

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES
CHAPTER 384c
ACUPUNCTURISTS

Sec. 20-206aa. Definitions. As used in this section and sections 20-206bb and 20-206cc:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

(3) "Acupuncture" means the treating, by means of mechanical, thermal or electrical stimulation effected by the insertion of needles or by the application of heat, pressure or electrical stimulation at a point or combination of points on the surface of the body predetermined on the basis of the theory of physiological interrelationship of body organs with an associated point or combination of points for diseases, disorders and dysfunctions of the body for the purpose of achieving a therapeutic or prophylactic effect but shall not include the practice of physical therapy.

(4) "Recognized regional accrediting body" means one of the following regional accrediting bodies: New England Association of Schools and Colleges; Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; North Central Association of College and Schools; Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Sec. 20-206bb. Qualification for licensure. Fee. Exemption. (a) No person shall perform acupuncture without a license as an acupuncturist pursuant to this section.

(b) Each person seeking licensure as an acupuncturist shall make application on forms prescribed by the department, pay an application fee of two hundred dollars and present to the department satisfactory evidence that the applicant (1) has completed sixty semester hours, or its equivalent, of postsecondary study in an institution of postsecondary education that, if in the United States or its territories, was accredited by a recognized regional accrediting body or, if outside the United States or its territories, was legally chartered to grant postsecondary degrees in the country in which located, (2) has successfully completed a course of study in acupuncture in a program that, at the time of graduation, was in candidate status with or accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and that included a minimum of one thousand three hundred fifty hours of didactic and clinical training, five hundred of which were clinical, (3) has passed an examination prescribed by the department and (4) has successfully completed a course in clean needle technique prescribed by the department. Any person successfully completing the education, examination or training requirements in a language other than English shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement completed in that language.

(c) An applicant for licensure as an acupuncturist by endorsement shall present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of licensure or certification as an acupuncturist, or as a person entitled to perform similar services under a different designation, in another state or jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are equivalent to or higher than those of this state and that there are no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending. Any person completing the requirements of this section in a language other than English shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the department shall, prior to September 1, 2005, issue a license to any applicant who presents to the department satisfactory evidence that the applicant has (1) earned, or successfully completed requirements for, a master's degree in acupuncture from a program that includes a minimum of one thousand three hundred fifty hours of didactic and clinical training, five hundred of which are clinical, from an institution of higher education accredited by the Department of Higher Education at the time of the applicant's graduation, (2) passed all portions of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine acupuncture examination, including the Acupuncture Portion of the Comprehensive Written Examination in Acupuncture, the Clean Needle Technique Portion of the Comprehensive Written Examination in Acupuncture and the Practical Examination of Point Location Skills,

and (3) successfully completed a course in clean needle technique offered by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

(e) Licenses shall be renewed once every two years in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 19a-88. The fee for renewal shall be two hundred fifty dollars.

(f) No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint in this or any other state or territory of the United States.

(g) Nothing in section 19a-89c, 20-206aa, 20-206cc or this section shall be construed to prevent licensed practitioners of the healing arts, as defined in sections 20-1 and 20-196, physical therapists or dentists from providing care or performing services consistent with accepted standards within their respective professions.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person certified by an organization approved by the Commissioner of Public Health may practice auricular acupuncture for the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, provided the treatment is performed under the supervision of a physician licensed under chapter 370 and is performed in either (1) a private free-standing facility licensed by the Department of Public Health for the care or treatment of substance abusive or dependent persons, or (2) a setting operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to ensure the safe provision of auricular acupuncture within private free-standing facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health for the care or treatment of substance abusive or dependent persons.

(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, no license to practice acupuncture is required of: (1) Students enrolled in a college or program of acupuncture if (A) the college or program is recognized by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or licensed or accredited by the Board of Governors for Higher Education and (B) the practice that would otherwise require a license is pursuant to a course of instruction or assignments from a licensed instructor and under the supervision of the instructor; or (2) licensed faculty members providing the didactic and clinical training necessary to meet the accreditation standards of the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine at a college or program recognized by the commission or licensed or accredited by the Board of Governors for Higher Education. For purposes of this subsection, "licensed faculty member" and "licensed instructor" means a faculty member or instructor licensed under this section or otherwise authorized to practice acupuncture in this state.

Sec. 20-206cc. Disciplinary actions. The department may take any action set forth in section 19a-17 if a person issued a license pursuant to section 20-206bb fails to conform to the accepted standards of the acupuncturist profession, including, but not limited to, the following: Conviction of a felony; fraud or deceit in the practice of acupuncture; illegal conduct; negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in professional activities; emotional disorder or mental illness; physical illness including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process; abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals; willful falsification of entries into any patient record pertaining to acupuncture; misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact in the obtaining or reinstatement of an acupuncturist license; or violation of any provisions of subsection (c) of section 19a-14. The commissioner may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. The commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17. Notice of any contemplated action under said section, the cause of the action and the date of a hearing on the action shall be given and an opportunity for hearing afforded in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.