

Frequently Asked Question About The Dual ND/AOM Program

The following memo is an introduction to the dual ND/AOM program. With adequate planning, this course of study can be a significant asset in terms of future clinical work. This is a rigorous course of study and the following information is intended to assist you with determining whether pursuing this makes sense for you.

What is the ND/AOM Dual Track?

This is an unofficial course of study whereby students have the opportunity to complete studies in both ND and AOM concurrently. Some students are interested in obtaining joint licenses as Naturopathic Physicians and Licensed Acupuncturists as they feel that combining both medicines in their future practice will give them a wider range of options in their clinical work. In addition, some students desire a greater choice of mobility with their professional life as acupuncture is legally recognized in 43 states plus the District of Columbia.

Why do this now? Can I do this later?

Undertaking this course of study is a serious decision. One must be in excellent academic standing and have the financial, emotional and health resources to support a very heavy academic load. This program is not recommended for everyone, but rather is a possible option for some students. There are advantages to choosing to wait to study an additional area of medicine upon graduation. One of these advantages may be a tax advantage in terms of an education write-off. Your tax advisor can confirm this possibility for you.

What is necessary to be successful? How do I prepare myself?

Please remember that financial aid will not cover all the expenses of such a program. One must have outside financial resources to be able to afford this course of study. One must also be in excellent academic standing in ND at the time of application to AOM. This can be demonstrated by completing two years of the four year track in ND with no academic problems. Having the support of friends/family and good physical health are also important.

When/how do I apply?

Applications for the dual track program are accepted in fall quarter of the *second* year of the *four* year track. If you are in the *five* year track, the application would need to be delayed to the *third* year. Please monitor the university newsletter – The Pulse- for the exact dates each year. The advantages of the five year ND track are negated by adding a second degree program! If you are in a five year track of study and want to apply to the dual ND/AOM program, please see your ND advisor. The application process includes completing the admission application to AOM and having a joint interview with the Dean of the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine School and the Associate Dean of the Naturopathic Medicine School.

What else is involved?

The first two years of the ND basic sciences must be completed before studies in AOM can commence. This is because once you are accepted to the ND/AOM dual track, your ND clinical curriculum moves to the five year track to allow room for AOM courses. A dual track course of study has a credit limit of 30 credits per quarter. There is literally no room in the first two years of study in the four year track of ND to add any additional courses for another degree program.

A dual ND/Masters of Science in Acupuncture program takes approximately five years to complete. A dual ND/Masters of Science in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine takes approximately six years to complete. Please refer to the Bastyr catalog for a description of these two degrees. Please be aware that four states specifically require Chinese Herbal Medicine studies for acupuncture licensing: New Mexico, California, Texas and Florida. This can be done within the MSAOM or the MSA with a post-graduate certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine (CCHM).

As mentioned initially, this is an *unofficial track of study*. This means several things: 1) Dual track students are initially registered into evening courses for AOM. This can mean frequently having a 12-14 hour day, with a gap in the afternoon. (On a space available basis, a student can move to a day section but only after registration has been completed.) 2) While there are sample curriculum tracks available to use as references, this course of study requires diligence on the part to the student to ensure that no required courses have been missed in either program. There are times when the registration/scheduling process for dual track students can be very frustrating from the student perspective. Please see the dual track advisor, Jean Fitzharris, in the Registrar's office for information on curriculum tracks.

What classes from the ND program count towards my degree in AOM?

The basic science courses from ND are used towards the science requirements in AOM. Thus approximately 50 credits are removed from the AOM curriculum for dual track students. While the credit load for the MSA or MSAOM is reduced for the dual track students, the overall length of time in the program remains the same due to the sequential nature of the classes.

Academic Success

Once a student enters the dual track program, they must maintain good academic standing in both ND and AOM. Students who earn PC or F grades or whose term or quarterly GPA falls below a 3.0 are not considered in good academic standing. If academic problems arise, students will not be able to continue in dual track status. However, they will be able to select one of the two programs to return to as their primary degree.