



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Dear Prospective Students:

Thank you for your interest in considering acupuncture as your profession! It is a big commitment and we hope you make an informed decision. As the regulatory body for acupuncture profession, we would like to provide a brief introduction to this profession.

- **Acupuncture has been regulated.**

The profession of acupuncture has been regulated in Alberta since 1988 under the *Health Disciplines Act* and the *Acupuncture Regulation*. It used to be regulated by the Acupuncture Committee under the Health Disciplines Board. Effective January 1, 2011, the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (the “CAAA”) was designated by the Minister of Health to regulate the acupuncture profession in public interest. The vision of the CAAA is to serve the public interest and support the acupuncture profession by setting high standards of practice, education, competence and ethical conduct.

- **Minimum Standards for Acupuncture Education**

Acupuncture is an integral part of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). TCM, as an independent and comprehensive medical system, requires comprehensive and systematic training. As the regulatory body for acupuncture profession, the CAAA has re-defined the Minimum Standards for Acupuncture Education.

This document outlines the admission requirements for potentially completing an acupuncture program successfully; the core curriculum that a student must complete, including the minimum supervised clinical practice hours; instructor qualifications; and requirements for program administration and management. Please review the document carefully and determine whether you are potentially able to complete an acupuncture program successfully.

Education is the very cornerstone and foundation upon which a profession is built. As the regulator to protect public interest, the CAAA is committed to setting high standards of education.

- **Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination**

One important requirement to be registered as an acupuncturist is successful completion of the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination (AARE). The purpose of the AARE is to ensure applicants for registration meet the entry-level standards to practise safely and competently in Alberta.

Currently, the AARE consists of five components:

1. Pan-Canadian Written Examination
2. Pan-Canadian Clinical Case-study Examination
3. Safety and Jurisprudence Examination
4. Modalities Examination
5. Acupuncture Points Examination

Please refer to the Examination section for more information about the AARE.

Examination Eligibility Criteria outlines the requirements to be eligible to write the AARE. Examination Attempts Policy sets the limit on the number of attempts for a candidate to write the AARE. For detailed information, please refer to the Examination section for Examination Eligibility Criteria and Examination Attempts Policy.

Please note that completion of an approved acupuncture does not guarantee that you will pass the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination.

- **Registration and Registration Renewal**

After you pass the AARE, if you meet other registration requirements as established by the *Health Disciplines Act* and *Acupuncture Regulation*, you will be registered as an acupuncturist.

As an acupuncturist, you will be required to comply with the *Health Disciplines Act*, *Acupuncture Regulation*, the Standards of Competency and Practice, the CAAA Bylaws, the Code of Professional Act, and other policies and standards established by the CAAA.

Acupuncture Regulation sets the requirements for registration renewal, including the minimum practice hours and the minimum hours of continuing education programs.

In conclusion, to be an acupuncturist is a privilege, which also means a lot of responsibilities. This profession always welcomes the right people to provide the right services for Albertans' health and wellness.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the CAAA office by phone at 780-466-7787 or by email at admin@acupuncturealberta.ca.

Sincerely,

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