

CITCM | INSPIRE CHANGE

PROGRAM GUIDE

2027-2028 Academic Year



Acupuncture • Chinese Medicine • Massage

Canadian Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Canadian Branch College of Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine

citcm.com

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Welcome to CITCM

Integrated healthcare education in Calgary since 2004



Welcome to CITCM. Our goal is to help you build the knowledge, clinical skills, professionalism, and confidence needed for a rewarding career in acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, and massage therapy.

Our programs bring together Eastern medical theory, Western biomedical knowledge, hands-on learning, and extensive supervised clinical experience.

We are proud to support each student as they grow, gain confidence, and prepare to make a meaningful difference in the lives of their future patients.

President of CITCM

Dr. Xia Cheng, PhD, Dr. Ac.

About CITCM

Founded in Calgary in 2004, CITCM provides career-focused education in acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Western and Eastern integrated Massage Program. Our educational model connects theory with practical skills and progressive clinical experience.

Mission

At CITCM, we train highly skilled Doctors of Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners, and Massage Therapists utilizing an interactive positive learning environment with experienced, enthusiastic, caring, and knowledgeable faculty.

We promote the integration of Traditional Chinese Medicine with Western Medicine. We strive to treat patient illnesses and maintain health and wellbeing through natural medicine. We educate our students, patients, and community understand and view the body, mind, and spirit as a whole.

Core Values

Kindness • Accountability • Confidence • Passion
Integrity • Optimism • Diligence • Wisdom

WE Integrated Philosophy

Western Knowledge + Eastern Wisdom +

Philosophy Emphasizes

- Strong foundations in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Massage Therapy.
- Biomedical knowledge that supports safe assessment, communication and referral.
- Connecting theory with hands-on clinical practice.
- Patient-Centered Practice
- Recognition of the interrelationship of body, mind and spirit.
- Professional responsibility, compassion and lifelong learning.

Why Choose CITCM?

Reasons students choose our programs

3,800+ HOURS

Comprehensive acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, biomedical and professional education.

1,050 CLINICAL HOURS

Extensive supervised clinical practicum throughout the program.

WESTERN AND EASTERN INTEGRATION

Eastern medical practice supported by Western biomedical knowledge.

BACHELOR PATHWAY

International study and bachelor's degree pathway through CDUTCM.

CAREER PREPARATION

Safety, professional practice and entry-to-practice exam preparation.

EXPERIENCED FACULTY

Learn from clinicians and educators with diverse healthcare backgrounds.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

Convenient scheduling designed to fit around work and family commitments.

COMPREHENSIVE AND PRACTICAL

Curriculum designed to build strong knowledge while developing ready to practice skills you can apply with confidence.



Programs – Choose the pathway that fits your goals

Program	Length	Focus	Outcome
Acupuncture Diploma	4 years	Acupuncture + TCM foundations + biomedicine	Acupuncture Diploma <i>Acupuncture entry-to-practice pathway</i>
Double Major: Acupuncture + DTCM	4 years	Acupuncture + advanced Chinese herbal medicine	Acupuncture & DTCM Diplomas <i>Broader TCM practitioner education</i>
CDUTCM Bachelor's Pathway	16 weeks of internship	Double Major + TCM hospital internship in China	Acupuncture & DTCM Diplomas Bachelor of Acupuncture & Moxibustion from CDUTCM <i>Become a TCM Doctor with international credentials and advanced training under TCM experts in China.</i>
Double Major Plus	4 years	Acupuncture + DTCM + WE Integrated Orthopedic Massage	Acupuncture & DTCM Diplomas Massage Diploma <i>Students seeking multiple complementary-care qualifications</i>
WE Integrated Orthopedic Massage	1 & 2 years	Western therapeutic and orthopedic massage + Eastern modalities	Massage therapy diploma (1113 Hours or 2200 Hours) <i>Become a massage therapist skilled in both Western and Eastern techniques.</i>

Transfer Credit & Advanced Standing

Applicants with relevant post-secondary or healthcare education may request an individual transfer-credit assessment. CITCM reviews prior coursework, learning outcomes, hours, grades and recency of study under its current policies.

Acupuncture/DTCM Curriculum Overview

From foundations to advanced clinical practice

Doctor of Acupuncture Diploma

A comprehensive four-year professional program



Program Focus

In-depth education in acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine, supported by biomedical sciences and extensive supervised clinical training. Students develop skills in assessment, point location, needling techniques, treatment planning, safety and professional practice.

Highlights

- Four-year program structure.
- More than 3,000 total educational hours in the current curriculum structure.
- 1,050 hours of supervised clinical practicum.
- Progressive acupuncture techniques, safety and treatment-planning training.
- Preparation for the Pan-Canadian acupuncture entry-to-practice pathway and Alberta requirements, subject to current regulatory requirements.

Double Major: Acupuncture + DTCM

Acupuncture plus advanced Chinese herbal medicine



One integrated four-year pathway

The Double Major combines acupuncture studies with advanced Traditional Chinese Medicine and Chinese herbal medicine education within a four-year program. It is designed for students seeking a broader and more comprehensive TCM education and also serves as CITCM's pathway to the CDUTCM Bachelor's Degree program.

Additional Areas of Study

- TCM Classics
- Advanced acupuncture and herbal courses.
- TCM gynecology, pediatrics and EENT.
- Orthopedic sports acupuncture.
- Research and methodology.

Chengdu University of TCM (CDUTCM) Bachelor's Degree Pathway

International academic and clinical experience



International Experience

Expand your academic and clinical experience through training with experienced TCM doctors at Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CDUTCM) in Chengdu, China. This international learning opportunity allows students to deepen their understanding of Traditional Chinese Medicine through clinical observation, exposure to hospital-based practice, case discussion, and direct engagement with experienced practitioners in a leading TCM academic and clinical environment.

Highlights

- Internships in both TCM Hospitals and Integrated Western & TCM Hospitals.
- Direct mentorship from CDUTCM professors and TCM doctors/clinicians.
- Rotation of internship in different specializations of hospital departments.
- Classroom lectures, workshops, campus activities.
- Experience student life in the vibrant and beautiful city of Chengdu

1. STUDY AT CITCM

Complete the Double Major

2. STUDY IN CHENGDU

16-week internship

3. DEGREE PATHWAY

Bachelor's Degree from CDUTCM

Double Major PLUS: Acupuncture + DTCM & Massage

Dual Diplomas for Acupuncture Practitioner and Massage Therapist



Dual Diplomas within 4 Years

The Double Major Plus pathway brings together CITCM's Acupuncture and DTCM studies with the 2,200-hour WE Integrated Orthopedic Massage program, allowing students to develop a broader and more versatile clinical skill set.

Advantage Highlights

- Broader Clinical Skill Set
- Gain training across two programs and increase career opportunities
- Get more value from your education with reduced tuition fees
- Opportunity to work as a massage therapist while continuing your Acupuncture and TCM studies

Acupuncture/DTCM Curriculum Overview

From foundations to advanced theory and clinical skills

Green = Eastern / TCM | Blue = Western / Biomedical & Professional | Grey = Clinical Integration

YEAR 1 Foundations	YEAR 2 Development	YEAR 3 Advanced	YEAR 4 Ready to Practice
TCM Foundations	Acupuncture Technique	TCM Internal Medicine	Advanced TCM Internal Medicine
History of TCM	Tui Na Massage Technique	TCM Classics: Yellow Emperor / Shang Han Lun	TCM External Medicine
Acupoints & Meridians	TCM Materia Medica	Acupuncture Orthopedic Sport Medicine	TCM Pediatrics
TCM Diagnostics	Points & Safety	Medical Tai Ji	TCM Classics: Jin Gui Yao Lue / Wen Bing
TCM Materia Medica	Acupuncture Therapeutics	Micro-Acupuncture Systems	Botanical Pharmacology & Herbal Safety
Medical Qi Gong	TCM Formulas & Strategies	Acu/TCM Gynecology	Acu/TCM EENT
Chinese Medical Terminology	Tui Na Therapeutics	TCM Preventative Medicine & Diet	TCM Doctrines
TCM Differentiation Syndromes	Acupuncture Safety & Clean Needle	Licensing Exam Preparation Courses	Acu/TCM Research & Methodology
Medical Terminology	Pathology	Western Pharmacology	Clinical Immunology
Anatomy & Physiology	Biochemistry	Western Physical Assessment	Business Management: Business Plan
Surface Anatomy	Business Management: Marketing	Western Lab Test Reading	First Aid and CPR Level C
Microbiology	Western Nutrition	Western Medicine	
Ethics & Legal		Communications & Jurisprudence	
Clinical Skills	Clinical Skills	Clinical Skills	Clinical Skills
120 Hours Clinical Practicum	180 Hours Clinical Practicum	360 Hours Clinical Practicum	390 Hours Clinical Practicum

Clinical learning progresses from observation and assistance to increasingly independent supervised practice and entry-to-practice level.

Massage Program

Integrating Western and Eastern Techniques in Practice

Professional Focus

The WE Integrated Orthopedic Massage program prepares students for professional massage therapy practice through a combination of biomedical sciences, orthopedic assessment, hands-on massage techniques, Eastern therapeutic modalities and supervised clinical experience.

Students learn to assess different types of musculoskeletal conditions, apply appropriate techniques, deliver safe and individualized treatment, document care and communicate professionally. Graduates may work in massage clinics, multidisciplinary healthcare settings, sports and wellness facilities, spas, resorts or independent practice, subject to applicable association, insurance and jurisdictional requirements.

Program Highlights

- 2,200 hours of integrated academic, practical and clinical education.
- Western therapeutic massage, orthopedic assessment and treatment planning.
- Eastern modalities including Tui Na, acupressure, cupping, gua sha, reflexology, scalp massage and Thai massage.
- Small practical classes with hands-on instruction and supervised feedback.
- Career preparation in ethics, communication, research and business management.
- Transfer-credit opportunities toward eligible CITCM Acupuncture and TCM pathways.

Massage Curriculum Overview

Western foundations Eastern modalities and clinical practice

FOUNDATIONAL SCIENCES	MASSAGE & ASSESSMENT	PROFESSIONAL & CLINICAL
Anatomy & Physiology	Western / Relaxation Massage	Ethics & Communications
Surface Anatomy	Advanced Therapeutic Massage	Business Management
Medical Terminology	Orthopedic Assessment & Techniques	Massage Research
Arthrology & Myology	Applied Kinesiology	First Aid & CPR
Biomedicine & Neurology	Tui Na Techniques & Therapeutics	Onsite Clinical Practicum
TCM Foundations	Eastern Massage Modalities: cupping, gua sha, scalp, reflexology, and more	Offsite Clinical Practicum
Nutrition & Diet Therapy	Hydrotherapy & Hot Stone	Case-Based Learning

Curriculum sequence, course titles and delivery formats may be updated. Students should consult the current schedule and enrollment agreement for confirmed details.

Massage Clinical Education

Developing safe confident and professional practice

Clinical Education

Clinical practice is central to CITCM education. Students' progress through supervised stages of learning, beginning with observation and assistance and advancing toward greater responsibility in assessment, treatment planning and patient care.

Clinical practice connects classroom learning with supervised client care. Students begin with foundational observation and skill development, then progress toward integrated assessment, treatment planning, massage delivery, reassessment and professional documentation.

Clinical Learning Emphasizes

- Applications from classroom learning into clinical setting
- Client intake, informed consent, privacy and professional boundaries.
- Recognition of contraindications, precautions and referral needs.
- Orthopedic and functional assessment within massage therapy scope.
- Safe application of therapeutic, relaxation and Eastern massage techniques.
- Treatment planning, outcomes monitoring and accurate clinical records.
- Professional communication, time management and reflective practice.

Graduate Preparation

The program is designed to prepare graduates for professional massage therapy practice and applications to recognized professional associations. In addition to their massage therapy credential, graduates will also receive certification in **myofascial techniques, fire cupping, gua sha, Tui Na, acupressure, and hot stone therapy**, expanding the range of modalities they can bring into their own practice upon completion.

Professional association recognition, membership criteria, and insurer requirements may change over time. Applicants are encouraged to confirm current requirements directly with the relevant associations.



Admission & Application

A clear five-step process

1
APPLY

2
DOCUMENTS

3
INTERVIEW

4
DECISION

5
ENROL

Admission Requirements

- Above 18 years old
- Provide proof of high school completion or applicable post-secondary education.
- Complete an information session/interview with the Admissions Office.
- Meet CITCM's English-language proficiency requirements where applicable.

Application Documents

- Completed application form.
- Official transcripts.
- Current resume.
- Letter of intent.
- Additional documents if requested.



Tuition, Scholarships & Financial Support

The annual tuition fee will remain unchanged after enrollment.

PROGRAM	2027–2028 TUITION
Acupuncture Diploma	\$12,400.00 per year
Double Major – Acupuncture & DTCM	\$12,400.00 per year
Double Major Plus – Acupuncture/DTCM + Massage	\$12,400.00 per year (plus additional \$13,800.00 for the massage program)
WE Integrated Orthopedic Massage	\$12,400.00 per year
CDUTCM internship / bachelor's pathway costs (4-month internship)	\$5,000.00

Scholarships

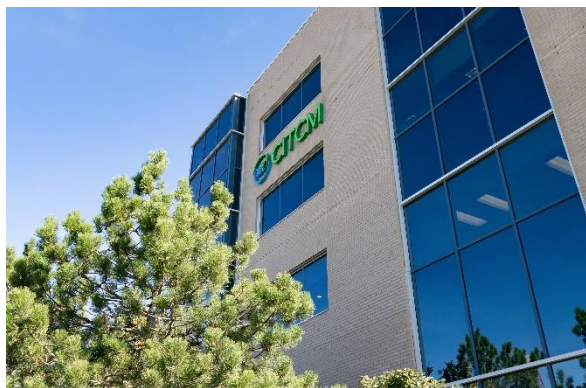
CITCM offers annual scholarships and bursaries in several categories to support eligible students.

Student Financial Assistance

Government student loans are available for CITCM programs. Students are responsible for verifying the eligibility and requirements prior to applying.

International Students

Build your clinical skills while enjoying the natural beauty of the Canadian Rockies



International Applicants

CITCM welcomes international applicants. The source guide identifies CITCM as a Designated Learning Institution (DLI No. O19256722732). Experience student life in Calgary, near the beautiful Rocky Mountains, while building practical skills in acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine, and/or massage therapy.

International Application

- Apply early to allow time for admission and immigration processing.
- Meet CITCM academic and English-language admission requirements.
- Provide required transcripts, identification and supporting documents.
- Provide official English translations for documents issued in another language.
- After admission, follow current Canadian study-permit requirements.

English Language Requirements

Applicants may satisfy CITCM's English language proficiency requirements through one of the following pathways:

- TOEFL iBT: Score of 60 or higher, with at least 18 in each section.
- IELTS: Overall score of 6.0 or higher in each skill category.
- Canadian Language Benchmarks Assessment (CLBA): Minimum score of 7.

Eligible international students can work up to 24 hours per week during their studies or unlimited during academic break, providing the perfect balance between education and gaining practical experience.

Currently, as per IRCC guidelines, international students studying at private career colleges in Alberta, including CITCM, are not eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP). We recommend visiting IRCC website to explore other pathways to work authorization or permanent residency through eligible Canadian immigration programs.

References:

Study permits and studying in Canada: [IRCC – Study in Canada](#)

Study permits in Alberta: [Study Alberta – Apply for a Study Permit](#)

Campus, Clinic & Community

Where learning, clinical practice, and community come together



Book your tour to check out CITCM’s approximately 10,000-square-foot Calgary campus includes classrooms, treatment rooms, practical learning space, student areas, an herbal pharmacy and clinic facilities. The campus is near the University of Calgary, McMahon Stadium and public transit.

Community Experience

Students have opportunities to build practical skills and confidence through supervised clinical experience at CITCM’s onsite teaching clinic, as well as approved offsite and community-based activities. These experiences allow students to apply their learning in real-world settings, give back to diverse populations, and strengthen professional communication, patient care, and community engagement skills. Opportunities may include community outreach, wellness events, educational activities, and other approved experiences.

Student Support

At CITCM, students are supported throughout their academic, clinical, and professional journey. Our student support and services include academic and clinical guidance, student services and accommodations, online learning resources, career and licensing exam preparation, community engagement, and continuing education opportunities. Students can also get involved through student governance and representation, on-site social events, workshops, and community activities—building connections, developing professionally, and becoming an active part of the CITCM community.

Academic & Clinical Guidance	Student Services & Accommodations	International Collaborations
Career & Exam Preparation	Community Engagement	Continuing Education Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions

The essentials prospective students ask most often

Are CITCM programs approved?

CITCM is licensed under Alberta Education Ministry under Private Career Colleges (PCC) Branch and the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAA).

How does the schedule look like?

Acupuncture classes are scheduled Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. throughout the four-year program. Massage classes are scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the two-year program.

Students also complete 4–8 hours of clinical practicum per week, scheduled outside regular classroom hours, providing additional hands-on experience in a supervised clinical setting.

What types of employment opportunities are available after graduation?

Graduates may work in private clinics, multidisciplinary health and wellness centres, rehabilitation or integrative care settings, or pursue self-employment by establishing their own practice, subject to applicable registration, insurance, business, and regulatory requirements.

Can health professionals receive transfer credit?

Yes. Relevant prior education may be assessed under CITCM's current transfer-credit and advanced-standing policies.

Does the massage program include acupuncture?

No. Acupuncture is a separate regulated profession. Massage students learn non-needling Eastern modalities; students who want both qualifications may consider the Double Major Plus pathway.

Where can I find current licensing requirements?

There are five provinces in Canada that regulate acupuncture and/or TCM profession:

- Alberta – *College of Acupuncturists of Alberta* – <http://acupuncturealberta.ca/>: Alberta regulates acupuncture only.
- British Columbia – *College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia* – <http://www.ctcma.bc.ca/>: British Columbia regulate both acupuncture and TCM.
- Ontario – *College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario* – <https://www.ctcmpao.on.ca/>: Ontario regulate both acupuncture and TCM.
- Quebec – *Association des Acupuncteurs du Québec* – <http://www.acupuncture-quebec.com/en/discover-acupuncture/acupuncture-profession.html>
- Newfoundland – *College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture of Newfoundland and Labrador* – <http://ctcmpanl.ca/>

As CITCM graduate, can I practice anywhere in Canada?

Yes. CITCM's Double Major Acupuncture/TCM program is designed to meet the educational requirements for professional registration in regulated provinces across Canada. Graduates are eligible to write the required licensing examinations for Acupuncture, TCM Herbalist, or TCM Practitioner registration.

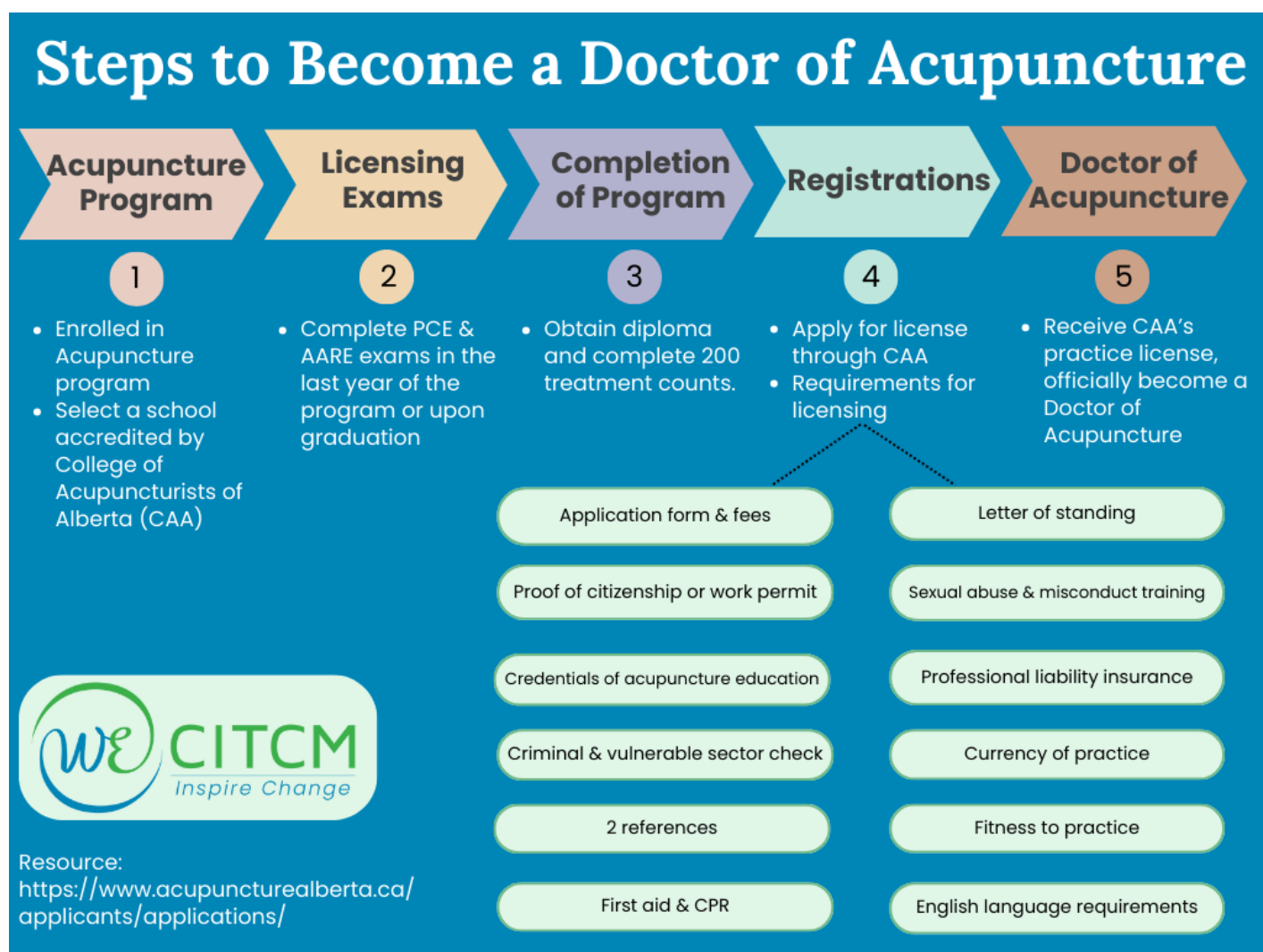
Acupuncture and/or Traditional Chinese Medicine are currently regulated in several Canadian provinces, including Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Some provinces use the Pan-Canadian Entry-Level Examinations, while Quebec follows a different regulatory process.

What are the requirements to get an acupuncture license in Alberta?

Acupuncture is a regulated profession in Alberta and 4 other provinces in Canada. This regulation ensures public safety and competence of practitioners by requiring licenses to meet specific educational and examination and other requirements.

To obtain the acupuncture license, you need to pass the following exams: Pan Canadian Acupuncture Licensing and CAA Safety Exam.

Check CAA website for more: acupuncturealberta.ca



Ready to Begin?

Apply for the 2027–2028 Academic Year

CONTACT THE CITCM ADMISSIONS TEAM

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FOLLOW YOUR PATH • BUILD YOUR SKILLS • ENRICH YOUR LIFE



CITCM makes reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of information in this guide and may update program information, schedules, fees and policies as required. Students should refer to official CITCM policies and current regulatory requirements where applicable.