

# The Monthly Qi

## What's Happening at Southwest Acupuncture College

*The Monthly Qi* is a one-page Shout out devoted to the seasonal energy of the year.  
Contact Sophia Bungay, Director of Admissions and Alumni and share your *Qi* with us.  
Volume 3, Issue 5, May 2021

### The Programs at Southwest Acupuncture College Dr. Paul Rossignol, B.A., Dipl.OM, DOM (NM)- Campus Director, Santa Fe

Southwest Acupuncture College is one of the oldest institutions of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal medicine in the United States having been in operation for more than 40 years. The institution originated in Santa Fe, New Mexico with a primary focus on instruction in acupuncture methods. Over time, the state practice act has expanded in our home state of New Mexico which has the broadest scope of practice in the country and some of the most demanding requirements for licensure, which include a minimum of 450 hours of Chinese herbal medicine education. The program consists of 3092.5 hours of instruction including 525 hours of didactic training in herbal medicine. Since its inception, we have continued to refine our herbal curriculum with inclusion of in-depth education in internal medicine applications, research literacy, and modern pharmacology. The result has been a comprehensive education geared around development of practical clinical competencies in utilizing Chinese herbal medicine as well as acupuncture.

After our expansion to Boulder in 1997, we identified the need for a program that could provide the education required for licensure and independent practice in those states like Colorado, which do not require specific education in herbal medicine. This resulted in the initiation in 2010 of what has become our 2525.5-hour Master of Acupuncture degree, which omits the herbal instruction. Both the Master of Acupuncture and the Master of Acupuncture with Chinese Herbal Specialization include the same application of academic rigor, early introduction to clinical experience, and the development of strong professional competencies to meet our missions of preparing students to become independent practitioners. They are well-rounded professional degree programs which share the same core curriculum that gradually expose the emerging practitioner to the uses of traditional East Asian and modern Western medical models of the human body, as well as the underlying philosophy, theory and clinical applications of acupuncture and adjunct therapies including moxibustion, tui na (Chinese bodywork) gua sha, cupping, auricular therapy, and scalp acupuncture methods. We pride ourselves on providing a classical Oriental medicine education which includes a broad yet deep historical base of diagnostic approaches. These paradigms include Yin/Yang, Five Elements, Three Treasures, Four Levels, Six Stages, Essential Substances, Zang Fu, and Eight Principles, versus a limited concentration in any one approach. This provides a solid foundation for future professional development as well as preparing students for success in National Certification exams that are now required to obtain licensure in most states.

Our college engages in regular programmatic review and development to ensure our students are prepared for the future. This has included the addition of Western content such as orthopedic anatomy and expanded Chinese medicine content including specialty acupuncture styles and additional internal medicine applications with herbs. In 2020 we formed a Doctoral Committee engaged in developing a curriculum in advanced Western diagnostic training, evidenced based practice methods and professional development appropriate for professional doctoral level programs with the intent to apply for approval to offer a First Professional Doctoral degree in the summer 2021.

To learn more about our programs and the college you can visit our website and download our catalog.  
[www.acupuncturecollege.edu](http://www.acupuncturecollege.edu).

