

Preparing for Naturopathic Medicine

This tipsheet will focus on the admission requirements for the Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine Program, offered by the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM) in Toronto. Website: www.ccnm.edu. Please note that admission requirements are subject to change at any time.

General Information: Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (N.D.) Program

Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine (N.D.) are specialists in natural medicine and preventative health care, integrating scientific knowledge with traditional healing wisdom. The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine offers a four-year, accredited, full-time professional program in naturopathic medicine. Upon completion of the four-year program, graduates receive a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (N.D.) diploma, and must pass international licensing examinations before registration is granted to practice as a naturopathic doctor. Each candidate is evaluated by the Admissions Committee with regard to academic achievement, motivation, character, community service and life experience.

Application Procedures

There are two intake processes per year for the N.D. program.

- **Deadline: December 31, 2011** for September 2012 intake
- **Deadline: April 30, 2012** for January 2013 intake

Please view the CCNM website for deadline updates.

The application consists of:

- A completed application form and payment of \$150 application fee. To download an application form, see the CCNM website.
- Official transcripts mailed directly to CCNM's Recruitment Department by the institutions attended.
- Proof of current course enrolment (if applicable).
- Confidential Reference Forms completed by two individuals (non-relatives) mailed directly from these individuals to the Recruitment Department. It is recommended that references be obtained from two of the following groups:
 - Academic, Professional (former employer), Naturopathic Doctor, Other Health Care Provider
- Written personal statement answering specific questions regarding commitment to and motivation for becoming a naturopathic doctor.
- Résumé outlining education, employment history, volunteer experience and awards.
- A copy of a birth certificate or passport.

Academic Qualifications

To be considered for admission, applicants must have completed a Bachelor's degree at an accredited institution with a minimum number of pre-requisite courses completed before enrolling in the program. An average of 60% or higher must be achieved in pre-requisite courses to receive credit from CCNM. Please contact CCNM for more information.

Required Courses	Semester Hours	Credits
General Biology*	6 hours	1 (full credit)
Biochemistry	3 hours	0.5 (half credit)
Physiology	6 hours	1 (full credit)
Organic Chemistry with lab component	3 hours	0.5 (half credit)
Psychology	6 hours	1 (full credit)
Humanities**	6 hours	1 (full credit)

Note:

- The biology requirement may be fulfilled by either a one-year general biology course or by combining two semesters of courses such as anatomy, botany, cell biology, genetics, microbiology, physiology or zoology.
- Humanities course work must include an essay writing component (such as: Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Studies, philosophy, English).

The minimum average required to be accepted is a **CGPA of 2.7**. Historically, the average CGPA of accepted students is **3.3**, ranging from 2.7 to 4.0.

Naturopathic Continuing Education — for prerequisite science courses

Those lacking prerequisite courses can complete requirements on a part-time basis (evenings and weekends) through continuing studies at CCNM. Taking these courses does not provide any advantage for possible acceptance into the program compared to taking prerequisite courses at other universities. Courses also do not qualify for a degree and are generally not transferable to other institutions. A final mark of at least 60% is expected in order to receive credit for these courses.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

The MCAT is not required for admission to the Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine Program.

Personal Interview

Applicants are chosen for interviews based on their academic performance. This interview assesses an applicant's ability to successfully complete the program and become an effective naturopathic doctor. For more information, visit: www.ccnm.edu/?q=prospective_students/personal_interview.

Other Canadian Naturopathic Medical Colleges

There is one other Naturopathic college in Canada: Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine, New Westminster, BC website: www.binm.org.

Regulation in Canada

In Canada, naturopathic practice is regulated under provincial law in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Alberta regulations are pending and expected to be completed within the year. All other provinces and territories are actively pursuing regulation.

Useful Websites for Pre-Naturopathic Medical Students

- **British Columbia Naturopathic Association (BCNA).** www.bcna.bc.ca
- **Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND).** www.naturopathicassoc.ca
- **Council on Naturopathic Medical Accreditation (CNME).** Accrediting body for naturopathic medicine in North America www.cnme.org
- **Ontario Association of Naturopathic Doctors (OAND).** www.oand.org
- **Naturopathic Students' Association.** www.nsa-ccnm.com

Resources Available at the Academic Advising and Career Centre

- **Career Cruising.** Utilize this on-line database to learn more about naturopathic medicine.
- **Career Resource Library.** See Resource Binders and Reserve Books.
- **Professional and Graduate School Fair.** Held in October. Check the Academic Advising & Career Centre (AA&CC) website for details.
- **Professional and Graduate School Workshops.** Held in October prior to the Fair.
- **Extern Program.** Learn more about this occupation by speaking with a professional in the field.