



Acupuncturist

Acupuncturists use medical theories and techniques developed in East Asia (China, Korea, and Japan) to improve or maintain the health of their patients. Acupuncture helps many patients to maintain emotional balance, reduce stress, and relieve pain. A licensed acupuncturist commonly treats a patient by:

- inserting acupuncture needles or applying heat, pressure or electrical stimulation to specific acupuncture points on or near the surface of the patient’s body, and/or
- recommending specific diets, dietary supplements or natural products (such as herbs).

Education

At least 60 semester hours at an accredited college or university, including nine semester hours in the biosciences

AND

Complete a [Department-registered](#) 3-year acupuncture licensure program or the equivalent, as determined by the Department

Examination

Acupuncture with Point Location Exam and Foundations of Oriental Medicine Exam (National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine)

- ▶ See the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all license options and requirements.

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary range: \$35,000-\$58,000
- Projected Growth: average

Where Could I Work?

- Medical or mental health clinics
- Hospitals
- Acupuncture private practice
- Medical, chiropractic, and physical therapy offices

Your Interests and Abilities

- Anatomy and physiology
- Health sciences
- Manual and technical skills
- Alternative medicine/healing

Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Adaptability
- Practice management
- Communication

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options!

Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to an acupuncturist about what they do and how they got started!