

Acupuncture Training

The healthcare professionals who practice acupuncture techniques can have varying levels of acupuncture training. Licensed acupuncturists receive approximately 80% of their training exclusively in acupuncture and oriental medicine, and undergo an extensive clinical internship of averaging 3 years. Other healthcare professionals may use acupuncture, which is a piece of the larger body of knowledge in Oriental Medicine, as an adjunct to their primary practice and training in western medical sciences. The following compares the levels of training:

<u>Amount of Training In Acupuncture</u>	<u>Practitioner</u>	<u>Use</u>
1363-2000 hours in acupuncture (or 2000-3000 hours in Oriental Medicine)	Licensed Acupuncturist Traditional Chinese Medicine-trained Acupuncturist Oriental Medicine Practitioner Oriental Medical Acupuncturist	Used for broad range of health issues, including chronic disease, pain, internal medicine, gynecology, and prevention based on Oriental medicine theory.
300 hours or less	Medical Doctor Osteopath Naturopath Chiropractor	Used for pain and basic ailments
100 hours or less	Detoxification Technician Chiropractor Medical Doctor	Used for pain management or addiction and detoxifi- cation through auricular acupuncture

A Licensed Acupuncturist (L.Ac.) has typically obtained a 3- to 4-year master's level degree or diploma from a school approved by ACAOM (Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine) and is awarded the Dipl. Ac. (Diplomate in Acupuncture) upon successful examination by the NCCAOM (National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine) which is the national standard used for licensing in most states. For list of approved schools and colleges for acupuncture training, contact the U.S. Department of Education, or: www.ccaom.org, www.nccaom.org, or www.acaom.org

Acupuncture should only be administered by a practitioner who has specific training in this field, due to risk of improper needling, inadequate understanding of Oriental medical diagnostic procedures, transmission of disease, imbalancing of energy, or ethical violations.