



## College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia (CTCMA)

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### Qualifications for Writing CTCMA Competency Exams

Title	Examinations required						Schedule of qualifying education/training hours for these examinations
	Acupuncture		Herbology		Dr.TCM		
	Written	Clinical	Written	Clinical	Written	Clinical	
To become R.Ac.	v	v	-	-			1,900 hrs minimum in 3 academic years, including 450 hrs of practicum
To become R.TCM.H	-	-	v	v			1,900 hrs minimum in 3 academic years, including 450 hrs of practicum
To become R.TCM.P	v	v	v	v			2,600 hrs minimum in 4 academic years, including 650 hrs of practicum
To become Dr.TCM	v	v	v	v	v	v	3,250 hrs minimum in 5 academic years, including 1,050 hrs of practicum*

**\*Exam applicants for the Dr.TCM Competency Exam need to hold a R.TCM.P registration or have passed both Acupuncture and Herbology exams.**

**Note: Attached is the Schedule E of College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists Bylaws**

## **SCHEDULE E OF CTCMA BYLAWS**

### **Approval Guidelines for Education/Training Program**

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Acupuncture educational programs are evaluated based on institutional processes, content and length of program and outcomes. Indicators are used to determine if educational programs meet the criteria. Five areas of an educational program are reviewed:

- I. Institutional Processes  
The Institutional philosophy and program philosophy, content and length enable graduates to meet the College's standards of practice.
- II. Curriculum  
The curriculum provides learning experiences necessary for students to achieve the College's professional practice requirements.
- III. Students and graduates  
Students, during their participation in the education program, demonstrate progression towards achieving the College's professional practice requirements. Graduates have been and are successful in achieving professional practice requirements.
- IV. Resources  
The institution has the resources and infrastructure necessary to develop, deliver and evaluate a program that provides learning experiences necessary for students to achieve the College's professional practice requirements.
- V. Program content  
The educational program has met the minimal requirements listed in the following sections of this schedule.

### **Minimum educational program requirements**

- "Academic year" is used throughout this schedule. 1 academic year consists of 8 months, or 2 semesters, or 3 quarters, or 2 trimesters of study.
- Entrance requirement for all programs is 2 years of university education or equivalent.
- It is expected that 50% of the minimum hours listed under each clinical instruction shall be in a clinic owned and operated by the education or training program. Where appropriate, it shall include:
  - Practice observation : supervised observation of the clinical practice with case presentations and discussions;

- Diagnosis and evaluation : the application of TCM diagnostic procedures in evaluating patients;
  - Supervised practice : the clinical treatment of patients
- All programs shall include :
    1. A minimum of 360 hours of BASIC TCM FOUNDATION BLOCK in
      - History of TCM and Acupuncture
      - Basic TCM theory
      - TCM diagnostic process
      - Treatment principles and method/Zhi Ze and Zhi Fa
      - Communication skills
      - Ethics, medical, legal issues and practice management
    2. A minimum of 250 hours in the introduction of relevant biological and clinical sciences; western diagnosis and diagnostic tests.
- A. **Acupuncture program** : (Totaling 1900 hours minimum in 3 academic years, which included 450 hours minimum of clinical instruction).

In addition to 1 and 2 listed above, a minimum of 550 hours in :

- Pointology/Shu Xue
- Treatment of diseases
- Treatment techniques
- Equipment safety and clean needle techniques, AND

a minimum of 450 hours of clinical instruction in acupuncture. During the initial 200 hours, the supervisor shall be physically present at all times during the diagnosis and treatment of patient. For the remaining 250 hours, the supervisor may be in close proximity to the location at which the patient is being treated during other clinical instruction. The student shall consult with the supervision before and after each treatment.

- B. **Herbology program** (Totaling 1900 hours minimum in 3 academic years, which included 450 hours minimum of clinical instruction).

In addition to 1 and 2 listed above, a minimum of 550 hours in :

- Clinical herbology
- Treatment of diseases
- Introduction to TCM classics, AND

a minimum of 450 clinical instruction in herbology. During the initial 200 hours, the supervisor shall be physically present at all times during the diagnosis and treatment of patient. For the remaining 250 hours, the supervisor may be in close proximity to the location at which the patient is being treated during other clinical instruction. The student shall consult with the supervision before and after each treatment.

- C. **TCM practitioner program** (Totaling 2600 hours minimum in 4 academic years, which included 650 hours minimum of clinical instruction).

The program will be a combination of the acupuncture program (A), the herbology program (B) listed above, and courses in Tui Na, Shi Liao, and Chinese rehabilitation exercises such as Tai Ji Quan and Qi Gong.

- D. **Dr.TCM program** (Totaling 3250 hours minimum in 5 academic years, which included 1050 hours minimum of clinical instruction).

In addition to the TCM practitioner program listed in (C), the program shall consist of a minimum of 450 hours in

- Modern clinical research in TCM
- TCM classics
- Western diagnostic information
- Other TCM treatment modalities
- TCM gerontology
- TCM psychology
- Advanced studies in acupuncture
- Herbal pharmacology, AND

a minimum of 150 hours of clinical instruction.