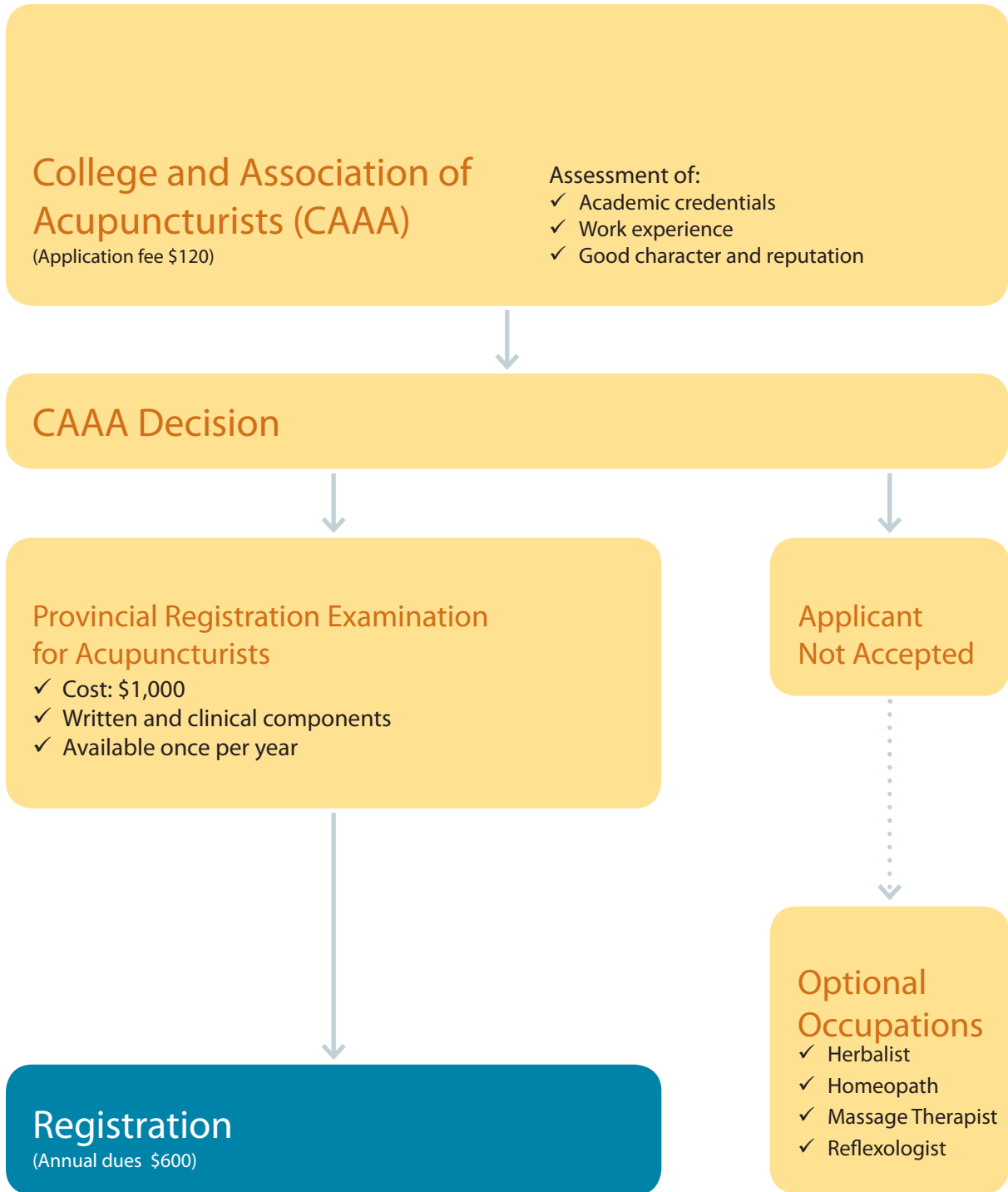


Acupuncturist

Registration Process



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Description of Occupation

Acupuncturists diagnose diseases, physiological disorders and injuries by using traditional Chinese medical theories, and then treat them by inserting acupuncture needles at different points on the body. Inserting the needles stimulates the body's flow of energy, which relieves pain and restores health.

Acupuncturists also may recommend herbal supplements, exercises or dietary changes.

Obtaining Registration in Alberta

To become an Acupuncturist in Alberta, you must be registered with the College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAAA).

The following steps must be taken before you can register:

- Have your academic credentials evaluated by the CAAA.
- Take a safety/clean needle course if required.
- Confirm your work experience.
- Have your good character and reputation assessed.
- Take the required examination.
- Pay the required fees.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

There is no residency requirement to apply for registration. You can start the application process from outside Canada.

Requirements

Internationally educated Acupuncturists must meet these requirements:

1. Academic Credentials

The CAAA requires that all registrants complete one of its approved programs of studies, or one that is substantially equivalent to the approved programs. As the approved programs are all based in Alberta, you must prove that your international education is substantially equivalent.

To do this, the following needs to be submitted to CAAA:

- A copy of your degree, diploma or certificate from an Acupuncture program, sent directly from the school you attended.
- Transcripts showing you have completed a program that includes approximately 1,440 hours of theoretical instruction and 650 hours of clinical instruction and/or practical experience, forwarded directly from the school you attended.

You may also need to take:

- A safety/clean needle course that is approved by the CAAA. The Resources section includes a list of Acupuncture programs that contain the safety/clean needle course as part of their curriculum, but you will need to check directly with the institution to see if you can take the safety/clean needle course separately.

It is strongly recommended that you take this course prior to writing your clinical examination.

2. Work Experience

You must have completed at least 500 practice hours within two (2) years immediately preceding your application for registration. These hours may include practical experience gained while in school, or they may include work hours in your country of origin if you graduated more than two (2) years before your application.

If you are applying using work hours gained outside of school, you must submit:

- A letter from your supervisor, or other evidence that is sufficient for the CAAA, to prove that you have worked at least 500 hours during the past two (2) years

3. Good Character and Reputation

You must also provide:

- Two (2) character references that can confirm your good character and reputation

On the Application Form, you will also be required to disclose:

- Whether you have practiced as an Acupuncturist in any other jurisdiction(s)
- Whether you belong to any associations of Acupuncturists
- Whether you have ever been formally disciplined for improper conduct or incompetence as an Acupuncturist.

The information you provide will be used to assess your good character and reputation.

4. English Language

No standardized tests are required to become a registered Acupuncturist; however, Acupuncturists must keep patient records in English and be able to communicate with patients in English.

5. Examinations

If the CAAA approves your academic credentials, work experience, good character and reputation and English language skills, you will be able to move on to the examination component of the registration process.

Alberta's Provincial Registration Examination for Acupuncturists must be successfully completed before you can become a registered Acupuncturist. The examination consists of written and clinical components.

Refer to the CAAA website for examination dates and times, as they are subject to change each year.

Payment

Application Fee	\$120 (\$40 non-refundable administration fee; \$80 application fee that is refunded if registration is denied)
Examination Fee	\$1,000
Annual Registration Fee	\$600
*Fees are subject to change. Contact CAAA for most up-to-date fees.	

Average Earnings

Most Acupuncturists in Alberta are self-employed as professional health practitioners. They may also form partnerships in health clinics with other allied health care practitioners. Income is related to the number of patients that an Acupuncturist treats, and it may take some time to build up a client base and achieve a steady income.

While some work on a contract basis, few Acupuncturists are employees. Due to the many different work arrangements, incomes for this occupation vary greatly. There is little data available on wages for Acupuncturists in Alberta.

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Herbalist, Homeopath, Massage Therapist or Reflexologist.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Acupuncturist](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo) (for information on all occupations see www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

College and Association of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAAA)
Unit A-51 Skyline Crescent NE
Calgary, Alberta T2K 5X2
Telephone: 403-262-2833
Fax: 403-262-2896
Email: registrar@acupuncturealberta.ca
Website: www.acupuncturealberta.ca

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Acupuncturist registration visit the CAAA website at www.acupuncturealberta.ca.

Application Forms and Information

Registration Requirements:

www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/acupuncturist-registration.html

Application Form:

<http://acupuncturealberta.ca/links.html>

Acupuncture Regulations:

www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=1988_042.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=0779751051

Academic Credentials

Canadian Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine:

www.citcm.com

Calgary College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture:

www.cctcma.com

Alberta College of Acupuncture & Traditional Chinese Medicine:

www.acatcm.com

MacEwan University Acupuncture Program:

www.macewan.ca/wcm/SchoolsFaculties/HCS/Programs/Acupuncture/index.htm

Examinations

Acupuncturist Provincial Registration Examination:

<http://acupuncturealberta.ca/links.html>