



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
MS Teams

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order..... Catherine Schwichtenberg 2:00
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of Minutes, April 8, 2026
- 4. Chair's Report
- 5. New Business
 - 5.1. Course Discontinuation: ENGL 2315 Catherine Schwichtenberg 2:05
 THAT the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the discontinuation of ENGL 2315 – The Comic Voice, effective September 1, 2026.
 - 5.2. Program Revision: Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine.....Sharmen Lee, Carlo Tala 2:10
 That the Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that the Senate approve the revisions to the Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine program, effective September 1, 2027.
- 6. Items for Discussion
- 7. Adjournment



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS Teams Online

PRESENT:

Voting Members

Brett Favaro
Celia Brinkerhoff
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald
Lindsay Norris
Parthi Krishnan
Richard Popoff
Shelley Boyd

Ex-Officio

Diane Purvey, President, *pro tem*
Kwuntiltunaat (Kim Baird), Chancellor

Non-Voting Members

Catherine Schwichtenberg
Leeann Waddington
Meredith Laird

Administrative Resources

Michelle Molnar

Guests

Alek Egi
Allyson Rozell
Gordon Cobb
Josephine Chan
Landon Kleis
Layne Myhre
Michael Poon
Vera Lantinova

NOT PRESENT:

Voting Members

Naomi Ben-Yehuda
Ron Murray

Non-Voting Members

Nadia Henwood
Nishan Perera

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Richard Popoff moved the agenda be confirmed as circulated.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, March 11, 2026

Shelley Boyd moved the minutes be accepted as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

Catherine Schwichtenberg, Chair, reported on meetings with Zena Mitchell, Vice-President, Students, Nadia Henwood, Associate Vice-President, Enrollment Services and Registrar, and Lori McElroy, Associate Vice-President, Planning and Accountability regarding pathway courses, focusing on transparency, support for students, and ongoing collaboration to address course accessibility and DFW rates.

5. New Business

5.1. Course Submissions

The chair noted the removal of FDIT 2200 as the changes do not require Senate approval. The committee commented on review dates and lack of reviewers noted in some outlines. The Office of the Registrar provided clarification and suggested standardization for these items, as well as establishing definitions for cross-listing, course equivalency and course. Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald, Associate Registrar, Records, Curriculum & Graduation, agreed to bring this forward to a future meeting.

The chair noted that the approval of HORT 1232 is pending approval for the pathway attribute from the Subcommittee on Pathway Courses.

Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the attached list of new and revised courses as amended.

The motion carried.

5.2. Program Revision: Minor in Music

Gordon Cobb, presented the changes to the program including adding missing courses and updating prerequisite structures. The committee discussed the minimum grade requirements, resulting in the removal of the curricular requirement that students must achieve a minimum grade of C in all courses.

Parthi Krishnan moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve to the Minor in Music program and associated courses as amended, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.3. Program Revision: Minor in Economics

Vera Lantinova, Business Instructor, presented revisions to the minor in economics, including the reduction of upper-level credit requirements and the removal of ECON 1110 to improve program accessibility and alignment with student needs.

Richard Popoff moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend Senate approve the revisions to the Minor in Economics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.4. Program Revision: Diploma in Brewing and Brewery Operations

Alek Egi, Brewing Instructor, presented the changes which include removing the math requirement and letter of intent from the diploma's admission criteria to align with micro-credential pathways and reduce barriers for applicants.

Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the revisions to the Diploma in Brewing and Brewery Operations program, effective September 1, 2027.

The motion carried.

5.5. Program Revision: Diploma in Engineering

Michael Poon, Chair, Engineering, presented revisions, including adding declaration requirements and updating math course options to improve student progression and transferability.

Richard Popoff moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend Senate approve the revisions to the Diploma in Engineering program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.6. Program Revision: Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology; Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Biology

Layne Myhre, presented aligned revisions for both the major and honours programs in Biology and Health Science, including standardizing research course learning outcomes, updating honours entry requirements, and correcting minor errors. The committee noted the word “Honours” be removed from Course Learning Outcome 5 and Assessment Type 2 in BIOL 4199.

Brett Favaro moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the revisions to the following programs and related courses, as amended, effective September 1, 2026:

- **Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology**
- **Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Biology**

The motion carried.

5.7. Program Revision: Bachelor of Science, Major in Health Science; Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Health Science

Proposed revisions to these programs are the same as the previous item. The committee noted the word “Honours” be removed from Course Learning Outcome 5 and Assessment Type 2 in HSCI 4199.

Brett Favaro moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the revisions to the following programs and related courses, as amended, effective September 1, 2026:

- **Bachelor of Science, Major in Health Science**
- **Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Health Science**

The motion carried.

5.8. Program Revision: Associate of Science in Mathematics

Allyson Rozell, Chair, Mathematics Department presented the proposed updates to the Associate of Science in Mathematics, Minor in Mathematics, Bachelor of Science major, and Bachelor of Science Honours and Major in Applications of Mathematics, focusing on the introduction of the STAT prefix, course requirement adjustments, and program learning outcomes.

Lindsay Norris moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend Senate approve the revisions to the Associate of Science in Mathematics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.9. Program Revision: Minor in Mathematics

The minor in mathematics now requires Math 1135 due to its prerequisite status for Math 2232, and credit totals were adjusted accordingly.

Richard Popoff moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend Senate approve the revisions to the Minor in Mathematics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.10. Program Revision: Bachelor of Science, Major in Mathematics

STAT 1170 - Intro to Data Science has been added as a requirement for all concentrations in the Major and Honours degree program. Excessive general electives in the major were reduced.

Richard Popoff moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend Senate approve the revisions to the Bachelor of Science, Major in Mathematics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.11. Program Revision: Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Mathematics

In addition to the changes made for the major, the declaration requirements for the honours program were updated.

Brett Favaro moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend Senate approve the revisions to the Bachelor of Science (Honours), Major in Mathematics program, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.12. Graduate Studies General Regulations 4: Academic Progress

Josephine Chan, Special Assistant to the Provost on Policy and Academic Affairs, presented revisions to Graduate Studies General Regulation 4, clarifying departmental responsibilities for monitoring academic progress and aligning with sector standards.

Parthi Krishnan moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommends Senate approves the Graduate Studies General Regulation 4: Academic Progress, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

6. Items for Discussion

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

Agenda Number: 5.1

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Presenter(s): Catherine Schwichtenberg

AGENDA TITLE: COURSE DISCONTINUATION: ENGL 2315

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

THAT the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the discontinuation of ENGL 2315 – The Comic Voice, effective September 1, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Attachments

1. [ENGL 2315 – The Comic Voice](#)

Submitted by

Michelle Molnar, Administrative Coordinator, University Senate

Date submitted

April 27, 2026

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

Agenda Number: 5.2

Meeting Date: *Wednesday, May 6, 2026*

Presenter(s): Sharmen Lee, Carlo Tala

AGENDA TITLE: **PROGRAM REVISION: BACHELOR OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE**

ACTION REQUESTED: [Motion](#)

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

THAT the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approved the revisions to the Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine program, effective September 1, 2027, pending the approval of the Degree Quality Assurance Board.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Approved by the Faculty of Health Faculty Council on April 17, 2026

Approved by the Faculty of Health Curriculum Committee on April 8, 2026

Reason for Revision

As per the Procedures of [AC10](#), program revisions at KPU begin either 1) as actions arising from an approved Quality Assurance Plan developed through the program review process or 2) in response to specific issues whose solution cannot be delayed until a Program Review.

Please indicate which the reason for the revision

- Arising from an approved Quality Assurance Plan [Indication date of approval](#)
- Other issue [To provide clarity on the admission requirements to the Program](#)

Context and Background

The Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) program is a 10-term program that is intended to admit students into term 1 of study and does not require prior completion of a diploma in acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). This program change is to provide clarity to

applicants, in alignment with submissions made in 2024 to the College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC (CCHPBC) and Degree Quality Assurance Board (DQAB). Additionally, the TCM faculty would like to select applicants for admission to improve registration and retention of admitted students

Key Messages

1. There are no curricular changes to the Program.
2. The current admission requirements are misaligned with submissions made to the CCHPBC and DQAB.
3. The current admission requirements provide a limited pool of applicants.
4. The admission requirement change provides clarity that admission does not require successful completion of a recognized Acupuncture/TCM diploma.
5. Having a TCM Admissions Committee is a strategy to increase conversion and retention rates.

Consultations

1. Nadia Henwood, Registrar
2. Molly Kirsh, Associate Registrar
3. Carlo Tala, Associate Dean, Faculty of Health
4. Ann Yuan, Director, International Recruitment, Admissions and Articulation
5. David Burns, Provost & Vice President Academic, *Pro Tem*
6. Department of TCM Faculty

Attachments

1. [BTCM_HC_TCME: Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine](#)
-

Submitted by

Sharmen Lee, Dean, Faculty of Health

Date submitted

April 20, 2026



BTCM_HC_TCME: BACHELOR OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

In Workflow

1. Acupuncture Chair (john.yang@kpu.ca; yang.qu@kpu.ca)
2. HC Dean (sharmen.lee@kpu.ca)
3. Provost (meredith.laird@kpu.ca)
4. ORegCurrConsult (oregcurrconsult@kpu.ca)
5. HC Curriculum Committee (sonayna.rana@kpu.ca)
6. HC Council (Harmeet.Olson@kpu.ca)
7. HC Dean (sharmen.lee@kpu.ca)
8. Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum (Michelle.Molnar@kpu.ca; Catherine.Schwichtenberg@kpu.ca)
9. Senate (Michelle.Molnar@kpu.ca; Catherine.Schwichtenberg@kpu.ca)
10. Calendar Editor (calendar.editor@kpu.ca)

Approval Path

1. 2026-03-31T23:08:55Z
John Yang (John.Yang): Approved for Acupuncture Chair
2. 2026-03-31T23:09:56Z
Sharmen Lee (sharmen.lee): Approved for HC Dean
3. 2026-04-01T18:12:35Z
Virginia Vandenberg (virginia.vandenberg): Approved for Provost
4. 2026-04-02T18:00:33Z
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (krista.gerlichfitzgerald): Approved for ORegCurrConsult
5. 2026-04-08T17:03:20Z
Sonayna Rana (sonayna.rana): Approved for HC Curriculum Committee
6. 2026-04-17T18:43:26Z
Harmeet Olson (Harmeet.Olson): Approved for HC Council
7. 2026-04-17T20:05:52Z
Sharmen Lee (sharmen.lee): Approved for HC Dean

History

1. Sep 6, 2024 by Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (krista.gerlichfitzgerald)
2. Sep 6, 2024 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)
3. Sep 7, 2024 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)
4. Oct 7, 2024 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)
5. Oct 16, 2024 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)
6. Mar 5, 2025 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)
7. Mar 5, 2025 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)
8. Jun 20, 2025 by Ashley Allison (ashley.allison)

Date Submitted: 2026-03-30T23:46:07Z

Viewing: BTCM_HC_TCME : Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Last approved: Fri, 20 Jun 2025 15:14:11 GMT

Last edit: 2026-04-28T22:28:29Z

Changes proposed by: Virginia Vandenberg

Reviewer comments

Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (krista.gerlichfitzgerald) (Tue, 31 Mar 2026 18:57:38 GMT): Unbundled. Cancelled workflow for Diploma as per discussions with Faculty of Health and Registrar

Virginia Vandenberg (virginia.vandenberg) (Wed, 01 Apr 2026 18:14:05 GMT): Provost step approval on behalf of Provost, as per conversation with Josephine Chan



Determination of new degree?

Yes

Overview

Status

Revision

Program proposal contact(s)

Yan Qu, John Yang, Sharmen Lee

Calendar year edition

2027-2028 2025-2026



Overview of proposed changes

	Proposed Changes	Rationale
1	Changes to Admissions Requirements	<p>1. Background and Identified Issues Over the past decade, the Acupuncture program has experienced persistent challenges in both enrollment and student success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment Gap: Despite receiving over 100 applications annually, the program has not been able to meet its enrollment capacity of 35 students. Actual intake averages approximately 28 students per year. • Student professional readiness: Given the status of our program as the first of its kind in a public university, some students applying to the program have strong academic readiness but find, after completing registration, that the profession may not be suitable for them. At the same time, we seek over time to enhance our ability to select applicants with the strongest levels of interpersonal skill and empathy. • Retention Issues: As a result of the factors above, student attrition remains a concern, with enrollment typically declining to approximately 26 students by the second year. <p>2. Analysis of Root Causes The current admission process does not adequately assess key non-academic factors—such as motivation, communication skills, personality traits, professional suitability, and prior engagement in volunteering and community services. As a result, it is difficult to effectively identify candidates with the strong potential required for success in the program.</p> <p>3. Rationale for the Proposed Change Interviews are more effective for evaluating non-academic qualities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest and motivation in studying TCM • Communication and interpersonal skills • Personality, maturity, and overall suitability for the profession <p>These factors are critical to student success but cannot be reliably determined through written applications alone. We wish this change can achieve :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality of admitted students, • Enhanced alignment between student characteristics and program requirements, • Increased student retention and program completion rates, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective use of available enrollment capacity, • Strengthened overall program outcomes and long-term development.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Faculty's Admission Requirements, which consist of KPU's undergraduate English Proficiency Requirement (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/admissions/english-proficiency-requirements/>), the following program admission requirements apply:

- [Interview by the TCM Admissions Selection Committee and/or letters of reference, if requested.](#)
- [Successful completion of a recognized Acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine Diploma \(or equivalent\)](#)

Once students have received a conditional offer of admission and before final admission to the program is granted, students must submit the following:



- Canadian CPR Health Care Provider or Basic Life Support (Note: CPR certification must remain current throughout the program).
- An acceptable Criminal Record Check through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Criminal Records Review Program within 6 months prior to the start of the program.
- International applicants are required to provide a Criminal Record Search with the Vulnerable Sector from their country of origin.
- Immunization Record Form reflecting required immunizations as per Practice Education Guidelines for BC. Note: Practice Education Guidelines (PEG) for BC outline immunizations for vaccine preventable communicable diseases required by students for participation in practice experiences. KPU Faculty of Health is required to comply with these requirements. Students that are unvaccinated may not be able to be accepted into the program. Students who are accepted into the program will also be required to maintain immunizations as per the PEG.

Admission selection will be determined by the [TCM Admissions Selection Committee](#). **date of qualification:**

Applicants that have completed a recognized Acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine Diploma, or who are practicing Registered Acupuncturists, may be provided with advanced standing.

Continuance Requirements

Students must maintain a minimum grade of 'C' in all **required** courses, with Standard grading and a grade of MAS in all courses with Mastery Grading. Non-adherence to these requirements may result in removal from the program.

Curricular Requirements

The Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) is comprised of 10 terms of study.

The Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) is comprised of a Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine — Acupuncture and a minimum 49 credits of advanced study and practice in the full scope of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Term 1		Credits
ACUP 1100	Acupuncture Fundamental Theory	4
ACUP 1160	Acupuncture Biomed Foundation	4
ENGL 1100	Introduction to University Writing	3
MAND 1110	Mandarin Foundation for Traditional Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture	3
Credits		14
Term 2		Credits
ACUP 1200	Acupuncture Diagnosis: Data Collection	4
ACUP 1230	Acupuncture Meridian and Acupoint	6
ACUP 1260	Acupuncture Medical Biochemistry and Microbiology	3
ASIA 1210	East Asian Health and Philosophy	3
Credits		16
Term 3		Credits
ACUP 2100	Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine History and Classics	2
ACUP 2301	Acupuncture Diagnosis: Pattern Recognition	4
ACUP 2321	Acupuncture Technique	3
ACUP 2331	Acupuncture Therapy I	3
ACUP 2361	Acupuncture Introduction to Pathology	2
Credits		14
Term 4		Credits
ACUP 2130	Acupuncture Therapy II	3
ACUP 2150	Acupuncture Communication and Ethics	2
ACUP 2160	Acupuncture Western Medical Diagnosis (Imaging and Lab Testing)	2
ACUP 2170	Acupuncture Pharmacology	2
ACUP 2181	Acupuncture Practicum (Supervised I)	4
ACUP 2341	Acupuncture Safety	2
Credits		15
Term 5		Credits
ACUP 3200	Acupuncture Taiji/Qigong	2
ACUP 3220	Advanced Acupuncture	2
ACUP 3230	Acupuncture Case Study	3
ACUP 3240	Acupuncture Tuina (Chinese style massage)	3
ACUP 3280	Acupuncture Practicum (Supervised II)	4
Credits		14
Term 6		Credits
ACUP 3300	Acupuncture Musculoskeletal Management	2
ACUP 3320	Acupuncture Practice Transitions	3
ACUP 3340	Acupuncture Practice Management and Regulation	2
ACUP 3360	Acupuncture Shiliao and Nutrition	2



ACUP 3380	Acupuncture Practicum (Independent)	4
Credits		13
Term 7		
TCME 4100	Herbology	3
TCME 4110	TCM Terminology	3
TCME 4120	Herbal Formula I	3
TCME 4180	Supervised Practice IV	2
HEAL 3180	Health Research for Evidence Informed Practice	3
Credits		14
Term 8		
TCME 4220	Herbal Formula II	3
TCME 4240	TCM Gynecology	3
TCME 4250	TCM Internal Medicine I	3
TCME 4260	TCM Pediatrics & Five Sense Organ Diseases	3
TCME 4280	Supervised Practice V	2
Credits		14
Term 9		
TCME 4330	Advanced Case Analysis	3
TCME 4340	TCM Dermatology & External Medicine	2
TCME 4350	TCM Internal Medicine II	3
TCME 4370	Herbalist Practice Transitions	3
TCME 4380	Supervised Practice VI	2
Credits		13
Term 10		
Select one of the following:		8-15
A minimum of 5 courses outside of ACUP and TCME		
TCME 4480	Supervised Practice VII	
Credits		8-15
Total Credits		135-142

Credential Awarded

Upon successful completion of this program, students are eligible to receive a **Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine**.

Program Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes the program will have reliably demonstrated the ability to:	
1	Apply the techniques of acupuncture, herbal medicine and Tuina-Anmo/Chinese massage.
2	Identify in context the appropriate scope of practice for TCM practitioners in modern healthcare.
3	Synthesize TCM diagnoses using clinical data, disorder patterns and other patient information.
4	Communicate effectively with clients, colleagues, and other health care providers.
5	Provide client education on issues of illness prevention, wellness, and healthy lifestyles.
6	Assess health care research in and outside of TCM contexts.
7	Manage a TCM Practice.

The following information will help determine whether there is a budgetary impact to the proposed program changes, and what additional information and consultation will be required. Please note that all additional budgetary requests in support of the proposed program change require approval from the Dean and the Provost, and additional financial documents may be required.

The information supplied is for administrative purposes only and will not be visible to reviewers in the academic governance process (e.g., Faculty and Senate committee members).

Change in space requirements?

Yes

Change in equipment requirements?

Yes

Change in support requirements?

Yes



Consultation requests

Academic Advising
 Chair of other Department
 Dean of other Faculty
 Information Technology
 KPU International
 Library
 Marketing
 Office of the Registrar
 Student Awards and Financial Assistance
 Teaching & Learning Commons
 University Space Administration

Other departments

Departments

Language & Cultures

Other faculties

Faculties

Arts

Science

Abstract

Degree or non-degree program

Degree

Academic level

Undergraduate

Faculty

Health

Department

Acupuncture

Program name

Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Program Code

BTCM_HC_TCME

Program description

The Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) is a 10-term 10-semester program that provides the academic preparation for students to practice as an Acupuncturist after term semester 6, and as a Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner, after term semester 10. The BTCM program curriculum has been approved by the regulatory body in BC, the Complementary Health Care Professionals College of BC (CCHPBC), Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (TCMA) and the TCMA Registration Committee as meeting the academic requirements for licensure. This positions BTCM graduates desiring to practice in BC, the ability to apply for licensure and registration upon graduation, subject to meeting other non-academic licensing requirements. A student may complete only the first 6 term semesters of the program and graduate with a Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture (an existing KPU credential) or continue through the 10 terms semesters graduating with a BTCM. Registered Acupuncturists, or those with a Diploma in Acupuncture, may apply for transfer credit and/or prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) and be provided with advanced standing at time of admission. A graduate with a Diploma in Acupuncture may use all 86 credits of that credential towards their Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. This approach allows practicing Acupuncturists to further their education to practice to the full scope of a Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner by completing the BTCM program.

The aim of the program is to develop graduates who will become competent Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners able to combine research and critical thinking in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of complex patients. This practice will rely on deep understanding of the evolving healthcare delivery environment of British Columbia, as well as the similarities and differences



between Western medicine, biomedical science, and TCM. Its disciplinary foci will be TCM theory, TCM practice, philosophy, herbal treatment, advanced acupuncture, and the provision of integrated care to complex patients. Graduates will be prepared, through practice management courses and applied practice, to successfully operate their own practices.

Program concentration(s)

N/A

Implementation date

September 2025

Proposed Program Overview

Program Structure & Delivery

Proposed credential(s) to be granted

Credential Level

Baccalaureate Degree

Date for next review

September 2030

Alignment with KPU mission and mandate, strategic plan and academic plan

The proposed BTCM, with its accessible curricular structure, supports both KPU's Vision 2023 and Academic Plan 2023. One of the top priorities stated in KPU's strategic plan, Vision 2023, is to "reflect and serve our diverse, dynamic and growing region by providing a wide range of offerings, services and activities." In a city like Richmond, reflecting and serving the community includes reflecting and serving its vibrant Chinese- Canadian community. In a province like British Columbia, which has the highest rates of lifetime usage of complementary and alternative medicine in Canada (CAM) (Feasibility Assessment, p. 3), that reflection and service includes educating future professionals to safely deliver CAM treatment. Establishing British Columbia's first public TCM program is a chance both to reflect and serve our local community, and to reflect and serve the Province of British Columbia. It increases our ability to embrace all cultures (Goal B1) and to enrich the experience of TCM students in BC by offering its first public teaching clinic (Goal A1).

The BTCM also enhances substantially our ability to meet our goals under Academic Plan 2023. It involves interdisciplinary curricula in acupuncture, herbology, modern language, English and philosophy (Strategy 1.1), includes rigorous applied learning in our teaching clinic (Strategies 1.7, 2.4 and 2.5), draws on cross-cultural knowledge practices (Strategy 4.2) and builds a new pathway for our Diploma in TCM – Acupuncture students to advance their skills and careers (Strategy 4.4).

The proposed program is, in short, a chance to advance some of our most important moral commitments to our community whilst also offerings high quality public educational experiences in a province that today has no access to such experiences.

Will this program include a co-operative education option?

No

Discipline and Program Description

Description of discipline

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is a discipline that teaches acupuncture, Chinese Tuina massage, herbology, nutrition, and exercise. Traditional Chinese Medicine blends Eastern and Western medical practice and philosophy and is interdisciplinary in nature. The discipline prepares and trains students for careers such as acupuncturists, TCM Practitioners, and Doctors of TCM, all of which require professional licensure in Canada.

Expected time to complete

Students engaged in 5 years of full-time study will be able to complete the Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine in 10 [terms](#). [semesters](#). The initial 6 [terms](#) [semesters](#) lead to a Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture. Four (4) further [terms](#) [semesters](#) will lead to a Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Total number of credits

135

Type of intake

Limited Intake



Admission requirements

KPU is an open access university and the admission requirements for the BTCM Program have been developed with this in mind, recognizing that applicants come from diverse academic backgrounds. Based upon our experience with the Diploma in Acupuncture program, our applicants are varied with many having completed some post-secondary education, while others have secondary school completion. Regardless of their academic history, our students perform well in the biomedical courses in the first year of the program, and continue to advance their competence in higher level coursework.

Applicants to the BTCM program will apply to the first year of the Acupuncture program that has the following admission requirements:

In addition to the Faculty's Admission Requirements, which consist of KPU's undergraduate English Proficiency Requirement, the following program admission requirements apply:

Once students have received a conditional offer of admission and before final admission to the program is granted, students must submit the following:

- Canadian CPR Health Care Provider or Basic Life Support (Note: CPR certification must remain current throughout the program.)
- An acceptable Criminal Record Check through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Criminal Records Review Program within 6 months prior to the start of the program.
- International applicants are required to provide a Criminal Record Search with the Venerable Kwantlen Polytechnic University Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine Sector from their country of origin.
- Immunization Record Form reflecting required immunizations as per Practice Education Guidelines for BC. Note: Practice Education Guidelines (PEG) for BC outline immunizations for vaccine preventable communicable diseases required by students for participation in practice experiences. KPU Faculty of Health is required to comply with these requirements. Students that are unvaccinated may not be able to be accepted into the program. Students who are accepted into the program will also be required to maintain immunizations as per the PEG.

Admission selection will be determined by the date of qualification.

Applicants that have completed a recognized Acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine Diploma, or who are practicing Registered Acupuncturists, will be provided advanced standing with the following admission requirements:

In addition to the Faculty's Admission Requirements, which consist of KPU's undergraduate English Proficiency Requirement, the following program admission requirements apply:

- Successful completion of a recognized Acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine Diploma (or equivalent)

Once students have received a conditional offer of admission and before final admission to the program is granted, students must submit the following:

- Canadian CPR Health Care Provider or Basic Life Support (Note: CPR certification must remain current throughout the program.)
- An acceptable Criminal Record Check through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Criminal Records Review Program within 6 months prior to the start of the program.
- International applicants are required to provide a Criminal Record Search with the Venerable Sector from their country of origin.
- Immunization Record Form reflecting required immunizations as per Practice Education Guidelines for BC. Note: Practice Education Guidelines (PEG) for BC outline immunizations for vaccine preventable communicable diseases required by students for participation in practice experiences. KPU Faculty of Health is required to comply with these requirements. Students that are unvaccinated may not be able to be accepted into the program. Students who are accepted into the program will also be required to maintain immunizations as per the PEG.

Admission selection will be determined by the date of qualification.

Cohort delivery?

Yes

Notes

Limited cohort intake for years 1 – 3 (acupuncture diploma program)

Open intake for years 4-5

Alternative entry options

Students may enter Year 4 of the program provided they hold active licensure as a Registered Acupuncturist with CTCMA, as the regulating body of the profession.

Course Delivery Options

Part-time studies possible?(i.e., students can choose to study part-time)

Yes

Notes

Students may be practicing Acupuncturists and will require flexibility in completing the degree program.

Evening delivery

Yes

**Notes**

Clinical placements may occur in evenings or weekends.

Weekend delivery

Yes

Notes

Clinical placements may occur in evenings or weekends.

In person

Yes

Notes

The proposed Bachelor of TCM program will be delivered face-to-face by faculty and clinic supervisors. Didactic courses will be delivered in classrooms or simulation labs. The practicum courses will be delivered in the KPU TCM Clinic on the Richmond campus as well as in community care facilities.

Online or blended

Yes

Delivery description

Theory based courses may be offered with approval of the CTCMA

Online or blended delivery options

A portion of courses are taught online each term (indicate what portion can be taken online)

Program Delivery Options**Co-op education program/practicum/clinical practice, etc. available**

Yes

Description

There will be 6 **terms semesters** of clinical practice. The clinical practicum courses will be delivered in the Richmond campus student clinic and local affiliated community clinics such as Villa Cathay Senior Home facility.

Will graduates require certification?

Yes

Details of accreditation of graduates

The BTCM program curriculum has been approved by the regulatory body in BC, the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CTCMA) (see Appendix E), and the CTCMA Registration Committee as meeting the academic requirements for licensure as a Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner. A student may complete only the first 6 **terms semesters** of the program and graduate with a Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture (an existing KPU credential) or continue through the 10 **terms semesters** graduating with a BTCM. A graduate with a Diploma in Acupuncture may use all 86 credits of that credential towards their Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. This approach allows practicing Acupuncturists to further their education to practice to the full scope of a Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner by completing the BTCM program.

Will the program have to meet external accreditation requirements?

Yes

Details of program accrediting body

Students desiring to practice in BC, will be eligible to take the Pan-Canadian Examination, a non-academic requirement for licensure, and apply for registration with CTCMA as a TCM Practitioner (R.TCM.P) after **term semester** 10.

Information for Competitive Assessment**Related programs at other PSIs**

Comparable private institutions in BC include:



- PCU College of Holistic Medicine: TCM Practitioner program
 - Tzu Chi International College of Traditional Chinese Medicine: TCM Practitioner Diploma program
 - Vancouver Beijing College of Chinese Medicine: TCM Practitioner Diploma
 - Pacific Rim College: Diploma in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
 - Kootenay Columbia College of Integrative Health Sciences: TCM Practitioner program
 - Ohio College of Acupuncture and Herbology: TCM Practitioner program
 - Vancouver Career College: TCM Practitioner program
 - Central College: Oriental Medicine Practitioner Diploma
 - All of these institutions also offer other relevant programs, such as shorter programs focusing solely on acupuncture or herbalism, or 5-year doctor of TCM programs.
- Note, none of the above noted programs are authorized to grant degrees.
- Comparable public institutions in Canada include:
- McEwan University: Acupuncture Diploma
 - Humber College: TCM Practitioner Advanced Diploma
 - Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology: Acupuncture Diploma

Unique aspects/program strengths

The proposed program builds on existing and successful TCM Acupuncture programming at KPU.

- The proposed BTCM program has been benchmarked to, and reviewed by, leading international TCM programs that have deemed the KPU proposed BTCM as equivalent to their BTCM programs. (Appendix C)
- The curriculum of the proposed BTCM program has been approved by the regulatory body in BC, the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CTCMA) (Appendix E).
- A state-of-the-art Acupuncture lab already exists and a Herbology dispensary and client interview rooms will be added.
- KPU has developed strong working relationships with key partners in the Traditional Chinese Medicine community.
- The program enjoys strong connections with industry, including representation at the biannual TCM PAC meeting, which provides program input and direction.
- Support from the CTCMA, BC TCM community and the Chinese community.
- No other TCM program is offered within the public post-secondary system in BC. KPU's proposed BTCM program is unique in that it will be the only program in its area offered at a public post-secondary institution in B.C., and will be the only program in Canada where students can earn an accredited BTCM degree upon graduation.

New or existing courses only?

New

Notes

The first 6 **terms semesters** of the BTCM program consists of the existing 86-credit Faculty of Health Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture, wherein students undertake a total of three academic years that are condensed into two calendar years.

Terms Semesters 7 – 10 consist of a minimum 49 additional credits of TCM study, as well as health research, to fulfill the minimum 135 credit requirement of the BTCM degree. These additional minimum 49 credits may be completed on a part-time basis or in four semesters of full-time study.

Information for Student Demand Assessment

New applicants to KPU

Applications to the existing Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture are a good indicator of interest in this field. Since the inception of the program at KPU in 2016/17, headcounts have increased in each academic year (see Exhibit 3.1, Feasibility Assessment) from a total of 5 headcounts in 2016/17 to 46 (22 new, 24 continuing) in 2020/21. KPU students currently enrolled in the Diploma program are a strong target for the proposed BTCM program. The slight decline in students enrolled in programs related to TCM, acupuncture and herbalism in private institutions (416 in 2016/17 vs. 377 in 2018/19) may be a result in increasing enrolments in KPU's Diploma program (see Exhibit 3.2, Feasibility Assessment.)

Attitudes toward complementary and alternative medicine, including TCM, appear to be improving, and use accordingly increasing – particularly in B.C. KPU would be well-positioned to market the proposed program to potential students given its unique status as the only Bachelor's degree program in TCM in Canada, that has been approved by the CTCMA. As a highly reputable public post-secondary institution KPU will be able to attract a higher portion of the market for TCM students compared to the private institutions in BC.

Current KPU students

Students who are currently in the Acupuncture Diploma will be interested in laddering into the BTCM degree program.

This program is unique to BC and provides health education in a regulated health profession that focuses on alternative and complementary medicine.



Domestic/international students

The BTCM program is open to both domestic students and international students, and upon graduation from the BTCM Program, graduates will need to determine if licensure and registration is required in the province or country in which they wish to practice. Currently in Canada, 5 provinces have regulated acupuncturists (BC, Alberta, Quebec, Ontario and Newfoundland) and only 2 provinces regulate Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners (BC and Ontario). Under Labour Mobility Acts, there are reciprocity agreements in place amongst the Canadian regulators. In the other provinces, acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine are unregulated professions and do not have requirements for licensing and registration by a health profession regulatory college.

Information for Labour Market Assessment

Main skills graduates will have upon completion of program

Main Skills

Interview, diagnosis and assessment of patient health concerns. Development of treatment plan which includes some or all of, Acupuncture, Tuina massage, moxibustion, herbology, diagnostic interviewing, diet and nutrition, exercise and physical fitness (Taiqi/Qigong).

Sectors/types of employers that would most likely hire new graduates

Complementary and alternative health care facilities such as but not limited to: TCM clinics; chiropractic, massage therapy, and physiotherapy clinics; midwifery practices, and wellness centres and spas. Licensed TCM Acupuncturists and Practitioners may also be self-employed.

Occupations and job titles for which new graduates would be qualified

Job Title	National Occupational Classification (NOC) Code
Registered Acupuncturist	NOC 3232: Practitioners of Natural Healing
Registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner	NOC 3232: Practitioners of Natural Healing

Financial Assessment Background Questions

Funding

One-time or Finite term

Please supply funding source

KPU has conducted a full financial assessment. In addition to previously committed Government capital funds (for renovation related to instructional space and the herbology dispensary), we estimate that an approximate total of \$1,168,000 of start-up operating funds will be required in the first four years of the program's operation (fiscal years 2024/25 to 2027/28). By the FY2028/2029 the program will recover its costs.

Class size

35

New department?

No

Admin support in addition to Chair

No

Specialized equipment

Consumable Supplies
Equipment

Specialized teaching space

Computer labs
Customized classrooms
Labs

Program personnel

New Faculty Positions

**Explain**

The addition of 2.0 FTE in new instructional hiring will sufficiently expand this expertise to meet the new program's requirements.

Preferred campus delivery

Richmond

Supplementary Documents**Feasibility assessment**

BoG and Senate Memos Concept and Appendices (Appendix resubmission)_Feasibility Assessment.pdf

Financial assessment

BoG and Senate Memos Concept and Appendices (Appendix resubmission)_Financial Assessment.pdf

Stage 1 review for new degree proposals

2024 05 27 BTCM Revised Program Proposal_Stage 1 Review.pdf

Full program proposal

2024 05 27 BTCM Revised Program Proposal_FPP.pdf

Other documents

[BTCM_determination_of_new_degree_28Apr2026.docx](#)

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