ MCT 501  2 Units/32 Hours

This is the second course in a series of three courses that reviews important classical literature on Chinese medicine. The medical classic *Shang Han Lun*, was a text compiled in the late Han dynasty approximately 2000 years ago, which discussed conditions induced by cold. *Shang Han Lun* utilizes the six-channel pattern identification of diseases and relies almost exclusively on herbal formulas for treatments.

Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III

Classics: Jin Gui
■ MCT 601  2 Units/32 Hours

This is the third course in the series which reviews important classical literature on Chinese medicine. *Jin Gui Yao Lue* (The Essential Prescriptions of the Golden Chamber) was written by Zhang Zhong Jing approximately 1700 years ago. Students will learn the main theoretical concepts and herbal prescriptions of the major diseases in the book as they apply to clinical use.

Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III

TCM Case Studies II
■ MCT 801  2 Units/32 Hours

In this course, students gain advanced skill in TCM pattern discrimination, using TCM theory, diagnoses and detailed treatment planning, including acupuncture and herbal treatment prescriptions. Western diagnostic tests are included in case analysis. The emphasis of the course is on critical thinking and diagnostic ability with complex cases, ensuring students reach a correct diagnosis and understand its supporting logic, including the ability to distinguish among similar TCM patterns of disharmony. This is a comprehensive course which utilizes the knowledge and skills attained throughout the four-year curriculum, and prepares students for advanced clinical practice, and the CALE and NCCAOM examinations. The course utilizes case studies from the clinic and from standard TCM textbooks. Students will be required to present a case to the class for discussion and evaluation.

Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III
**Electives**

The following is a partial list of electives offered in the Department of TCM Theory. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives please refer to the Five Branches University website.

**Advanced Nei Jing**  
MEL 502  2 Units/32 Hours  
This course covers the original text and commentary for Huang Di Nei Jing, providing clarification of the theories of Yin and Yang, the Five Elements, and their application to diagnosis. Acupuncture treatment protocols according to Huang Di Nei Jing’s theory will be discussed, as well as the exploration of the Five Yun and Six Qi.  
*Prerequisite: MCT 301, Classics: Nei Jing*

**Five Element**  
Five Element electives may be taken in the Department of TCM Theory, while also completing the requirements for the Five Element certificate program. For detailed information about the Five Element courses and certificate please refer to the Specialty Certificate Options section of the catalog.

**Five Element Theory I**  
MEL 315, 2 units, 32 Hours  

**Five Element Theory II**  
MEL 420, 2 units, 32 Hours  

**Five Element Spirit of the Points I–III**  
MEL 431–433, 6 units, 96 Hours  

**Five Element Deepening Into the Officials**  
MEL 440, 2 units, 32 Hours  

**Five Element Point Location**  
MEL 445, 1 unit, 16 Hours  

**Five Element Archetypal Acupuncture**  
MEL 450, 2 units, 32 Hours  

As an educator, I enjoy helping the TCM system grow and become popular in the U.S., preserving this traditional treasure of human beings, and developing a new and better medical system in the U.S. and world.

Jeffrey Pang,  
Professor,  
Department Chair
The Traditional Chinese Medicine Acupuncture curriculum is divided into didactic and lab sections, emphasizing both the theoretical and practical aspects of acupuncture. TCM Acupuncture courses provide you with a thorough knowledge of traditional and modern meridian theory, including point location, functions, indications and treatment planning. The curriculum includes thorough training in moxibustion, cupping, Guasha, and electrical stimulation. Clinical labs concentrate on accuracy, needling methods, technique and precautions.

**Introduction to Channel Theory**
- **MAC 110**  1 Unit/16 Hours

Chinese medicine theory includes two major systems: Zang-Fu theory and channel theory. The focus is on the 12 regular channels taught in three-paired circulation cycles (Taiyang and Yangming, Shaoyang and Taiyin, and Shaoyin and Jueyin), plus the Du and Ren channels. Each channel will be covered from the aspect of primary passage, luo connecting channel, divergent channel, and muscular channel. Pathology will be emphasized so students learn to recognize the pathological patterns of individual channels, choosing the appropriate channel to treat the pathology.

*Prerequisite: None*

**Meridians and Acupuncture Points I & II/ Lab**
- **MAC 220/MAC 230; MAC 320/MAC 330**  6 Units/96 Hours

This two-semester course sequence presents the acupuncture points of the twelve main meridians, plus the Du and Ren channels. Each meridian and acupuncture point is covered in detail, including functions, indications, location, distribution and clinical applications. The lab focuses on accurate point location and needling techniques. Contraindications and precautions of specific points are emphasized throughout the course.

*Prerequisite: None*

**TCM Tuina Massage I**
- **MAC 350**  3 Units/48 Hours

Massage and manipulation, or Tuina, comprise one of the traditional five branches of TCM. Although the TCM program emphasizes the clinical methods of acupuncture and herbology, this course introduces students to various traditional Chinese therapeutic massage systems, including Tuina. Emphasis is on using specific clinical evaluations to formulate therapeutic massage treatments, which may become a part of clinical practice.

*Prerequisite: MWM 103, Human Anatomy*
CNT: Clean Needle Technique

■ CNT 0.5 Units/8 Hours

This course is a review of material previously introduced in the Beginning Clinical Theater and Meridians and Acupuncture I courses. Students will learn the appropriate procedures of sterilization and sanitation as they apply to the practice of acupuncture. Proper clean needle technique and disposal of needles are covered. Completion of this course is required for entry into Clinical Intern Rounds. Students are required to take a written and practical examination; passing both examinations satisfies the requirements of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) and enables the student to receive their CNT certificate, which is required for the licensing examinations.

Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MAC 220/MAC 230, Meridians and Acupuncture Points I/Lab; MAC 320/MAC 330, Meridians and Acupuncture Points II/Lab

Acupuncture Techniques

■ MAC 420 2 Units/32 Hours

This course covers the full range of an acupuncture treatment from basic preparation, clean field, sterilization and safety, to complex needling techniques. The different types of needle and clinical applications are discussed in the classroom and practiced in the lab, including electrical stimulation, cupping, moxibustion, and Guasha. Students will learn to insert needles painlessly, bring qi to the points, use different types of needles to treat corresponding illnesses, be proficient in ancillary techniques, such as cupping, moxibustion, electrical acupuncture and Guasha, and understand the mechanism of acupuncture treatment.

Prerequisites: MAC 220/MAC 230, Meridians and Acupuncture Points I/Lab; MAC 320/MAC 330, Meridians and Acupuncture Points II/Lab

Extra Points and Microsystems/Lab

■ MAC 510/MAC 520 3 (1.5 and 1.5) Units/48 Hours

This course presents the extra meridians and their associated acupuncture points. Ear and scalp acupuncture and over 40 extra points are covered in detail along with their clinical applications. The lab focuses on accurate point location and special ear and scalp needle techniques.

Prerequisites: MAC 220/MAC 230, Meridians and Acupuncture Points I/Lab; MAC 320/MAC 330, Meridians and Acupuncture Points II/Lab

Acupuncture Therapeutics I & II

■ MAC 601/MAC 701 5 Units/80 Hours

This course reviews treatment principles and methods according to channel theory, with a focus on acupuncture point selection for internal medicine conditions. The focus of this course is the in-depth study of the texts: Chinese Acupuncture and Moxibustion (CAM), and Acupuncture: A Comprehensive Text (Shanghai). The course complements the TCM Internal Medicine courses and provides students with a comprehensive view of how to apply different TCM theories for diagnosis, and how to select the most appropriate treatment methods for the same conditions.

Prerequisites: MAC 220/MAC 230, Meridians and Acupuncture Points I/Lab; MAC 320/MAC 330, Meridians and Acupuncture Points II/Lab; MCM 510, Internal Medicine I or MCM 730, Internal Medicine II
**Electives**

The following is a partial list of electives offered in the Department of TCM Acupuncture. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives, please refer to the Five Branches University website.

**TCM Tuina Massage II**

- **MEL 400** 2 Units/32 Hours

Tuina Massage II may be taken in the Department of TCM Acupuncture, while also completing the requirements for the Tuina Massage certificate program. For detailed information about the Tuina massage courses and certificate please refer to the Specialty Certificate Options section of the catalog.

Prerequisite: MAC 350, TCM Tuina Massage I

**Advanced Channel Theory**

- **MEL 416** 1 Unit/16 Hours

This course is designed to help you learn to detect the flow of channel Qi and integrate this information with tongue, pulse and symptom-based diagnostics. You will gain a deeper understanding of the actual flow-paths of primary channels, including the divergent channels, and will learn the channel flow theory that determines the needling methods for channel blockages brought about by scar tissue.

Prerequisite: MAC 110, Introduction to Channel Theory

**Kiiko Techniques**

- **MEL 560** 3 Units/48 Hours

Kiiko style acupuncture utilizes a systematic, easy to learn, instantaneous feedback, palpatory method, revealing a comprehensive diagnosis and a patient-unique treatment plan. By looking deeply into structural and/or constitutional imbalances underlying a patient’s symptomatic complaints, a Kiiko practitioner is able to successfully solve difficult cases and treat the most complex medical issues. In this course, you will learn the basic skills needed for abdominal, neck and back diagnosis, and their application on constitutional pathologies, regardless of the patient’s major complaint. The root cause of a patient’s inability to heal will be discussed and treatment strategies demonstrated.

Prerequisite: MAC 420, Acupuncture Techniques

**Advanced Needling Techniques**

- **MEL 621** .5 Unit/8 Hours

An eight-hour, one-day seminar on advanced forms of needling techniques, with a one-hour lecture/one-hour lab rotation. This course covers the butterfly, turtle, and Dr. Lu’s special techniques.

Prerequisite: MAC 510/520, Extra Points & Microsystems/Lab

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*Demonstrating ear acupuncture*
Chinese herbology is the world’s most sophisticated medical herbal system. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Herbology curriculum includes extensive training in the identification, categorization and clinical use of the traditional Chinese herbal pharmacopoeia. Six semesters of in-depth herbology study provide you with a solid working knowledge of more than 500 individual herbs and more than 350 classical and modern formulas. Advanced courses instruct you how to modify and enhance classical formulas in response to specific variants in a patient’s diagnosed condition. All herb courses are taught using the Pinyin names of herbs.

TCM Herbology I, II & III

- MHB 100/MHB 200/MHB 310 9 Units/144 Hours

This three-semester course sequence provides students with knowledge of TCM herbology, including general theory, treatment methods, categorization, taste, temperature, entering meridians, indications, and the laws of herbal combining. Students will learn over 350 single herbs, including clinical use, contraindications, and methods of preparation and delivery. Current research in the field of TCM herbology will augment lectures. This knowledge will serve as a foundation for the TCM Formula courses.

Prerequisite: None

TCM Formulas I, II & III

- MHB 410/MHB 520/MHB 610 7 Units/112 Hours

The art of Chinese herbology lies in the practitioner’s ability to combine herbs into a balanced formula tailored to meet each patient’s singular pattern of signs and symptoms. During this three-semester course sequence in TCM Formulas, students will implement the knowledge they have acquired in the single herbs courses, and TCM differential diagnosis, to understand how a formula is designed. The formulas are taught in functionally related categories. Students will study approximately 250 herbal formulas including: formula composition, functions, clinical indications, modifications and contraindications.

Prerequisites: MHB 100, TCM Herbology I; MHB 200, TCM Herbology II; MHB 310, TCM Herbology III
**TCM Dietetics**

**MHB 530  2 Units/32 Hours**

Since the beginning of TCM, great physicians understood the profound influence of diet on human health. This course introduces theories of TCM dietetics and surveys the TCM functions and properties of common foods, the dietary programs appropriate for the treatment of prevalent TCM disharmonies, and their effect on health and longevity. Effective food combinations and recipes are provided for the treatment of common diseases, and to enhance general well being.

*Prerequisites: MHB 100, TCM Herbology I; MHB 200, TCM Herbology II; MHB 310, TCM Herbology III*

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**TCM Patent Medicines**

**MHB 620  1.5 Units/24 Hours**

This is an invaluable course for students and every clinician using herbal pills and prepared solutions. The course covers major TCM syndromes and the patent herbs used to treat them. The lectures include the differential analysis of patent herbs used for the same diagnosis, recommended dosages for both adults and children, and contraindications. Much of the information presented is derived from various Chinese texts and clinical expertise, and will not be found in any textbook. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the functions of over 150 prepared Chinese patent herbs and solutions and how to properly prescribe them.

*Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III*

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**Herbal-Pharmaceutical Drugs Interactions**

**MHB 700  0.5 Units/8 Hours**

This course addresses the increasing concern among the medical community, including TCM practitioners who prescribe medicinal herbs, regarding toxic biomedical interactions between pharmaceutical drugs and natural products, such as Chinese medicinal herbs. The course reviews the biomedical nature of herbs and the potential interaction between them and commonly used pharmaceutical drugs and nutritional supplements. The course includes the critical analysis of literature and research reports of herb/drug interactions.

*Prerequisites: MHB 100, TCM Herbology I; MHB 200, TCM Herbology II; MHB 310, TCM Herbology III; MWM 620, Pharmacology*

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**Electives**

The following is a partial list of electives offered in the Department of TCM Herbology. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives please refer to the Five Branches University website.

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**Herb Walk**

**MEL 483  .5 Unit/8 Hours**

Join highly experienced faculty and herbologists on an herb walk at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden or the Henry Cowell Fall Creek State Park in Felton to learn how to identify important medicinal plants used in Chinese medicine. You will walk one to two miles on mostly flat terrain and dirt trails seeing over a dozen medicinal and/or edible species such as: huckleberry, Aralia (a relative of ginseng), nettles, lemon balm, and Asarum, a local variety of Xixin.

*Prerequisite: None*
The courses in TCM Theory, Acupuncture and Herbology teach you the basic principles of Chinese medicine pattern differentiation and treatment, including the study of common functions and indications of herbs, formulas and acupuncture points. However, this knowledge alone is not enough to fully diagnose and treat disease. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinical Medicine curriculum expands on this knowledge, providing you with advanced skills in diagnosing and treating disease in the specialized fields of TCM internal medicine, external medicine, gynecology, pediatrics, traumatology, and orthopedics. Training includes detailed instruction of herbal and acupuncture treatment plans for both common and complex diseases. These courses lay the foundation for your clinical practice.

TCM Traumatology and Orthopedics
■ MCM 410 3 Units/48 Hours
This course covers the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of common diseases of the musculo-skeletal system in accordance with both TCM and Western medicine. Emphasis is placed on the differentiation of bone and soft tissue injuries related to common sports and industrial injuries. You will learn to treat patients with acupuncture and herbs, perform essential orthopedic tests to evaluate the outcome of treatments, recognize red flags in orthopedics, and make appropriate referrals. You will learn how to competently instruct patients in the proper rehabilitation and the prevention of sports and industrial injuries.
Prerequisite: MAC 510/MAC 520, Extra Points and Microsystems/Lab

TCM Internal Medicine I & II
■ MCM 510/MCM 730 6 Units/96 Hours
This two-semester course sequence reviews the history of TCM internal medicine, the mechanisms of disease, the principles of making a diagnosis, and the common treatment methods associated with making a diagnosis. Etiology, pathogenesis, and signs and symptoms of common disease patterns of internal medicine will be reviewed. Students will learn to diagnose common internal medicine diseases from TCM and Western medicine perspectives, identify their patterns, and devise appropriate treatment plans using acupuncture and herbal formulations with appropriate modifications.
Prerequisites: MHB 100, TCM Herbology I; MHB 200, TCM Herbology II; MHB 310, TCM Herbology III; MAC220/MAC 230, Meridians and Acupuncture Points I/Lab; MAC 320/MAC 330, Meridians and Acupuncture Points II/Lab

TCM Gynecology
■ MCM 630 3 Units/48 Hours
This course presents both Western and TCM knowledge of gynecology. Differential diagnosis of the most common gynecological concerns and disharmonies are covered in detail, including common menstrual disharmonies, such as irregularity, leukorrhea, PID, PMS, infertility, pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. Emphasis is placed on the common complaints of women and the TCM herbal and acupuncture treatments for these disharmonies. Contraindications during pregnancy are also covered. The course includes training in the use of Western diagnostic reports in relation to hormonal cycles.
Prerequisites: Completion of two of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III
TCM External Medicine
■ MCM 810 2 Units/32 Hours
This course teaches students the treatment of common diseases in external medicine according to both TCM and Western disease categorizations. In studying each disease, students learn its etiology and pathogenesis, syndrome differentiation (patterns), treatment principles and corresponding treatment therapies, using both herbs and acupuncture.

Prerequisites: Completion of two of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III

TCM Pediatrics
■ MCM 820 3 Units/48 Hours
This course emphasizes common complaints of children, and the TCM theories, herbal, acupuncture and pediatric Tuina treatments that apply to the special circumstances of children. Child development, specific patent formulas for children, herbs for breast-feeding moms to pass onto the baby, respiratory ailments, enuresis, special children's disharmonies such as ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), and TCM health recommendations for children, will be reviewed in the course.

Prerequisites: Completion of two of the following: MHB 410, TCM Formulas I; MHB 520, TCM Formulas II; MHB 610, TCM Formulas III

Electives
The following is a partial list of electives offered in the Department of TCM Clinical Medicine. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives please refer to the Five Branches University website.

Advanced TCM Gynecology
■ MEL 600 2 Units/32 Hours
This case-study-based course examines the clinical applications of theories and treatment modalities introduced in TCM Gynecology, emphasizing the care of female patients during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum. In this course, you will review the signs, symptoms, indications and contraindications for acupuncture and herbal treatment for pregnant women and new mothers. Current gynecological research provided by integrative medicine hospitals in China for conditions including: infertility, ovarian atrophy, endometriosis and amenorrhea, will be covered in detail.

Prerequisite: MCM 630, TCM Gynecology

TCM Oncology
■ MEL 610 2 Units/32 Hours
The use of acupuncture to support patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy is well documented for its success. This course will introduce the theory and pathogenesis of cancer mechanisms from a TCM perspective. TCM treatment modalities for cancer as well as detoxification methods for chemo-radiation therapy are covered in detail. Case studies will also be presented.

Prerequisite: Completion of 6th semester

Advanced TCM Trauma and Orthopedics
■ MEL 700 2 Units/32 Hours
Sports Medicine electives may be taken in the Department of Traditional Chinese Clinical Medicine, while also completing the requirements for the Sports Medicine certificate program. For detailed information about the Sports Medicine courses and certificate please refer to the Specialty Certificate Options section of the catalog.

Prerequisite: MRA 600, Cumulative Review III
Modern practitioners of TCM must have a fundamental understanding of Western medicine to effectively communicate with medical doctors and other healthcare professionals. Western Medicine studies are an integral part of the curriculum providing knowledge of Western diagnosis and pharmaceuticals, necessary to make appropriate referrals and to provide the best care possible for your patients. Introduced to the basic methods of Western diagnosis, you will learn the fundamental vocabulary used in diagnostic analysis and the clinical methods used in Western medical approaches to disease. With this knowledge, you can become an active part of today’s dynamic healthcare network.

Our Western medicine department is enhanced by our educational and clinical relationship with Stanford University and the doctoral residency program we have with Stanford and O’Connor hospitals. These professional relationships not only benefit you as a student but also contribute to a better understanding and acceptance of TCM in the West.

**General Biology**  
**MWM 101** 3 Units/48 Hours  
This course covers the basics of the chemistry of life, molecular and cellular biology, structure and function of organisms, reproduction and development, genetics, evolution and ecology (the relations of organisms to each other and to their environment). This course, with emphasis on human biology, provides a solid basis for further biomedical studies with knowledge of vocabulary, concepts, and skills.  
**Prerequisite:** None

**Human Anatomy**  
**MWM 103** 3 Units/48 Hours  
This course gives an introduction to the study of human structure. This includes examination of cells, tissues, organs, systems and their interrelationships. Structural components of all physiological systems including nervous, endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, excretory, reproductive, immune systems and those involved in human movement will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on the nervous system and musculoskeletal system, which are particularly important in acupuncture. Human skeletons, anatomical charts, models and full color digital images will be used for demonstration.  
**Prerequisite:** None

**Western Medical Terminology**  
**MWM 110** 1 Unit/16 Hours  
This course introduces students to the basic principles, concepts and terminology of modern Western medicine.  
**Prerequisite:** None

**Medical Physiology**  
**MWM 203** 3 Units/48 Hours  
This course outlines the principles of human physiology, general properties and functions of the living cell and the internal environment. The course will systematically cover the nervous, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, renal, reproductive and endocrine systems, with an emphasis placed on the interrelationships among the systems. Additionally, students will learn about metabolism and homeostasis, and the diseases of the body systems.

With the knowledge of human physiology, students will build a solid foundation for further study of human disease.  
**Prerequisites:** MWM 101, General Biology; MWM 103, Human Anatomy; MWM 110, Western Medical Terminology

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I like the interaction with the students, being able to share my knowledge and experience with them, as well as learning from their experience. I like encouraging people to let their gifts shine.  
Five Branches University is a fun and stimulating place to learn, both as a student and a teacher. It is in a great location, with the beach one block away. The students are all so unique and come from many different backgrounds, so they have life experiences that contribute to their healing education. It is an honor to work with them.

Sally Lewis, Professor
Chemistry
■ MWM 204  3 Units/48 Hours
This introductory course explores various topics of inorganic chemistry including the periodic table of elements, atomic structure of matter, nuclear chemistry, molecular bonding, atomic quantum numbers and orbitals, equilibrium states, acid/base chemistry and thermodynamics. The basic organic chemistry of alkanes and unsaturated hydrocarbons will also be examined throughout the course.
Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Physics
■ MWM 301  2 Units/32 Hours
Designed for health science students, this is an introductory course on physics with minimum calculations. It will conceptually explore various topics of physics, including: motions and forces of a body, properties of matter, heat, sound, light, and electricity and magnetism. Basic atomic and nuclear physics, as well as the theory of relativity will be introduced.
Prerequisite: None

Pathophysiology I & II
■ MWM 310/MWM 410  6 Units/96 Hours
Pathophysiology is the study of the mechanism of disease in humans from a western medical perspective. In this two-semester course sequence, students receive a brief overview of healthy physiology of the body’s major systems, focusing on disease processes and the body's attempt to adapt to them. These courses link western anatomy, physiology and biochemistry to clinical practice. The first course will cover infectious, psychiatric, hematological, cardiac and pulmonary diseases. In the second course, students learn about selected diseases in the departments of oncology, neurology, rheumatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, musculoskeletal and nephrology.
Prerequisites: MWM 110, Western Medical Terminology; MWM 103, Human Anatomy; MWM 203, Medical Physiology

Immunology
■ MWM 315  1 Unit/16 Hours
This course begins with a review of basic immunology. Subsequently, the principles of immunology will be applied to enhance the understanding of various autoimmune diseases. The pharmacology of vaccines, immune-modulating drugs, herbs and supplements will also be discussed.
Prerequisite: MWM 203, Human Physiology

CPR/ First Aid
■ CFA  0.5 Units/8 Hours
This is a required class that students must take through an outside provider. Completion of this course is required before entry into Intern Rounds. Upon completion of this course, students will have certification in CPR and First Aid and will have the necessary skills to respond to emergencies within the clinic.
Prerequisite: None

Public Health and Epidemiology
■ MWM 412  2 Units/32 Hours
This course explores the impact of disease and wellness in regard to populations. Factors in epidemiology such as prevalence of incidence of disease in given populations and sensitivity and specificity of tests in diagnosis will be discussed. Environmental, socio-economical and cultural factors that contribute to health and illness in our society will be explored, as well as the role of evidence-based medicine. Particular emphasis is paid to the ways TCM practitioners interface with, and are affected by this system. Topics will include the effects of economics on the current health care system, especially to the underprivileged segments of population and the role of L.Ac.’s in the public health setting.
Prerequisite: Completion of 3rd semester
Western Physical Examination /Lab

■ MWM 520  3.5 Units/56 Hours

In this course, students are instructed in Western methods of information gathering and evaluation. They will study and perform adult history and physical exams, including the use of blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes. Laboratory tests and x-rays are presented and discussed and students will gain a basic understanding of their use and results. The course also covers how and when to make referrals to other providers, as well as how to recognize and respond in emergency situations. Students will be required to give an oral and written presentation of a patient’s history and physical exam.

Prerequisites: MWM 310, Pathophysiology I; MWM 410, Pathophysiology II

Diet, Nutrition and Vitamins

■ MWM 530  2 Units/32 Hours

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the fundamentals of human nutrition and how excess or deficiency of essential nutrients affects our health throughout life. Students will learn digestion and assimilation, including useful assessment tools and lab tests, and how to counsel patients on developing a healthy diet. There will also be a discussion of vitamins and minerals, recommended intake, the role of diet in the various stages of the life cycle, the way chronic disease is influenced by excessive or deficient states, and the bio-variability of needs among different patients. The course will cover special issues like food allergies, detoxification, and weight loss as well as possible nutritional approaches to illness commonly encountered in clinical practice.

Prerequisite: MWM 204, Chemistry

Western Case Management I & II

■ MWM 610/MWM 710  6 Units/96 Hours

This two-semester course sequence is intended to help students bring together information from all prior Western medicine classes. Symptoms and signs, and X-ray and laboratory results will be analyzed. Students will study musculoskeletal, respiratory, gastrointestinal, endocrine, cardiovascular, dermatological, urinary, menstrual, and psychosomatic conditions. Students will be required to derive a list of differential diagnosis, including assignment of ICD-9 codes. Particular emphasis will be placed on conditions commonly encountered in an acupuncture practice. Recognizing red flags, indicating a serious disorder, will be covered in detail. Students will learn when to refer to other healthcare providers, and how to treat patients from an integrative perspective. Students will be required to present one case study, with written analysis, as part of the course assignment.

Prerequisite: MWM 520, Western Physical Examination/Lab

Pharmacology

■ MWM 620  3 Units/48 Hours

This course is designed to familiarize students with the use of Western pharmaceutical drugs. The lectures will focus on the categorizations of the Western pharmacopoeia, and the broad principles and mechanisms of action of drugs commonly used in a Western paradigm. A large percentage of patients seeking TCM care will already be taking prescription medications, and this course offers the student an opportunity to understand how these drugs are used in the treatment of disease.

Prerequisites: MWM 310, Pathophysiology I; MWM 410, Pathophysiology II

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Students practicing
Western diagnostics
Research

MWM 712  2 Units/32 Hours

In this course students will learn the elements of doing research in the biomedical field. The following concepts will be covered: basic and literature research papers, clinical trials, blinding and research design, forming and testing hypotheses. The element of writing and implementing research proposals will also be covered including relevance of the study, materials and methods, and conclusions and basis statistical analyses. Students will be introduced to the various methods of evaluating research literature. The class will discuss special problems arising from the application of modern research methods on acupuncture and oriental medicine. A research paper or an evaluation of a TCM research report will be required to unify the student’s knowledge gained in the course.

Prerequisites: MWM 520, Western Physical Examination/Lab; MWM 620, Pharmacology

Red Flags

MWM 715  2 Units/32 Hours

In this course students review signs and symptoms indicating severe or life threatening emergencies that warrant referral to a Western physician. Instruction includes appropriate assessments and interventions including lab and common diagnostic information. The course includes training in proper management of “red flags” and “yellow flags” and the proper procedures for making referrals to other physicians. The procedures for referral include determining whether the referral is to an ER or an outpatient clinic. In addition, the course reviews how to handle simple emergencies within the acupuncture clinic.

Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MWM 610, Western Case Management I; MWM 710, Western Case Management II

Psychology and Counseling

MWM 720  2 Units/32 Hours

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to evaluate and treat clients with mental disorders. The class introduces the psychotherapeutic diagnostic system (DSM IV-TR) and the vocabulary to empower practitioners to more effectively interact with western clinicians. The course covers suicide, psychosis, chemical dependency, depression, anxiety and the psychopharmacology used in western medicine. Emphasis is placed on developing solid boundaries, interviewing and communication skills, and setting up a safe and trusting environment. The course presents an introduction to western counseling skills and also addresses eastern influences on counseling. Various modalities of psychotherapy are presented.

Prerequisites: MWM 520, Western Physical Examination/Lab; MWM 620, Pharmacology

Lab Analysis

MWM 815  1 Unit/16 Hours

This course is an exploration of Western laboratory approaches to diagnosis. The class will review routine labs applicable to major body systems. Lab tests will be correlated with clinical diseases. The class will discuss lab methodology, normal values, variation in laboratory results as well as the limitations and power of lab findings.

Prerequisite: MWM 520, Western Physical Examination/Lab

Medical Modalities

MWM 820  1 Unit/16 Hours

Patients are best served when their practitioners are part of a wider network of information and support. This course introduces students to guest practitioners representing various medical philosophies, histories and medical professions in the healthcare community. Guest speakers will discuss their medical philosophy, educational background, scope of practice, type of diagnosis and services offered, and how they manage their practice. The professions represented may include a general practitioner (M.D.), surgeon, pharmacist, chiropractor, neurologist, podiatrist, osteopath, gynecologist, oncologist, public healthcare nurse, homeopath, naturopath, shaman, and ayurvedic practitioner.

Prerequisite: Completion of 4th semester
In-depth clinical training comprises approximately one-third of the Master’s curriculum, preparing you to practice the theoretical knowledge you gained in the classroom. Throughout the program, starting in your first semester, you will observe a faculty-practitioner diagnosing and treating patients. In your last year, you will diagnose and treat patients with acupuncture, Chinese herbs and other methods of the five branches, under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The Five Branches medical centers in Santa Cruz and San Jose assist over 160 patients a day, allowing you to experience working with highly skilled faculty in a busy clinical environment and to gain hands-on experience working with patients. By the end of clinical training, you will have performed at least 350 patient treatments, a basic requirement for graduation.

**Beginning Clinical Theater**

- **MCL 100**
  - 1.5 Units/48 Hours

In Beginning Clinical Theater, newly enrolled students receive a comprehensive introduction and orientation to the clinic’s protocols on patient care, safety, herb formula preparation and patient records. This is students’ first opportunity to see how TCM theory and practice are combined. In each class, scheduled patients are interviewed, diagnosed and treated by faculty, as students observe. Following each patient’s intake, diagnosis and treatment, a general forum-discussion of the patient’s case is conducted. Students begin learning professional conduct within this clinical setting: how to take a patient’s medical history, and how to create and maintain patient records. Students observe all aspects of treating patients as a TCM professional, including diagnostic data gathering, syndrome identification, treatment planning, herb prescription formulation, and acupuncture needling techniques. Students also participate in the preparation of herbal formulas.

*Prerequisite: None*

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*Surrender yourself humbly; then you can be trusted to care for all things.*

—DAODEJING 13
Clinical Theater

■ MCL 200      1.5 Units/48 Hours

This class is a continuation of Beginning Clinical Theater. Conducted in a classroom setting, students will have the opportunity to see how TCM theory and practice are combined. In each class, scheduled patients are interviewed, diagnosed and treated by faculty as students observe. Following each patient’s intake, diagnosis and treatment, a general forum-discussion of the patient’s case is conducted. Students begin learning professional conduct within this clinical setting: how to take a patient’s medical history, and how to create and maintain patient records. Students observe all aspects of treating patients as a TCM professional, including diagnostic data gathering, syndrome identification, treatment planning, herb prescription formulation, and acupuncture needle techniques. Students also participate in the preparation of herbal formulas.

Prerequisite: MCL 100, Beginning Clinical Theater

Clinical Rounds

■ MCL 300      4.5 Units/144 Hours

Clinical Rounds provides students with experience in observing and assisting licensed faculty practitioners in interviewing, diagnosing and treating patients. In Rounds, four to five students follow a practitioner, treating patients in the school’s teaching clinic. Students participate in taking and recording a patient’s history and exam. Students take the patient’s pulses and observe the patient’s tongue to understand the instructor’s diagnosis, choice of acupuncture treatment and herbal prescription. This close assistantship is invaluable in the study of TCM. Students will learn how to fill an herbal prescription from the clinic’s pharmacy and give patients instructions regarding its preparation and use. Students are evaluated on their knowledge and their developing patient skills.

Prerequisites: MCL 200, Clinical Theater; MRA 200, Cumulative Review I

Clinical Internship Rounds

■ MCL 400      4.5 Units/144 Hours

In Clinical Internship Rounds, students advance to hands-on treatments in a clinical setting under the direct supervision of a licensed practitioner. A small, intimate group of students attend to the patient’s intake and treatment with constant monitoring by a licensed faculty supervisor, who develops a diagnosis and treatment strategy. Students will learn to treat patients with a variety of TCM modalities, and prepare formulas or prescribe patent herbs, under the direct supervision of a licensed faculty supervisor. Clinical Internship Rounds is designed to provide a setting for the students to develop comprehensive clinical skills in preparation for Internship.

Prerequisites: MCL 300, Clinical Rounds; CNT: Clean Needle Technique; CPR/First Aid
Clinical Paired Internship

MCL 510  4.5 Units/144 Hours

Clinical Paired Internship is the next level in the clinical hands-on training, preparing students for senior Internship. In Paired Internship, students work in pairs and alternate in conducting the patient history, intake, diagnosis and treatment of their patients. In this setting, students collaborate in the development of the patient’s diagnosis and treatment plan, and the presentation of their patient’s case to their faculty supervisor.

Prerequisites: MCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds; MRA 400, Cumulative Review II

Clinical Internship

MCL 600  12 Units/384 Hours

Clinical training at Five Branches University culminates with Clinical Internship. Clinical Internship is designed to simulate an actual clinical environment, in which students diagnose, treat and develop long-range treatment goals and plans for their patients. Interns work independently under a licensed clinical faculty supervisor who is there to answer questions and provide recommendations and support as needed. Clinical Internship imparts the ultimate clinical educational condition for students, in which autonomy with patients is supported by the guidance and wisdom of experienced licensed faculty members. Students will be able, upon licensure, to treat patients unsupervised with confidence and expertise.

Prerequisite: MCL 510, Clinical Paired Internship

Clinical Integrative Theater

MCL 800  1.5 Units/48 Hours

A member of the Western faculty and the TCM faculty will supervise up to nine interns. In rotating groups of three, interns will perform the history and relevant examination of a patient from both Western and Eastern perspectives, and develop an assessment and plan from each perspective. The diagnosis and the plan will be evaluated and discussed. A second group of students will perform the Eastern treatment and carry out and make appropriate recommendations for the Western treatment with the exclusion of administering medications.

Prerequisite: Completion of one of the following: MWM 610, Western Case Management I; MWM 710, Western Case Management II

Electives

The following is a partial list of electives offered in the department of TCM Clinical Training. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives please refer to the Five Branches website.

The following electives may be taken as part of MTCM clinical training, while also completing the requirements for each certificate program. For detailed information about these certificates please refer to the Specialty Certificate Options section of the catalog.

Sports Medicine

Sports Medicine Clinical Rounds
MCL 300, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Sports Medicine Clinical Internship
MCL 600, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Five Element

Five Element Clinical Rounds
MCL 300, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Five Element Clinical Internship Rounds
MCL 400, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Five Element Paired Internship
MCL 510, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Five Element Clinical Internship
MCL 600, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Medical Qigong Practitioner

Medical Qigong Clinical Internship Rounds
MCL 400, 2.25 Units/72 Hours

TCM Tuina Massage

TCM Tuina Massage Clinical Internship Rounds
MCL 400, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

TCM Tuina Massage Clinical Internship
MCL 600, 1.5 Units/48 Hours

Clinical Training in China

Students may choose to complete up to 25% of their clinical training in the affiliated hospitals of our five sister colleges in China, Taiwan and Korea. For further details, please refer to the Study Abroad section of the catalog.
Community Externships

Up to 25% of your clinical training hours may be completed through an externship. The diverse externships we offer allow you to become exposed to different patient populations, treat a wide variety of conditions, and explore new fields of specialization.

Offered in a broad range of settings, our community externships provide you with valuable hands-on clinical experience in a private practice, community clinic, or integrative medical environment. Community 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 following community externships are currently available:

Janus
Since its founding in 1976, Janus has successfully assisted thousands of individuals in their efforts against chemical dependency. In this clinical setting, you will have the opportunity to become proficient using the National Acupuncture Detoxification (NADA) protocol as an integral part of chemical dependency treatment and recovery. For more information about NADA go to www.acudetox.com.

Mental Health Client Action Network
The Mental Health Client Action Network (MHCAN) is a valuable community service, helping adults with mental illness to live without crisis. The MHCAN drop-in center receives 12,000 visits annually from approximately 600 mental health clients. They lobby for improved health care, and affordable independent housing. MHCAN clients demonstrate that people with serious mental illness can work, go to school, maintain stable housing, and help their peers do the same.

Veteran’s Clinic
You will be treating veterans of all ages with a host of complaints, primarily chronic and long-term health issues. While primary care is often provided by the Veterans’ Administration, you may also be treating homeless and drug addicted veterans. In this clinical setting, you will have the opportunity to use acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine to treat a variety of conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Although this externship does not provide the capacity to make herbal formulas on site, you will be expected to recommend formulas to your patients when appropriate. This externship is offered at both the Santa Cruz and San Jose campuses.

Community Clinic
In a community clinic group setting, you will have the opportunity to provide donation-based Traditional Chinese Medicine treatments to low income patients. You will experience how acupuncture is commonly practiced in China, providing acupuncture, Tuina massage, or herbal medicine treatments in a group setting, in short 15-30 minute intervals. By offering this affordable service, clients can receive acupuncture treatments more frequently to improve their health and well-being.
Akiyama Wellness Center

Akiyama Wellness Center is part of Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Community Senior Service Center. Akiyama provides wellness programs to their senior members, including acupuncture, yoga, and Taiji classes. The treatment setting at Akiyama is community room style. Interns are required to see patients on a pre-scheduled basis. Although this externship does not provide the capacity to make herbal formulas on site, you will be expected to recommend formulas to your patients when appropriate.

Clinical Private Externships

Multiple off-campus externships are offered by TCM practitioners located throughout California. In a clinical private externship you will work alongside the practitioner through a normal day’s activities as well as assist with client treatments. You will have the opportunity to learn about the specializations they offer and to gain hands-on experience working in a private-practice environment.

Community Events

Five Branches University students participate in a Career Development Fair prior to the completion of their Master’s degree. This requirement is fulfilled through a community health fair or a classroom outreach event where students demonstrate their knowledge and mastery of TCM to inform and recruit new patients. Often, these events address the needs of low income or otherwise disenfranchised groups in communities throughout the Bay Area. These events are always free to the public, and are just a small representation of the philanthropic efforts that Five Branches engages in throughout each academic year.

International Externships

You may choose to study in Asia to experience the authentic practice of TCM integrated with modern Western medicine. Our relationship with five universities in China, Korea and Taiwan provide you with the opportunity to learn TCM from highly knowledgeable doctors and clinical experts, to receive training in a hospital setting, and to explore the beauty and diversity of Asia.
Complementary studies enrich and round out your professional TCM training. The Complementary Studies curriculum includes Energetics courses, introducing you to the ancient Chinese practices of Qigong and Taijiquan, and Career Development courses to prepare you to practice TCM professionally, ethically, and successfully.

Career Development

Career Development

- MCD 301 1 Unit/16 Hours

This course provides students with the steps necessary to create a successful practice. Topics covered will include: the legal requirements of starting a practice, setting up a practice space, creating a financial budget, managing an office, medical billing, patient management, and practice marketing. Upon completion of this course, students will have a clearer understanding of what is involved in starting and maintaining a successful practice.

Prerequisite: Completion of 2nd semester

Professional Ethics

- MCD 420 1 Unit/16 Hours

This course covers the universal medical ethics required of a primary healthcare practitioner, emphasizing professional responsibility and the study of laws which regulate TCM practices in California and the U.S. Upon completion of this course, students will be thoroughly aware of the professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities of treating patients.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in MCL 400, Clinical Internship Rounds

Career Development Fair

- MCD 500 0.25 Units/4 Hours

Five Branches University participates in periodic health fairs for the public to raise awareness of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Supervised clinical interns provide mini-treatments or give lectures to participants. Types of treatments include community-style acupuncture, tongue and pulse diagnosis, Tuina massage, cupping, and gua sha. Advanced students are encouraged to give short presentations on health topics of their choosing, or lead classes on preparing Chinese herbal prescriptions, and practicing Qigong or Taijiquan. Our Career Development Fairs provide interns with the opportunity to promote their practice by handing out business cards to prospective patients and by demonstrating their knowledge and mastery of TCM. In a four-hour period, interns are able to treat a wide variety of patients, providing excellent clinical experience.

Prerequisite: None

Marketing and Management

- MCD 701 1.75 Units/28 Hours

This course provides students with the information they need to apply their acupuncture training skills in a business-like manner, in a variety of clinical settings. The emphasis is on the practical application of the business and professional skills necessary to provide acupuncture health care to an ever-growing population of patients. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the synergistic nature of the professional, ethical, financial, and marketing skills necessary to run a primary health care practice in the U.S. in the 21st century. They will know how to set up, run and maintain a viable practice and will understand the inner workings of an acupuncture office.

Prerequisite: MCD 420, Professional Ethics
Energetics

Qigong I
■ MEB 100 1 Unit/16 Hours

Qigong, or Vital Energy Skills, are the ancient Chinese methods of cultivating and using the vital energy in the body, representing the Chinese philosophy of the exercise-health connection. Qigong is now successfully used in China for treating chronic diseases. In this practical introductory course, students learn to experience various Qigong exercises in an atmosphere of personal experimentation, with emphasis on the fundamentals of “reading” and “feeling” the Qi.

This course will enable students to become familiar with the theory, form and potential health benefits of Chinese therapeutic energetics.

Prerequisite: None

TCM Qigong
■ MEB 140 1 Unit/16 Hours

Qigong is a system of exercises that cultivates life force energy and is at least as old as the I Ching (Book of Changes), one of the first Chinese recordings of Qi, dating from 3000 years ago. Qigong studies the relationship of the three natural energies of the universe, Tian (Heaven), Di (Earth), and Ren (Man). The practice of Qigong can be classified as martial, medical, or spiritual in nature. TCM Qigong teaches medical aspects of this exercise by integrating physical postures, breathing techniques, and mental intentions. TCM Qigong practice can reduce stress, increase stamina, strengthen and balance internal organ systems, and enhance the immune system. This course will provide students with foundational skills in improving health for both practitioner and patient through TCM Qigong.

Prerequisite: None

Wild Goose Qigong
■ MEB 150 1 Unit/16 Hours

Originating over 1000 years ago from the Daoist Kunlin School, this once secretly passed down, classic set of movements is one of China’s most respected Qigong styles. Dayan (Wild Goose) style imitates the movements of wild geese with dynamic and static postures, combining strength and stretching. This easy to learn yet elegant form opens channels and points, expels toxins from the tissues, and draws in healthy air to improve the health of the body, mind, and spirit. Upon completion of this course, students will be familiar with the sequence of the first 64 movements and postures of Dayan Qigong.

Prerequisite: None

Qigong Stretch
■ MEB 160 1 Unit/16 Hours

Qigong Stretch utilizes the posture, breath, and mental intentions found in the disciplines of Qigong to gently extend the body’s joints, tendons, ligaments and muscles to provide elasticity and fluidity of movement. With proper stretching the body opens up and the vital energy moves freely, alleviating pain caused from stagnation and tonifying the body by allowing energy to properly nourish deficiencies. Qigong Stretch is a great way to relieve stress. This course provides students with the understanding of the fundamentals of Qigong Stretch and its therapeutic application for both practitioner and patient.

Prerequisite: None

Qigong II
■ MEB 200 1 Unit/16 Hours

In this course, students continue to explore the sensation of Qi flowing through their bodies, utilizing exercises to cultivate their Qi and increase their awareness of the dynamic state of their own body, in response to changes in the environment. Completion of this course serves as one of the prerequisites for the Qigong Teacher Training Certificate.

Prerequisite: None
**Electives**

The following is a partial list of electives offered in the Department of Complementary Studies. Electives are offered based on faculty availability and student interest. For a complete listing of electives please refer to the Five Branches University website.

**Medical Qigong**

Medical Qigong electives may be taken in the Department of Complementary Studies, while also completing the requirements for the 200 hour Medical Qigong Practitioner (MQP) certificate program. For detailed information about the MQP certificate please refer to the Specialty Certificate Options section of the catalog.

- **Medical Qigong I**
  - MEL 310, 2 units, 32 Hours

- **Medical Qigong II**
  - MEL 320, 2 units, 32 Hours

- **Medical Qigong III**
  - MEL 330, 2 units, 32 Hours

- **Medical Qigong IV**
  - MEL 340, 2 units, 32 Hours

**Taijiquan I**

- **MEB 450** 1 Unit/16 Hours

Taijiquan is recognized as one of the fundamentals of good health. This course is a natural extension of the Qigong courses and introduces students to more advanced exercises and sets for health enhancement. This course is aimed at teaching exercises the student can master, and that are safe for a wide spectrum of conditions.

*Prerequisite: None*

**Taijiquan II**

- **MEB 550** 1 Unit/16 Hours

This course is a continuation of the Taijiquan I course. In this energetic medicine course, the students learn through demonstration and practice of advanced Taijiquan forms to become more aware of energy pathways and flow. The emphasis of this course is on teaching the student exercises they can master, and are safe for a wide spectrum of conditions.

*Prerequisite: MEB 450, Taijiquan I*

**Yin Tuina I**

- **MEL 491** 1 Unit/16 Hours

This course explores the methods of TCM diagnosis and treatment using the ancient art of Yin Tuina. Diagnostic methods include the TCM standards of Ba Gong, Six Evils, Zangfu, Wen Bing and San Jiao. A combination of lecture and hands-on practice, this course will deepen your understanding and confidence in diagnosis through palpation of energetic patterns, both healthy and aberrant. Lectures will allude to the classics and key cornerstone quotes.

*Prerequisites: Completion of first semester courses*
At the end of each semester, you will have the opportunity to review the materials you have learned and to receive assessment of your progress. This evaluation assists you in developing good study and test-taking skills, ensuring full comprehension of courses, and the ability to pass the national certification and the California licensing exams.

Cumulative Review I

MRA 200  1 Unit/16 Hours

The core curriculum of the first two semesters of study, including TCM Theory, TCM Herbology, TCM Acupuncture and Western Medicine are systematically reviewed to strengthen and solidify the students’ understanding and mastery of the material. The objective of this course is to help students develop good study and test-taking skills, and to learn to maintain a controlled pace in studying the curriculum. The course is designed to assimilate the coursework covered during the first year, preparing students for the first cumulative examination.

Prerequisite: Completion of 1st semester

Cumulative Review II

MRA 400  1 Unit/16 Hours

The core curriculum of the first four semesters of study, including TCM Theory, TCM Herbology, TCM Acupuncture and Western Medicine will be systematically reviewed in order to strengthen and solidify the students’ understanding and mastery of the material. The objective of this course is to help students develop good study skills, strong test-taking skills, and to learn to maintain a controlled pace in studying the curriculum. The course is designed to assimilate the coursework covered during the first two years and to prepare students for the second cumulative examination.

Prerequisite: Completion of 3rd semester

Cumulative Review III

MRA 600  1 Unit/16 Hours

The core curriculum of the first six semesters of study, including TCM Theory, TCM Herbology, TCM Acupuncture, TCM Clinical Medicine, and Western Medicine will be systematically reviewed in order to strengthen and solidify the students’ understanding and mastery of the material. The objective of this course is to help students develop good study skills, strong test-taking skills, and to learn to maintain a controlled pace in studying the curriculum. The course is designed to assimilate the coursework covered during the first three years and to prepare students for the third cumulative examination.

Prerequisite: Completion of 5th semester

Final Review

MRA 800  3 Units/48 Hours

This course is designed to prepare students for the final cumulative exam and to assimilate the coursework covered during the complete four years of study. This course provides a solid foundation and study guide for preparing for the California State Board licensing (CALE), and national certification (NCCAOM) examinations. Key TCM concepts, study methodology, analysis and integrative skills will be emphasized. Upon completion of this course, students will be primed and prepared for the final cumulative exam, the California State Board and the NCCAOM examinations.

Prerequisite: Completion of 7th semester and successfully passing the Assessment Exam