



Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC)
Washington, DC
www.aanmc.org

About AANMC

The Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC) is a nonprofit association representing the five U.S. and two Canadian accredited naturopathic medical schools. All AANMC member institutions have been accredited or are in candidate status for accreditation by one of the regional accrediting agencies approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The association is guided by its Board of Directors, which directs several other committees, each of which works collaboratively toward the advancement and improvement of naturopathic medical education.

Mission

The AANMC was established in February 2001, to propel and foster the naturopathic medical profession by actively supporting the academic efforts of accredited and recognized schools of naturopathic medicine. Naturopathic medical schools develop healers with knowledge, discrimination and sensitivity.

General Organizational Updates

● **Legislative initiatives relevant to undergraduates, advisors, and professionals**

AANMC's Public Affairs committee continually works to advance industry standing in terms of both legislation and public awareness. For example:

○ **Licensure**

AANMC publicly and actively supports state and provincial licensing for the practice of naturopathic medicine, from a position of advocating increased public safety and reduced health care costs. Currently, 15 states, four Canadian provinces, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands all have laws regulating naturopathic doctors (NDs). Presently, New York State and several others are taking important steps to enact licensure laws, with regulations pending in some areas. Several other states and provinces are actively pursuing regulation.

○ **Loan limit increase**

The ED has recently announced an increase in the aggregate loan limit for graduate and professional students enrolled in certain approved health profession programs. Naturopathic medical students are among those students positively impacted by this new loan limit increase, thereby putting ND students in a much better position to successfully handle the financial aspect of medical school.

● **Accreditation of naturopathic medical school programs**

○ **Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) – www.cnme.org**

Founded in 1978, CNME is the *programmatic* accrediting agency for four-year, in-residence naturopathic medicine programs that lead to the doctor of naturopathy (ND) degree. CNME is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, by both of the American and Canadian national naturopathic professional associations, and by NABNE (see below). CNME sets the educational standards for doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine, and ensures that a high level of education is maintained in the field. Its grant of accreditation to a program indicates that prospective students as well as the public may have confidence in its educational quality.

○ **CNME accreditation visits to naturopathic medical schools**

The CNME conducts regular accreditation site visits to the campuses of all AANMC member colleges to ensure that the ND programs meet CNME's rigorous educational standards. During these visits, a CNME accrediting team observes classroom and clinical activities; interviews students, faculty, and administrators; and evaluates the overall academic quality and performance of the institution. Following the visit to a college, the accrediting team issues an evaluation report containing recommendations to the CNME Board of Directors, which decides

the accreditation status of the ND program.

- **Regional accreditation**

In addition to the programmatic accreditation, all AANMC member institutions themselves are of course *regionally* accredited by the applicable accrediting organization in their region, as recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

- **North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) – www.nabne.org**

NABNE administers and qualifies applicants to take the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) – passage of which is required for NDs to qualify for state or province licensure. NABNE also serves as an unbiased repository of exam scores, sending transcripts to licensing and regulatory authorities.

- **Educational initiatives**

The AANMC's Chief Academic and Clinical Officers (CACO) committee continually strives to generate, improve and maintain high standards in naturopathic medical education. This medical education committee is comprised of representatives from all the North American naturopathic medical schools, working jointly to develop core curriculum outcome competencies (which include biomedical and clinical competencies, bridge program standards, learning and teaching innovations (in the classroom and clinical settings), clinical practice guidelines, licensing examinations, and residencies). To adapt to the growing student body, several of the naturopathic colleges have recently expanded their facilities in terms of clinical, classroom, and laboratory research space.

- **Diversity efforts**

All of the AANMC campuses engage in efforts to increase diversity among all constituencies, including students, faculty, trustees and staff. This is reflected in various recruitment, travel, advertising and enrollment activities. The ND student population is comprised of 77% females, a much higher percentage than typical for most medical and health science programs.

- **Workforce initiatives**

The number of ND graduates in North America has tripled over the past 10 years, reaching approximately 4,700. Both academically and at the professional level, AANMC is actively involved in advancing the field of naturopathic medicine and monitoring its advancement through industry surveys and other research. Naturopathic medicine is an emerging profession with professional membership associations, both nationally and regionally. These include:

- **The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) – www.naturopathic.org**

Represents licensed naturopathic physicians as primary care providers in the United States.

- **The Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND) – www.cand.ca**

Represents licensed naturopathic physicians as primary care providers in Canada.

Both national associations promote awareness of the profession, publicly advocate licensure efforts, provide consumer information, and offer a searchable database of licensed members. Numerous other associations also exist at the state- and province-level.

- **Oncology Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OncANP) – www.oncanp.org**

Offers information and resources to advance the philosophy, science, and practice of naturopathic oncology.

Admissions Update

- **Recruiting initiatives**

The AANMC Pre-Med Marketing & Admissions committee combines the student recruitment efforts of its member colleges to increase their presence and visibility among prospective ND students. It is primarily tasked with the objective of increasing the quality and quantity of the ND applicant pool. Some recent initiatives include:

- **Produced campus video series.** Available for viewing both on AANMC's Web site as well as on various video channels across the Web, the videos serve two purposes: 1) to expand the reach to potential med school applicants, and 2) to address typical prospective-student inquiries regarding campus atmosphere.
- Launched new and improved AANMC Web site redesign with updated resources.
- Executed a public awareness advertising campaign and negotiated joint advertising/sponsorship opportunities for its member schools.
- Hosted multi-school informational forums in several U.S. cities.
- Attended several other graduate and career fairs across North America.

- Represented at NAAHP national and regional conferences.
- **Expansion**
An additional U.S. school – National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) in Lombard, Ill. – attained candidacy status for accreditation for its new naturopathic medicine program in 2008.
- **Report on 2008 cycle**
The applicant pool for the naturopathic medical schools continues to display a growth pattern. Over the last six years (from the 2002-03 academic year to the 2008-09 academic year) the ND *applicant* pool has increased by 61%, from 617 applicants in year 2002 to 990 applicants in year 2008.

First-year student *enrollment* now reaches an 88% increase over the same six-year period, from 265 in year 2002 to 499 in year 2008. *Total* ND student *enrollment* in year 2008 is 1,831 students.
- **Trend data, Fall 2007 entering class**
 - Gender ratio: 23% male and 77% female.
 - Enrollments by ethnicity:
 - African American – 9.6 %
 - Asian/Pacific Islander – 7.6 %
 - Hispanic/Latino – 5.6 %
 - Mainland Puerto Rican – 0 %
 - Native American – 0.6 %
 - White/Caucasian – 71.3 %
 - Other – 5.3 %
 - Mean age: 31 years.
 - Mean science GPA: 3.46
 - Mean cumulative GPA: 3.22

Future Planning

- **Centralized application system**
The AANMC schools are investigating the conversion to a centralized application system for all the ND schools, and have begun initial vendor communication.
- **Webinar**
In 2009, the AANMC member schools will adapt their informational forum events to virtual Webinars. These Webinars will be a supplement to the live events, which will still be hosted across the country. The new virtual format is geared towards those interested in learning more about the growing field of naturopathic medicine but unable to travel to an event location.
- **Joint sponsorships**
The schools are collaboratively planning to participate in more joint sponsorships in year 2009, including the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) conferences.

Publications

One of the AANMC's core objectives is to serve as an accurate informational resource for prospective students seeking knowledge about the career and the profession of naturopathic medicine. In an effort to raise awareness of naturopathic medical education, the association has developed the following:

- **[NEW] [AANMC Video Series: Mind of a Doctor, Heart of a Healer](#)** – campus videos
- **[Explore Naturopathic Medicine](#)** – PDF viewbook
- **[AANMC Naturopathic Medical School E-Newsletter](#)** – With approximately 50,000 subscribers
- **[NEW] [AANMC 2-Minute E-News](#)** – Condensed version, sent to the same 50,000 subscribers
- **[Naturopathic Medicine FAQ](#)** – Addresses a wide variety of reader and prospective student inquiries
- **[What Kind of Doctor Do You Want To Be?](#)** – Results from a careers and practice survey
 - **[Career Satisfaction Among NDs](#)**
 - **[Top 10 Conditions Treated by NDs](#)**
- **[Leaders in the Field](#)** – Profiles of select AANMC school alumni & event speakers

Naturopathic Medical Principles

Six fundamental principles guide every aspect of the naturopathic doctor's orientation to health and wellness:

First Do No Harm

Utilize the most natural, least invasive and least toxic therapies.

Identify and Treat the Causes

Look beyond symptoms to address the underlying cause of illness.

Prevention

Focus on promoting health, wellness and disease prevention.

Treat the Whole Person

View the body as an integrated whole in all its physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions.

Doctor as Teacher

Educate patients in the steps to achieving and maintaining health.

The Healing Power of Nature

Trust in the body's inherent wisdom to heal itself.

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