

Professional licensure disclosures

Each state regulatory board carries unique requirements for licensure. Although VUIM annually updates the information in the tables below, VUIM does not guarantee the accuracy of the information at the time of viewing. Since state rules and regulations are ever-changing, prospective students should always check with the state license-granting authority to determine eligibility. The NCCAOM (National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine) provides a map of licensure requirements for each state and the contact list for each state regulatory agency [\[link\]](#). The information below is accurate as of May 2024.

MAc

The Master of Science in Acupuncture may lead to licensure and certification. Please be aware that requirements for licensure vary from state to state. The table below indicates whether the program does, does not, or has not determined if its curriculum satisfies applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

Meets Requirements	Does Not Meet Requirements	Undetermined
Alaska		
Arizona		
	Arkansas*	
California*		
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware*		
District of Columbia (D.C.)		
	Florida*	
Georgia		

Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts*		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
	Nevada*	
New Hampshire		
New Jersey*		
	New Mexico*	
New York		
North Carolina		
	North Dakota*	
Ohio		
Oregon		

Pennsylvania*		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

Alabama, Oklahoma, South Dakota; the U.S. territories: These three (3) states and the U.S. territories do not have Acupuncture Practice Acts in place.

***Arkansas:** The state requires at least four (4) academic years which must meet ACAHM standards including a minimum of eight hundred (800) hours of supervised clinical practice, and the passing of all the subjects of the board exam including Chinese Herbal medicine. Thus, MAc graduates are not eligible but MAcHM graduates are eligible to be licensed. [\[Link\]](#)

***California:** The state requires passing California's written examination. [\[Link\]](#)

***Delaware:** MAc graduates are eligible to be a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner. MAC graduates are not eligible, but MAcHM graduates are eligible to be a licensed Eastern Medicine Practitioner. [\[Link\]](#)

***Florida:** Effective July 31, 2001, the state requires a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine, which meets standards established by the board by rule. Thus, MAc graduates are not eligible but MAcHM graduates are eligible to be licensed. [\[Link\]](#)

***Massachusetts:** As of January 1, 2009, an applicant who plans to employ herbal therapy (patent or raw) in his or her practice must submit evidence of completion of one of the following courses of education in herbology: A. Completion of an Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) accredited or candidate status oriental medicine program with a minimum of 1,905 hours of clinical/didactic training, of which at least 660 hours were training hours in herbs and at least 210 of those were clinical hours in acupuncture and herbs; and B. Certification by NCCAOM in Chinese Herbology. [\[Link\]](#)

***Nevada:** The state issues a Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization license. It requires the completion of at least 3,000 hours of instruction, including not less than 2,500 didactic hours, for a student to graduate on or after November 25, 2002. The program of study must include training or instruction in the subjects of acupuncture, moxibustion, herbology, Oriental physiology, Oriental pathology, Oriental diagnosis, tuina, biology, physics, chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, Western physiology, Western pathology, Western diagnosis, pharmacology, laboratory and radiology. As a part of the practical examination, the Board may examine an applicant as to his or her basic knowledge of the following subjects: Chinese Herbology. Thus, MAc or MAChM graduates are not eligible to be a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization in the state of Nevada. [\[Link\]](#)

***New Jersey:** Commencing June 21, 2014, the acupuncture program shall consist of at least 2,500 hours of instruction. Thus, MAc graduates from VUIM will need to earn additional 410 hours in order to be eligible to be a licensed acupuncturist in New Jersey. To practice herb, an acupuncturist licensed on or after the effective date of P.L.2009, c.56 (C.45:2C-19 et al.) shall submit to the board proof of current certification in either Chinese Herbology or Oriental Medicine by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), or its successor. [\[Link\]](#)

Additionally, the state of NJ requires that all licensed acupuncturists hold a baccalaureate degree along with their required graduate level training in acupuncture. [\[Link\]](#)

***New Mexico:** The program shall be at least four academic years and shall include in-class education that comprises a minimum of 2,400 clock hours of classes including a minimum of 1,100 hours of didactic education in acupuncture and oriental medicine and a minimum of 900 hours of supervised clinical practice, instruction and observation in acupuncture and oriental medicine. Thus, MAc graduates are not eligible but MAChM graduates are eligible to be licensed. [\[Link\]](#)

***Pennsylvania:** MAc graduates are eligible to be a licensed acupuncturist. To be a licensed practitioner of oriental medicine which includes the use of herbal therapy, applicants are required to have successfully completed an acupuncture education program that includes the study of Chinese herbology and has passed the NCCAOM examination component on Chinese herbology. [\[Link\]](#)

***North Dakota:** The state requires a 4-year, full time program of academic and clinical study plus a six-month full time clinical internship at an approved internship site. Thus, MAc graduates are not eligible but MAcHM graduates are eligible to be licensed. [\[Link\]](#)

MAcHM

The Master of Science in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine may lead to licensure and certification. Please be aware that requirements for licensure vary from state to state. The table below indicates whether the program does, does not, or has not determined if its curriculum satisfies applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

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Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
	Nevada*	
New Hampshire		
New Jersey*		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		

Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
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Texas		
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Vermont		
Virginia		
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Alabama, Oklahoma, South Dakota; the U.S. territories: These three (3) states and the U.S. territories do not have Acupuncture Practice Acts in place.

***California:** The state requires passing California's written examination [\[Link\]](#)

***Delaware:** MAc graduates are eligible to be a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner. MAc graduates are not eligible but MAChM graduates are eligible to be a licensed Eastern Medicine Practitioner. [\[Link\]](#)

***Massachusetts:** As of January 1, 2009, an applicant who plans to employ herbal therapy (patent or raw) in his or her practice must submit evidence of completion of one of the following courses of education in herbology: A. Completion of an Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) accredited or candidate status oriental medicine program with a minimum of 1,905 hours of clinical/didactic training, of which at least 660 hours were training hours in herbs and at least 210 of those were clinical hours in acupuncture and herbs; and B. Certification by NCCAOM in Chinese Herbology. [\[Link\]](#)

***Nevada:** The state issues a Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization license. It requires the completion of at least 3,000 hours of instruction, including not less than 2,500 didactic hours, for a student to graduate on or after November 25, 2002. The program of study must include training or instruction in the subjects of acupuncture, moxibustion, herbology, Oriental physiology, Oriental pathology, Oriental diagnosis, tuina, biology, physics, chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, Western physiology, Western pathology, Western diagnosis, pharmacology, laboratory and radiology. As a part of the practical examination, the Board may examine an applicant as to his or her basic knowledge of the following subjects: Chinese Herbology. Thus, MAc or MAChM graduates are not eligible to be a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization in the state of Nevada. [\[Link\]](#)

***New Jersey:** To practice herb, an acupuncturist licensed on or after the effective date of P.L.2009, c.56 (C.45:2C-19 et al.) shall submit to the board proof of current certification in either Chinese Herbology or Oriental Medicine by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), or its successor. [\[Link\]](#)

Additionally, the state of NJ requires that all licensed apupuncturists hold a baccalaureate degree along with their required graduate level training in acupuncture. [\[Link\]](#)

DAC

The Doctor of Acupuncture (DAC) may lead to licensure and certification. Please be aware that requirements for licensure vary from state to state. The table below indicates whether the program does, does not, or has not determined if its curriculum satisfies applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

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Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts*		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
	Nevada*	
New Hampshire		

New Jersey*		
	New Mexico*	
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

Alabama, Oklahoma, South Dakota; the U.S. territories: These three (3) states and the U.S. territories do not have Acupuncture Practice Acts in place.

***California:** The state requires passing California's written examination [\[Link\]](#)

***Delaware:** MAc graduates are eligible to be a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner. MAc graduates are not eligible but MAChM graduates are eligible to be a licensed Eastern Medicine Practitioner. [\[Link\]](#)

***Massachusetts:** As of January 1, 2009, an applicant who plans to employ herbal therapy (patent or raw) in his or her practice must submit evidence of completion of one of the following courses of education in herbology: A. Completion of an Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) accredited or candidate status oriental medicine program with a minimum of 1,905 hours of clinical/didactic training, of which at least 660 hours were training hours in herbs and at least 210 of those were clinical hours in acupuncture and herbs; and B. Certification by NCCAOM in Chinese Herbology. [\[Link\]](#)

***Nevada:** The state issues a Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization license. It requires the completion of at least 3,000 hours of instruction, including not less than 2,500 didactic hours, for a student to graduate on or after November 25, 2002. The program of study must include training or instruction in the subjects of acupuncture, moxibustion, herbology, Oriental physiology, Oriental pathology, Oriental diagnosis, tuina, biology, physics, chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, Western physiology, Western pathology, Western diagnosis, pharmacology, laboratory and radiology. As a part of the practical examination, the Board may examine an applicant as to his or her basic knowledge of the following subjects: Chinese Herbology. Thus, DAC graduates are not eligible to be a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization in the state of Nevada. [\[Link\]](#)

***New Jersey:** To practice herb, an acupuncturist licensed on or after the effective date of P.L.2009, c.56 (C.45:2C-19 et al.) shall submit to the board proof of current certification in either Chinese Herbology or Oriental Medicine by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), or its successor. [\[Link\]](#)

Additionally, the state of NJ requires that all licensed apupuncturists hold a baccalaureate degree along with their required graduate level training in acupuncture. [\[Link\]](#)

***New Mexico:** The program shall be at least four academic years and shall include in-class education that comprises a minimum of 2,400 clock hours of classes including a minimum of 1,100 hours of didactic education in acupuncture and oriental medicine and a minimum of 900 hours of supervised clinical practice, instruction and observation in acupuncture and oriental medicine. Thus, DAc graduates are not eligible to be licensed but DAcHM graduates are eligible. [\[Link\]](#)

***Pennsylvania:** MAc graduates are eligible to be a licensed acupuncturist. To be a licensed practitioner of oriental medicine which includes the use of herbal therapy, applicants are required to have successfully completed an acupuncture education program that includes the study of Chinese herbology and has passed the NCCAOM examination component on Chinese herbology. [\[Link\]](#)

DACoHM

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DACoHM) may lead to licensure and certification. Please be aware that requirements for licensure vary from state to state. The table below indicates whether the program does, does not, or has not determined if its curriculum satisfies applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

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Massachusetts*		
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
	Nevada*	
New Hampshire		
New Jersey*		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		

Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

Alabama, Oklahoma, South Dakota; the U.S. territories: These three (3) states and the U.S. territories do not have Acupuncture Practice Acts in place.

***California:** The state requires passing California's written examination [\[Link\]](#)

***Colorado:** To use injectable substances prepared from oriental herbs, completion of training in Chinese herbology and injection of Chinese herbal injectables is required. [\[Link\]](#)

***Delaware:** MAc graduates are eligible to be a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner. MAc graduates are not eligible, but MAcHM graduates are eligible to be a licensed Eastern Medicine Practitioner. [\[Link\]](#)

***Massachusetts:** As of January 1, 2009, an applicant who plans to employ herbal therapy (patent or raw) in his or her practice must submit evidence of completion of one of the following courses of education in herbology: A. Completion of an Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) accredited or candidate status oriental medicine program with a minimum of 1,905 hours of clinical/didactic training, of which at least 660 hours were training hours in herbs and at least 210 of those were clinical hours in acupuncture and herbs; and B. Certification by NCCAOM in Chinese Herbology. [\[Link\]](#)

***Nevada:** The state issues a Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization license. It requires the completion of at least 3,000 hours of instruction, including not less than 2,500 didactic hours, for a student to graduate on or after November 25, 2002. The program of study must include training or instruction in the subjects of acupuncture, moxibustion, herbology, Oriental physiology, Oriental pathology, Oriental diagnosis, tuina, biology, physics, chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, Western physiology, Western pathology, Western diagnosis, pharmacology, laboratory, and radiology. As a part of the practical examination, the Board may examine an applicant as to his or her basic knowledge of the following subjects: Chinese Herbology. Thus, DAChM graduates are not eligible to be a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization in the state of Nevada. [\[Link\]](#)

***New Jersey:** To practice herb, an acupuncturist licensed on or after the effective date of P.L.2009, c.56 (C.45:2C-19 et al.) shall submit to the board proof of current certification in either Chinese Herbology or Oriental Medicine by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), or its successor. [\[Link\]](#)

Additionally, the state of NJ requires that all licensed apupuncturists hold a baccalaureate degree along with their required graduate level training in acupuncture. [\[Link\]](#)