

**YOUR JOURNEY  
BEGINS HERE.**

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**WELCOME TO PIHMA**



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## Contact Information



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## Programs

### Master of Science in Acupuncture (MSAC)

This degree program focuses primarily on the major dimension of Oriental medicine: Acupuncture.

Students taking this degree program will be prepared to use Acupuncture, Cupping, Moxibustion, Tui Na, and Oriental nutritional counseling in their practice. The foundational theory for Oriental medicine is integral to these skills and students are prepared to achieve competency in all these areas.

The latter half of this program focuses on the clinic experience. Acupuncture students complete over 1000 hours of student clinical internship under the direction of an experienced Professional Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc.).

This degree program takes three to four years to complete if attending full-time. At successful completion, students are eligible to sit for the national certification exams in Acupuncture. The MSAC degree is 165 credits hours.

### Master of Science in Oriental Medicine (MSOM)

This degree program provides students with courses covering all aspects of the Acupuncture degree along with the study of Chinese herbs.

In contrast to other Oriental herbal programs, the PIHMA herbal program is specifically designed for the Western learner. Rather than rote memorization of single herbs, the PIHMA herbal program begins with an overall picture of a syndrome and then addresses the syndrome with herbal formula combinations.

The Chinese Herbal Medicine courses for the MSOM degree cover:

- A review of syndromes and practical diagnosis related to the herbs and formulas presented.

- A thorough discussion of individual herbs and formulas, providing both practical and clinical use.
- Major Chinese patent formulas and American-made Chinese herbal products.
- How to modify basic formulas according to differentiation of symptoms and signs.
- Case studies to illustrate and clarify through examples.
- Home review exercises for optimal learning.

MSOM students complete over 1000 hours of student acupuncture clinical internship under the direction of an experienced Professional Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc.). Additionally, MSOM students complete over 200 hours of clinical and medicinary training assessing patients, then creating customized herbal formulas to treat patient needs.

At successful completion, students are eligible to sit for the national certification exams in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. The MSOM degree is 199 credit hours.

## **Doctor of Acupuncture (DAC) and Doctor of Acupuncture with Herbal Medicine (DAC-HM)**

The Doctoral of Acupuncture degree (DAC/DAC-HM) is offered as a concurrent program with the Master of Science in Acupuncture and the Master of Science in Oriental Medicine. The DAC/MSAC (165 credit hours) or DAC-HM/MSOM (199 credit hours) programs share the same content, with the doctoral program having additional doctoral competencies in Patient Care (advanced diagnostic studies), Systems-based medicine (patient care systems and collaborative care) and Professional Development (scholarship, research and evidence-based medicine).

Current graduate-level degree students or those who have graduated within the past 5 years can enroll in both the DAC / MSAC or DAC-HM / MSOM and have their current coursework accepted towards the doctoral degree requirements.

Graduates of 5 years or later, or from other programs, will need their transcripts evaluated to determine credit transfer. Transfer credit will only be awarded for coursework that matches PIHMA's program objectives and standards for completion of the program. There will be additional methods used to determine academic levels of competency for LAc.'s that have been in practice for more than 5 years.

If you would like more information please check out the school catalog on our website:

<https://www.pihma.edu/catalog-and-forms/>

The catalog year for this year is the 2020-2021 catalog.

## Admissions

Please contact a PIHMA Admissions Ambassador to schedule an admission meeting and campus tour contact Lisa at (602) 828-3956 or Mary Ellen at (602) 828-3959 or email: [admissions@pihma.edu](mailto:admissions@pihma.edu).

## Pre-requisites

All applicants must have satisfactorily completed 60 semester credits / 90 quarter credits of education at the baccalaureate level that is appropriate for graduate level work, or the equivalent, from an institution, accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. You must have 90 undergraduate college semester credits to be eligible for the Doctor of Acupuncture program.

- English
- Psychology

\*A grade of "C" (2.0), "Pass," or better must have been earned in each course.

The English and psychology classes must be taken at a community college as PIHMA does not offer them. If you have already successfully completed English and psychology, then those classes will count as being completed. They do not have a time limit or expiration date.

## Co-requisites

In addition, applicants must complete a minimum of 3 semester credit hours or higher of general or introductory level coursework in the following classes:

- Biology
- Intro to Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

\*A grade of "C" (2.0), "Pass," or better must have been earned in each course.

The science classes need to be completed within the last 5 years. If the course is more than 5 years old, you have the first year you are enrolled at PIHMA to re-take and pass the classes. The science classes can be taken at PIHMA or a community college.

If you choose to take them at PIHMA, Biology and Intro to Chemistry are offered in the summer semester and Organic Chemistry is offered in the fall semester. PIHMA does not require a lab for any of these science classes.

## What is Needed to Submit an Admissions Packet?

Applicants should submit a complete admission packet that includes the following items:

- [Admissions Application](#) -- If you are applying for both the Master's and Doctor degrees you will need to complete a separate application for each degree. (1 application for MSOM or MSAC - 1 application for DAC-HM or DAC)
- Application Fee
  - \$50 Nonrefundable Application fee to enter either MSAC or MSOM and 60 undergraduate semester college credits.
  - \$75 Nonrefundable Application fee to enter a Master's and Doctoral & 90 undergraduate semester college credits.
  - \$100 Nonrefundable Application fee for LAc's to enter the doctoral & 90 undergraduate semester college credits.

The application fee can be made by calling the clinic front desk at 602-274-1885 ext. 109 or 101. Or if you are mailing or hand delivering your admission packet you can use a check or money order.

If you prefer to make the application fee online, please use this link:

<https://www.pihma.edu/academic-fees/>

- A signed [FERPA Agreement](#)
- Brief personal statement (400 words) Answer the following question: Why I want to learn acupuncture (MSAC) and/or acupuncture & herbs (MSOM).
- Resume of previous occupations, positions held including start and end dates.
- 2 signed letters of recommendation from different businesses or health care professionals who know you well, that are not family members
- Authorization to Credit Form

- Computer and Network User Agreement
- **Official transcripts** from all colleges you previously attended must be sent directly to the Registrar Department:

PIHMA-Registrar  
301 E. Bethany Home Rd. Ste. A-100  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

or if they are electronic transcripts email to: [jdrayer@pihma.edu](mailto:jdrayer@pihma.edu).

All completed forms can be printed, signed scanned and emailed to [studentdocs@pihma.edu](mailto:studentdocs@pihma.edu).

### ***Guidelines for Personal Statement***

Applicant's personal statement should be 400 or more words in length. Some people choose not to use these questions. Instead, they write about their journey to receiving acupuncture and/or their journey PIHMA.

These questions can be used if you feel you need extra guidance for your writing. You can address any two of the following:

1. Why are you pursuing an education in Oriental Medicine? What does oriental Medicine mean to you personally and professionally? Why do you want to become a practitioner in either acupuncture or Oriental Medicine? Describe the events that led you to this decision.

Describe the characteristics of what you believe to be a model practitioner in either acupuncture or Oriental Medicine. Of these characteristics, which do you feel most strongly about? How do you feel your characteristics relate to this ideal?

2. Characteristics to include intellectual potential, study habits, problem solving skills, psychological maturity, integrity, self-discipline, professional judgment, empathy, communication skills, concern for aiding others, intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm, motivation, leadership skills, experience with and knowledge of medicine, and English competency.
3. Describe a significant professional or personal accomplishment and what personal resource or qualities you used to accomplish these results.
4. Write about how you anticipate your lifestyle will change in order to for you to participate in and successfully complete this program.

### ***Letters of Recommendation***

The 2 signed letters of recommendation should be from 2 different business owners or health care professionals. Who know you well, that are not family members, and who can attest to your character and ability to complete the program.

Letters must be a minimum of two paragraphs in length and include a description of the nature of your relationship. Letters must include a hand-written signature and be mailed to: PIHMA (Attn: Admissions), 301 E. Bethany Home Rd. Ste. A-100, Phoenix, AZ 85012, directly from the referral source.

Electronic versions or signatures will not be accepted.

If they can print, sign, scan and email letter to [studentdocs@pihma.edu](mailto:studentdocs@pihma.edu) that is acceptable.

Thank you and we look forward to having you start your journey at PIHMA!