

Transfer Pathway – American Academy of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (AAAOM)

Institution Name: Northwestern Health Sciences University

Location: 2501 W. 84th Street, Bloomington MN 55431

Contact: Dr. Jessica Frier, Dean of the College of Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine

Available start dates to accept AAAOM students: Fall 2020

Academic Programs and Degree Options:

Master of Acupuncture (MAC) and Doctor of Chinese Medicine (DCM)

Are you willing to accept credits from AAAOM students? Yes

If so, please outline your transfer process including any exceptions, guarantees, limits, etc.:

Current Transfer Policy: Courses may transfer to Northwestern if students have received grades of C or better. Transfer courses must have similar course content, name, length or objective, and correspond to courses within our acupuncture and Chinese medicine curriculum. The College Dean will determine comparability. All courses submitted to transfer must be applied for and posted to student Northwestern academic record no later than one year from matriculation.

A transfer student must complete at least the last three trimesters (one academic year) in order to graduate from Northwestern. Excessive student loan debt may be a factor in the student's ability to transfer. The Financial Aid Office will set upper limits of previous indebtedness.

Transfer Credit: At the discretion of the College Dean, credit may be granted for equivalent courses taken and passed in another program. Considerations may include the institution offering the courses, the course description and/or syllabus for each course, the length of time since completing the course, and life experience. The student may be required to pass a challenge exam. Students have four options to complete graduation requirements without taking every required course: Transfer Credit for equivalent courses, Transfer Credit for life experience, Waivers of Requirement, and/or CLEP Credits.

Transfer credit will only be granted for the maximum number of hours available from Northwestern-equivalent courses. For example, a 180-hour course in anatomy and physiology from another program will only be worth 135 hours at Northwestern, if the equivalent Northwestern course is 135 hours.

For Equivalent Courses

To be considered for transfer credits, courses must be equivalent to those offered at Northwestern based on an evaluation of the student's official transcript by the program's academic administration. A syllabus or other detailed course description and a copy of the catalog from the original institution may be required. Normally, the course must be an academic course from an accredited institution at the bachelor's degree level or better and passed within the past five years (occasionally, a course may need to have been passed within a shorter time frame) with a grade of C or better. A grade of C- is not acceptable if the awarding college states that the numerical equivalent is less than 2.0 (when A is 4.0). Accreditation must be from an

agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. A transfer student from another acupuncture program must complete at least the last three full-time trimesters of resident study in the Northwestern program prior to graduation.

Equivalent Course/Life Experience

Transfer credit may be given to a student who has taken an equivalent course (which meets the above referenced standards) prior to the past five years, if life work or experience has enabled the student to use the skills learned in that course within the past five years. For example, current licensed health care providers would typically receive credit for most Western biomedicine courses taken more than five years ago, based on their life experience within the past five years.

Waivers of Requirement

Occasionally, a waiver of requirement may be granted in lieu of a required course or course sequence. Credit will be given according to the above noted guidelines for maximum credit/hours allowed. Normally, a waiver of requirement is based on educational or professional experience that may not be able to be documented to the extent required for transfer credit. A challenge exam may be required of the student to demonstrate competency in the subject involved.

CLEP Credits (College Level Examination Program)

A maximum of 30 semester CLEP credits can be transferred into the program. These credits must first be transferred to another undergraduate degree-granting institution and appear on the student's respective transcript before these CLEP credits can be considered for transfer into the program.

All transfer policies are subject to change. Contact the Office of Admissions for current information.

Describe your transfer admission requirements, review process and timeline, including incentives for AAAOM students:

A student wishing to transfer from AAAOM to a College of Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine (CACM) program must:

1. Follow the same application procedures as a new student (see Admission Information above);
2. Forward all official transcripts from AAAOM and any other acupuncture or Chinese medicine program(s) you have attended;
3. Submit one character references;

Northwestern is waiving the Application fee for AAAOM students and not requiring a letter of good standing from the institution.

Please provide information about your financial aid offerings, including any incentives to AAAOM students:

Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for Federal financial aid.

Scholarships for incoming Students – Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine:

- **Bushway Scholarship** – adult learners who are either returning to school, switching career, or in transition
- **Diversity Scholarship** – students who have demonstrated service or leadership in diversity organizations or activities

- **International Scholarship** – students who are not U.S. citizens and require a visa to enter the country
- **Legacy Scholarship** – students whose immediate family member is a NWHSU alumnus
- **Merit Scholarship** – students with an admission GPA of 3.5 or higher
- **Military Scholarships** – for military personnel, veterans, their spouse and children

Scholarships for Current Students – Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine:

- **Bushway Scholarship** – intended for adult learners who are either returning to school, switching careers, or in transition
- **Diversity Leadership Scholarship** – offered every trimester
- **Student Leadership Award** – awarded at the annual Student Leadership Recognition Dinner
- **Military Scholarships** – Offered every trimester. For military personnel, veterans, their spouse and children
- **Winter Scholarship** – awarded at the annual symposium

Federal Direct Loans

- For graduate students, loans are unsubsidized.
- Must attend college at least half-time.
- Aggregate loan maximums for Graduate (Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine) is \$138,500 Unsubsidized.
- Grad PLUS Loans are available for those who qualify.

Northwestern Health Sciences University participates in the Federal Work Study (FWS) Program, which provides campus-based jobs to financially eligible students. Federal Work Study must be part of a financial aid package. Students may work up to an average of 20 hours per week.

Students who are not eligible for the Federal Work Study (FWS) Program, including Canadian and international students, may obtain student employment through Northwestern Health Sciences University student help program.

Please describe available housing options:

Northwestern Health Sciences University does not offer on-campus housing, however we are here to support and assist you through your pursuit of off-campus housing. Many people in the surrounding community have housing exclusively for our students, along with apartment complexes that offer discounted rates for those attending the University. The Twin Cities has a comprehensive metro transit system that frequently stops near campus for an easy commute from local houses or apartments. Student Affairs office maintains an up-to-date newsletter listing of local housing options available for all students.

Please indicate the best way for interested students to begin the process of transferring to your institution:

Contact the Admissions Department by calling 952-885-5409, emailing admit@nwhealth.edu, or visiting our website at www.nwhealth.edu