

Education & Support for Natural Practitioners



Natural Practitioner highlights some of the institutions and associations providing education and support for practitioners and patients for the betterment of integrative health.

By Karen Morse, MPH

National University of Natural Medicine

Portland, OR
(503) 552-1555
www.nunm.edu

In 2016, National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM) changed its status from a college to a university when it added the School of Undergraduate Studies and its two accredited Bachelor of Science degrees—integrative health sciences and nutrition.

NUNM is the oldest accredited naturopathic medical school in North America and one of the leaders in natural medicine education and training.

“Nicknamed ‘The Mothership,’ our graduates have established some of our sister schools in the U.S., well-known naturopathic universities and colleges in their own right,” said Marilyn Considine, NUNM’s director of public relations and communications.

“NUNM has consistently raised the bar for the education and training we provide our students,” she added. One example

includes the opportunities for students in the School of Graduate Studies and NUNM’s Helfgott Research Institute to assist investigators in research and development.

NUNM also receives generous funding from National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants, apart from and in collaboration with allopathic medical schools.

“Currently, these include a mindfulness-based stress reduction study for multiple sclerosis patients which our researchers are conducting through Oregon Health & Sciences University,” added Considine. Other research projects include studies on chronic disease conditions such as diabetes and cancer as well as nutrition, pain, among others.

What’s New?

NUNM is continuing to expand and further deepen its core programs like naturopathic and classical Chinese medicine while expanding program curricula in other areas that develop and enrich aspects of natural medicine modalities and principles.

In the past few years, NUNM has added Master of Science degrees in integrative

medicine research, nutrition, global health, mental health, sports medicine and most recently, ayurveda. NUNM also now offers a Doctor of Science in oriental medicine.

Student Resources

NUNM is dedicated to helping their students succeed both academically and professionally. The university has a number of resources available to help students achieve that success including the NUMN Library, which contains one of the most significant collections on natural medicine in the United States. The Rare Book Room contains more than 2,000 original volumes, including books on herbal medicine from the 1600s, to the personal library of Dr. Benedict Lust, who is known as the father of naturopathic medicine.

Other resources include Centers for Academic Success and Career Services as well as a professional counseling staff, resources for families such as remote classrooms and a family room. Financial aid programs and work-study positions are also available.