

Professional licensure disclosures

Each state regulatory board carries unique requirements for licensure. Although VUIM annually updates the information contained in the tables below, VUIM does not guarantee the accuracy of the information at the time of viewing. Since the state rules and regulations are ever-changing, prospective students should always check with the state license granting authority to determine eligibility. The NCBAHM (National Certification Board for Acupuncture & Herbal 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, 2025.

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 or does not meet applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

Meets Requirements	Does Not Meet Requirements
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 California Acupuncture Board requires completion of a Board-approved program in order to qualify for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination (CALE). VUIM's programs are not approved by the California Acupuncture Board. Therefore, completion of this program does not meet the educational requirements for licensure in California. [\[Link\]](#)

*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 NCBAHM 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 (NCBAHM), 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 NCBAHM 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 or does not meet applicable

educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories .

Meets Requirements	Does Not Meet Requirements
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.

*California: The California Acupuncture Board requires completion of a Board-approved program in order to qualify for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination (CALE). VUIM’s programs are not approved by the California Acupuncture Board. Therefore, completion of this program does not meet the educational requirements for licensure in California. [\[Link\]](#)

*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 NCBAHM 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 (NCBAHM), 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. [\[Link\]](#)

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 or does not meet applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

Meets Requirements	Does Not Meet Requirements
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.

*California: The California Acupuncture Board requires completion of a Board-approved program in order to qualify for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination (CALE). VUIM's programs are not approved by the California Acupuncture Board. Therefore, completion of this program does not meet the educational requirements for licensure in California. [\[Link\]](#)

*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 NCBAHM 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 (NCBAHM), 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, 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 NCBAHM examination component on Chinese herbology. [[Link](#)]

DACHM

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (DACHM) 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 or does not meet applicable educational requirements for professional licensure or certification in U.S. states and territories.

Meets Requirements	Does Not Meet Requirements
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.

*California: The California Acupuncture Board requires completion of a Board-approved program in order to qualify for the California Acupuncture Licensing Examination (CALE). VUIM’s programs are not approved by the California Acupuncture Board. Therefore, completion of this program does not meet the educational requirements for licensure in California. [\[Link\]](#)

*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 NCBAHM 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 (NCBAHM), 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. [\[Link\]](#)