The mission of Bastyr Center for Natural Health is to create an extraordinary environment committed to excellence in health care and clinical education that assists and empowers individuals and the community to achieve better health and a higher quality of life.

All students in the Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine program (ND), Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine program (DAOM), Master of Science in Acupuncture program (MSA), Master of Science in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine program (MSAOM), Master of Nutrition program (MSN/CHP and MSN/DPD), Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program (CCHM), and BS Didactic Program in Dietetics (BSN/DPD) receive clinical training at Bastyr Center for Natural Health - Team Care. The program deans/chairs or their designates in conjunction with the clinic medical director oversee the clinical education and training of the students and work closely with each program’s lead administrator.

The clinical training in Team Care is modeled upon mentorship. The average faculty/student ratio is 1:6, which includes three primary clinicians and three observing clinicians. Each student pair is assigned to a room throughout the quarter. Each clinic shift begins with case preview during which the students present to the supervisor their preparations for the patients they will see that day. During each patient visit, the supervisor spends time in the room with the student team and the patient. Also, during each visit, the supervisor and student team discuss the patient in the consult rooms, reviewing the assessments and treatment recommendations. Each clinic shift concludes with case review where all the students and supervisors meet jointly to discuss selected cases seen that day.

Clinical course numbers and descriptions for each program’s required and elective clinical offerings are found in the course description section of the catalog under the appropriate program heading. The narrative section of the catalog provides further information regarding clinical training under each program and curriculum section.

Students in each program receive a Bastyr Center for Natural Health Student Clinician Handbook prior to entering clinical training. This required manual serves as the student’s clinic textbook and contains information on clinical education requirements, policies and procedures, learning objectives and clinical competencies.

External clinical training opportunities have been developed for each program, in order to provide a broader educational experience for students. At each external site, Bastyr faculty supervises the student clinicians. For a description of these sites, see Bastyr Center facilities listing on page 13 in this catalog.

Students have a preceptorship requirement in which they work with a variety of licensed, practicing health care professionals in various practice settings. These placements provide students with valuable clinical experience. The combination of external training sites, the preceptor experience and clinical rotations in the main clinic assures diversity in each student’s clinical experience.

Bastyr Center for Natural Health has a well-established CNME-credentialed naturopathic residency program, with positions both at Bastyr Center for Natural Health and numerous external sites. Currently, there are eight naturopathic residency positions at Bastyr Center for Natural Health. These programs are highly competitive and attract graduates from other educational institutions as well as from Bastyr. The residency programs at Bastyr are closely supervised programs of mentorship. Each resident progresses from a purely observational role into an independent role over the course of the year. This progression is monitored and facilitated by a faculty mentor and by the director of the Office of Graduate and Community Medicine. A second year of residency offers clinical supervision and continued skill development. All residents have multiple opportunities to do rotations in other local clinics. The director of the Office of Graduate and Community Medicine is responsible for the administration, development and expansion of the naturopathic residency program. The University is committed to the goal of providing residency opportunities for every graduate.