Course of Study

Intensives of 15 days occur in August – September, October – November, January – February and April – May for the first two years of the program. During the third year, two clinical Intensives will be held in August – September and again in January – February with additional material interspersed a few days at a time. Homework is given quarterly, between Intensives. Due to the cumulative mature of the curriculum, satisfactory understanding of all material from previous years is a prerequisite to beginning the third year.

C201: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 5
This course reviews and further enhances students’ pulse taking skills and provides a review of six Officials. Further theory on the basic laws of Classical Five-Element Acupuncture is covered. The Traditional Diagnosis (TD) is introduced, and the ‘four examinations’ are learned and practiced. A large part of this Intensive is a focus on sensory development and interaction with the client. Included exercises give students the opportunity to practice these techniques through interaction with other students under the direction of the teacher. Between Intensives, students continue Clinical Observation homework.

P201: Points 5
In this Intensive, students focus on point location for the back. Included practical exercises give the student an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in locating points on a variety of body shapes. Classical Five-Element Acupuncture relies on extremely precise point location, and it is necessary for students to receive feedback during class sessions. The spirits of the most commonly used points on six of the Officials are conveyed. Continual practice is necessary for the refinement of touch, consistent with excellence in point location. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain consistency in point location throughout the entire program.

C202: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 6
This course focuses on refining the skills necessary to establish rapport with the client. Students are taught the format of the TD, the physical exam and the preface sheet, as well as guidelines for analysis of the TD. This course focuses on furthering the sensory development of the student in the main diagnostic tools of color, sound, odor and emotion. Review of six Officials, further needle techniques, and blocks to treatment are also covered. Ample practical time allows opportunity for students to hone diagnostic skills. Between Intensives, students continue Clinical Observation homework.
HP202: Chinese History and Philosophy 1
Elisabeth Rochat discusses the Secret Treatise of the Spiritual Orchid, Chapter eight of the Su Wen, the Zang Fu, Body’s Organs, and the emotions. Elisabeth, scholar of ancient Chinese history and philosophy for more than 25 years, has been primary lecturer and General Secretary of the Ricci Institute, senior lecturer for the European School of Acupuncture, and holds degrees in Philosophy and the Classics, and Chinese Studies. She is co-author of many exquisite books on Chinese philosophy. Elisabeth enlightens students through explanation of the meanings of Chinese characters, and their evolution through history.

P202: Points 6
This course covers the measurement and surface anatomy palpation of the front torso, and specific point location of the CV, XI, XII, and IV meridians of the torso. Included practical sessions give the student an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with locating points on a variety of body shapes. The spirits of the most commonly used points on six of the Officials are conveyed.

C203: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 7
This course hones a student’s TD skills and teaches treatment planning and client management. Students’ clinical skills are evaluated. The student is taught how to assess the condition of the skin, and the use of First Aid points. Pulse taking skill is further refined. Between Intensives, students continue Clinical Observation.

P203: Points 7
This Intensive focuses on the shoulder and upper arm as well as location of the specific points associated with these areas. Back landmarks and points are reviewed. Front torso points are reviewed and commonly used points on the front torso are covered.

PH203: Pharmacology 2
This course covers the fundamental principles of the autonomic nervous system pharmacology, antipsychotics, antidepressants and anticonvulsants, and the fundamentals of laboratory and diagnostic tests as well as physical examination findings.

PA203: Pathology
This class provides a greater understanding of common human pathological conditions and the processes which cause disease according to the biomedical model. It covers the pathological processes of inflammation and repair, and infectious diseases. Also taught are pathologies commonly associated with the cardiovascular, digestive, genito-urinary, lymphatic, respiratory, musculoskeletal, neurological, endocrine and reproductive systems.

C204: Classical Five-Element Acupuncture 8
This course teaches clean needle technique, Bloodbourne pathogens and OSHA requirements. Students deepen their knowledge of the TD process, practice pulse taking and of the use of natural laws. Between Intensives, students continue Clinical Observation. Yearly exams are given, which cover all knowledge learned up to this point in the program’s coursework.

P204: Points 8
Students review all learned points. A cumulative point location exam is given.