

The Board of Acupuncture Frequently Asked Questions

1) What are the requirements to become licensed as an acupuncturist in Hawaii?

Complete a formal program of acupuncture and receive a certificate or diploma from an institute, school, or college that was accredited or recognized as a candidate for accreditation by Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, at the time of the applicant's graduation. The program shall have consisted of at least **2,175** hours as follows:

- (a) **Academic program** in the science of acupuncture (traditional oriental medicine) of at least **1,515** hours; **and**
- (b) **Clinical training program** of at least than **660** hours.

2) What documents do I have to submit with my application?

- a) Official transcript with school seal
- b) Copy of certificate or diploma

3) Is there an examination requirement?

Yes. All applicants shall pass the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine ("NCCAOM") Acupuncture Comprehensive Written Exam ("CWE") or its equivalent. In 2004, NCCAOM revised the exam and declared the following exam modules as equivalent to the CWE:

- Foundations of Oriental Medicine
- Acupuncture with Point Location

4) I am licensed in another state. Can I transfer my license to Hawaii? Is there reciprocity?

No. All applicants are required to meet Hawaii's education and training requirements.

5) I am licensed in another state(s). Do I have to provide proof?

Yes. A license verification is required. Have all jurisdictions where you hold or held a license at any time, complete a "*Verification of License*" form.

6) I obtained my education and training in a foreign country. Will my credentials be accepted?

Foreign acupuncture school graduates are required to have their transcripts and curriculum evaluated by one of the following credentials evaluation services. The review shall determine that the foreign education is at least equivalent to the U.S. accredited acupuncture program, and that the institution attended was licensed, approved or accredited in the respective foreign jurisdiction. Order the "Course-by-Course" evaluation, pay the required fee and request the evaluation report be sent to the Board.

- **Foundation for International Services, Inc. (FIS)** www.fis-web.com
- **Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI)** www.acei-global.org
- **International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD)** www.icdeval.com

7) Can I place my license on inactive status?

No.

8) Can I use my doctoral title after completing the Doctorate of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) program?

A licensee practitioner shall be allowed to use a doctoral title after applying, been deemed by the Board to have met the requirements, and received the approval of the Board to use the title.

9) How do I apply for permission to use the Doctor of Acupuncture title?

Complete the Application to Use Doctor of Acupuncture Title and submit the following from your DAOM program.

1. Copy of diploma.
2. Certified transcript (including the school seal).

10) I would like to work practicing acupuncture while going to school. Can I do this?

Yes. You can apply for an intern permit. Upon approval, the permit will allow the applicant to engage in the practice of acupuncture under the immediate supervision of a duly licensed acupuncturist in a school setting or in another setting for a period of four (4) years.

11) Can I extend the period of my intern permit?

An acupuncture intern permit may be reissued once, for a period not to exceed one year, upon written request to the Board and payment of \$50 application fee (non-refundable).

12) What are the requirements to obtain an intern permit?

Completion of at least three (3) semesters of instruction at an approved school.

13) After licensure, how often will I have to renew?

You will need to renew by June 30 of every odd-numbered year. A notice of renewal will be sent to you approximately two months prior to the renewal.

14) Are there continuing education (“CE”) requirements for licensure renewal?

No.

15) I did not renew my license on time. Can I restore it?

Licenses that are not renewed by June 30 of every odd-numbered year become forfeited. A forfeited license may be restored within one year of the forfeiture. To restore a license, you may call the Licensing Branch at (808) 586-3000 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Hawaiian Standard Time, and request to have a restoration application form sent to you.