OREGON COLLEGE of ORIENTAL MEDICINE

The science of medicine, the art of healing
Traditional Chinese Medicine at OCOM

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is an art and a science. As a holistic system of practice, TCM recognizes balance as the key to health. As an integrative approach to teaching more than 2,500 years of classical Chinese medical thought and clinical experience, TCM encourages the continued evolution of the profession. Emphasis on Asian bodywork and self-cultivation form the foundation for each student’s transformational journey toward becoming a healer.

Innovative coursework in acupuncture, herbalism, biomedicine and research prepare graduates to be leaders in integrating TCM within the evolving health care landscape. Attending OCOM is the first step on the path to becoming a compassionate and effective practitioner.
Why OCOM?

Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM), founded in 1983 in Portland, Oregon, is one of the most respected acupuncture and Oriental medicine colleges in the nation. We are a single-purpose professional graduate school whose defined values — excellence, leadership, healing, innovation, community and service — guide OCOM’s degree programs, and distinguish our graduates as they lead the way forward in the transformation of health and healing.

- Graduates of OCOM’s master’s program demonstrate a consistently high average pass rate of 92 percent on the national licensing exam.
- Established in 2003, OCOM’s doctoral program was one of the nation’s first DAOM programs and has since graduated eight cohorts of students — current and future leaders in our field.
- OCOM graduates have provided an estimated 10 million patient visits across the nation and around the world. Our urban location allows students to gain valuable health care experience that can be applied in a variety of settings globally.
- As one of two stand-alone AOM (acupuncture and Oriental medicine) schools that have a funded research program, research literacy is infused into both the master’s and doctoral curricula. OCOM’s Research Department engages in innovative partnerships with leading health research institutions.
- OCOM’s campus in Old Town Chinatown brings healing to the heart of the Portland community. Students have access to all the amenities offered in the city while learning in a first-class facility.
- Our clinic education program provides the experience to our students to become accomplished practitioners as they explore how their own individual practices and service to the community will work toward our mission to transform health care.

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OCOM’s mission is to transform health care by educating highly skilled and compassionate practitioners, providing exemplary patient care, and engaging in innovative research within a community of service and healing.

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Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MAcOM)

- 3-year, 4-year and 6-year enrollment options available

OCOM’s master’s degree program prepares students to be highly skilled practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Students study all aspects of Chinese medicine including acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, nutrition, qi cultivation and Asian therapeutic massage.

Simultaneously, students pursue coursework in biomedicine, public and community health, and research sufficient to foster communication and collaboration in those fields. Students enter clinical settings early in the program and provide patient care under exacting supervision to a wide range of patients and in a variety of clinical settings.

Successful practitioners benefit from pairing business skills with their mastery of Chinese medicine. OCOM’s professional development and practice management studies provide knowledge, skills and resources to support students in their vision of AOM practice.

“OCOM’s clinical education program has given me the practical experience needed to succeed as a professional practitioner.”

— Cissey Ye, MAcOM graduate

- Average OCOM pass rate on the national licensure exam is 92 percent.
- Average class size for hands-on master’s courses — 20 students.
Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM)

- Twenty modules over two years

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine program offers clinically focused postgraduate study leading to a clinical doctoral degree. A DAOM represents the highest formal educational credential for licensed acupuncturists currently available in the United States. The degree provides students with wide-ranging opportunities for advanced clinical and didactic study in the specialties of geriatrics and women’s health. Instruction emphasizes development of advanced clinical and specialty skills, integration of biomedical and AOM knowledge, understanding of clinical application of research, and the cultivation of leadership skills in research and education.

“...with monthly, on-site instructional weekend intensives. Each student’s active practice is supplemented with practical experience treating patients in specialty clinics and through mentored independent study, a Capstone Project, and options for study abroad in China as well as other externship experiences.

- As of Fall 2013, the DAOM program has enrolled 10 cohorts and graduated 110 students.
Our clinics play a key role in the college’s clinical education program. Master’s and doctoral students treat patients in a variety of clinical settings — both on campus and in the community — under the supervision of clinical faculty.

**OCOM Clinic** is a 17-room clinic in our Old Town Chinatown campus, serving patients who live and work in downtown, as well as individuals who commute into and through the central city. OCOM Clinic hosts the doctoral clinic internship, in which patients with more complex health concerns meet with faculty members and doctoral students.

**OCOM Cherry Blossom Clinic** is located at the site of our former campus, and has served Southeast Portland for more than 20 years. The 16-room clinic sees many patients who rely upon OCOM for their primary health needs.

- In 2013, OCOM’s clinics saw 20,923 patient visits.
- Ratio of clinic supervisors to students — 1:4.
On the ground floor of OCOM’s campus facility in Portland’s Old Town Chinatown neighborhood, the OCOM Herbal Medicinary is the largest traditional Chinese herbal medicinary in the Pacific Northwest and serves the college’s teaching clinics, practitioners and their patients, students and the public. The medicinary, which ships throughout the United States, primarily focuses on filling herbal formulas, but also distributes patents and over-the-counter formulas. Master's students spend one academic quarter in the medicinary in Herbal Practicum, learning to assemble granule and bulk herb formulas. Herbal Practicum provides supervised hands-on experience with herbal formulations and the complexities of patient transactions.

Community Clinics
Upon graduation, OCOM alumni work in a variety of settings — from traditional clinics to hospitals to relief organizations. For years, the college has formed relationships with other health providers; many of these long-standing partners are located just blocks from our new campus. OCOM master’s program students conduct externships with organizations such as Outside In and Central City Concern, and the college is an active partner in helping Portland address the health needs of some of the city’s most vulnerable citizens.
In the Heart of the City

Our campus in Portland’s Old Town Chinatown not only places the college in the city’s historic Chinese neighborhood, it allows OCOM the opportunity to partner with a variety of educational institutions, social service agencies and Chinese cultural organizations.

Partnerships

While few of Portland’s Chinese residents make Chinatown their home, Chinese cultural organizations continue to play a strong role in the neighborhood. Lan Su Chinese Garden, three blocks from campus, was built by artisans from Portland’s sister city, Suzhou. It is considered the most authentic Chinese garden outside of China, and serves as the host of numerous OCOM lectures on Chinese medicine. The Northwest China Council provides opportunities for the college to connect with the Chinese community through cultural programming.

OCOM’s campus is also in close proximity to a number of other institutions of higher education. The University of Oregon’s Portland campus, directly across the street, serves as a strong partner in the neighborhood. Portland State University, an institution recognized for its community engagement and environmental sustainability, also calls downtown Portland home. Oregon Health and Sciences University, a nationally-recognized research institution, is nearby in the hills above downtown Portland. Pacific Northwest College of Art will soon relocate to Old Town Chinatown.

City Life

Each morning, large numbers of students, staff and faculty travel to campus on bicycles, on the train, or by bus. OCOM students practice taiji and qigong in the adjacent park overlooking the Willamette River. Faculty, staff and students meet in one of the local coffee shops, or walk to a nearby food cart pod for lunch. OCOM’s home in Old Town Chinatown offers a wealth of civic and cultural activities to round out an education.
Portland, Oregon

Our city is known throughout the country for its trendsetting local food scene, a commitment to sustainability, and a vibrant urban area. Portland boasts an award-winning public transportation system and the highest percentage of commuter bicyclists in the United States.

An hour’s drive to the east presents you with scenic Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge, while stunning ocean beaches are just 90 minutes to the west.

Our home in Old Town Chinatown positions the college in the heart of the city, with easy access to restaurants, breweries, coffee shops, music venues and parks. OCOM is one of a number of complementary and alternative medicine schools in the area, confirming that Portland is the perfect setting in which to study and practice the medicine.
OCOM’s faculty members are accomplished doctors and skilled practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Western biomedicine. A dedicated group of professionals, they bring deep clinical knowledge and scholastic wisdom to the classroom. All share a commitment to train students to be successful clinical practitioners upon graduation.

Our full-time faculty represent an intentional balance between Chinese- and Western-trained practitioners — many have earned advanced degrees from internationally recognized institutions of medical excellence, such as Nanjing University. They are supplemented by skilled adjunct and part-time faculty, often selected for their depth of knowledge in specific areas: Chinese herbal medicine, tuina (Chinese massage), shiatsu (Japanese massage), qigong (Chinese meditative movement), women’s health, geriatrics and pain management.

“OCOM’s faculty members, recognized nationally and internationally, solidified my decision to enroll here.”

— Fedosia Masaligin, master’s student

Eleven full-time faculty members, along with 48 part-time faculty, bring a diversity of experiences to the classroom.
OCOM Alumni

Since opening its doors in 1983, OCOM’s master’s degree program has graduated 1,199 students. Our alumni practice in such diverse settings as military hospitals, community acupuncture clinics, and integrative medical offices in 41 states and internationally. OCOM graduates engage with current students by providing one-on-one mentorship, sharing expertise in on-campus forums, and networking with students at college events.

The OCOM Alumni Association is a thriving organization that offers its members networking opportunities, generous discounts on continuing education credits, and practice development assistance. The association sponsors several social and educational events every year, keeping alumni connected to the school and to each other.

Professional Development

OCOM’s commitment to our student’s professional development is deeply embedded into the college’s curriculum and the ongoing engagement with our alumni.

Our Professional Development Center (PDC) empowers students, graduates and faculty members to find and integrate the resources needed to grow and maintain successful acupuncture and Oriental medicine careers.

Oregon has an active complementary and alternative medicine community, allowing our students to engage with professional organizations as they explore their own options for practice. Integrative groups such as Student Alliance for Integrative Medicine (SAIM) and Oregon Collaborative for Integrative Medicine (OCIM) offer volunteer and professional development opportunities for students on campus and through association events in Portland.

“It’s true what they say. You go in a caterpillar and come out a butterfly — a complete metamorphosis.”

— Charlie Cannon, MAcOM graduate

Forrest Cooper, DAOM, LAc

It is no surprise that Forrest Cooper’s educational background as a graduate of both our master’s and doctoral programs have positioned him in such successful, professional roles at OCOM. From serving as an active full-time faculty member to thriving in the leadership roles of Tuina Clinic Supervisor and Faculty Chair, Cooper has proven himself to be a well respected leader on campus.

Dr. Cooper serves as a liaison between faculty and the admissions team. He remains an active voice in faculty meetings, representing the needs of incoming prospective students. As keynote speaker for an OCOM Social event, he beautifully orchestrated a dialogue of the study of Tuina (massage) to master’s program applicants, transitioning effortlessly into a hands-on demonstration among the entire group.

He also maintains a part-time practice focusing on areas of musculoskeletal, tuina, and sports medicine, and has published case studies in *The American Acupuncturist, Medical Acupuncture,* and the *Journal of Acupuncture and Meridian Science.*

- OCOM graduates see an average of 27.5 patients each week.
Student Life
A strong sense of community exists at OCOM. Our students support one another academically and personally, while also receiving individualized attention from the college’s Student Services staff. As part of their education, students complete a large amount of experiential learning, forming close bonds and lifelong friendships.

Each year, students meet and form clubs around specific interest areas — often linked to professional aspirations — and participate in leadership opportunities, such as service to the OCOM Student Association and state and national professional associations. Our new campus sits along the Willamette River, with numerous parks and coffee shops within a few blocks that will serve as ideal locations for movement and study groups.

Community Outreach
As part of the degree requirements, master’s students participate in a number of community outreach events at which they share their knowledge about acupuncture and Oriental medicine. Such vital experiences help to educate the public and other health care practitioners about the benefits of the medicine while preparing students for their future practices.

OCOM’s ongoing partnership with nearby Lan Su Chinese Garden provides a unique opportunity for students, faculty and alumni to collaborate on educational presentations and demonstrations, covering a wide range of health topics from seasonal foods to the healing properties of tea — amid the cultural context and visceral beauty of the garden.

Clinical Study in China
At the completion of their program, master’s program students have an opportunity to participate in a five-week externship elective at the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NUTCM), which includes two clinical rotations in a hospital setting. Students may choose acupuncture and/or herbal medicine, and specialties such as gynecology, pediatrics and internal medicine. Between clinical rotations, students travel together on sightseeing trips to some of China’s most famous cultural sites, including Portland’s sister city, Suzhou.

“The best validation that I received an exemplary education was studying abroad, working alongside Chinese doctors, able to understand their treatment planning and process.”
— Mary Jean Brinkman, MAcOM graduate
Research

The mission of the OCOM Research Department is to enhance evidence-informed health care through innovative design, evaluation and dissemination of research on acupuncture, herbal medicine and other East Asian therapies.

The Research Department partners with leading health education and research institutions, such as Oregon Health & Science University, Legacy Health System and Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research.

Research curriculum is infused into both master’s and doctoral curricula. A three-course series for master’s students provides the foundation for understanding the role of research in the field. These courses culminate in year-long, team-based research projects guided by OCOM faculty members. Past projects have led to the creation of acupuncture-focused nonprofit organizations and in new conditions being authorized for acupuncture under the Oregon Health Plan. Doctoral research coursework and Capstone projects provide students with a deeper understanding of issues in research design and evaluation.

Students have opportunities to join the Research Club, attend an annual Research Conference, participate in doctoral Research Grand Rounds lectures, as well as ongoing research studies or design.

Library Services

The OCOM Library supports many of the educational, research and information needs of the OCOM community and strives to develop, maintain and provide relevant resources and services.

With a comprehensive catalog of acupuncture and Oriental medicine materials, including a Chinese-language collection, the OCOM Library maintains a unique collection of alternative medicine and biomedical resources.

On-campus and remote access to some of the top alternative medicine databases is available, and a consortium partnership with Oregon Health & Science University, National College of Natural Medicine and University of Western States provides access to the collections of all three institutions through a shared online catalog.

The library is staffed by knowledgeable librarians who can assist students with their research needs and in meeting their professional goals.
Admissions

Master’s (MACOM) Prerequisites
- Three years of education from an accredited institution; 135 quarter or 90 semester hours
- Coursework in:
  General Biology — one class required
  General Chemistry — one class required
  General Psychology — one class required

Doctoral (DAOM) Prerequisites
- Completion of a master's level training in acupuncture and Oriental medicine (or equivalent)
- Formal training in herbal medicine is essential
- Current acupuncture license
- An active AOM practice

Application Deadlines
Master's and doctoral programs (begin Fall 2015)
- Early Application Deadline: January 31, 2015
- Regular Application Deadline: April 30, 2015

Opportunities to Visit

Master’s Program Admissions Seminars
2014
- October 17
- November 14
- December 5
2015
- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 17

Virtual Seminars
These interactive, online sessions condense the monthly Admissions Seminars for those unable to attend our on-campus presentations:
2014:
- October 29
2015:
- February 24, May 19 and August 18

Doctoral Student for a Day
2014:
- October 18, November 15
2015:
- February 7, March 7, May 17

Scholarships and Financial Aid
We are committed to supporting our students through competitive scholarships and campus work-study opportunities. Each year, OCOM offers more than $30,000 in scholarships, and actively assists students in researching additional opportunities offered by the college’s community partners.

Currently, 87 percent of our master’s students utilize Federal Financial Aid to help fund their education. Both master’s and doctoral students may be eligible for federal unsubsidized Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans.

Our Director of Financial Aid works with prospective and current students (and alumni) to help them understand loan options and scholarship opportunities, and to plan for eventual repayment of their loans. This is evidenced by a consistent 0% default rate among our graduates.