

# Career



# Services

## Career Center Services

The staff at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine works directly with students and employers to connect students with their futures. We offer comprehensive career resources for all SCNM students and alumni, providing you with an opportunity to explore every aspect of naturopathic medicine. Whether you're looking for assistance with physician placement, building your own practice, or just some practical business advice, the Career Center can help.

The cornerstone of the center's philosophy is to empower the individual to create their own opportunities and be as current they can on the developments within this industry. It is through the personalized coaching in the art of creating opportunity for oneself that our students create their desired earning opportunities.

By promoting SCNM's students to potential employers such as medical facilities, research institutions or related business enterprises, we assist in creating the opportunities for our students and graduates to begin their career in integrative medicine.

Through all of these actions, we are secure in the knowledge that our students will be given the tools, the skills *and the open doors* at SCNM to develop their career.

## Career Opportunities

Today, licensed naturopathic physicians are experiencing noteworthy clinical successes, providing leadership in innovative natural medical research, enjoying increasing political influence, and looking forward to an unlimited future potential. The ND program at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine prepares graduates for a wide range of career opportunities such as:

- Primary Care Physicians (respecting the integrated relationship of body and mind while combining the wisdom of traditional healing with the rigor of scientific method).
- Consulting, sales/marketing or product development within the medical, environmental and natural product industry
- Scientific research and professional journal writing
- Public health education and academia

## Growth and Demand for CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

1993	National Council of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCAM) has a budget of 2 million.
1994	Survey of all physicians showed they referred 60% of their patients to CAM providers. 47% of those same physicians used CAM themselves!
1995	Laws allowed nutraceutical products to forego FDA approval
1996	NCAM budget is 50 million, 2500% increase.
1999	70% of Americans has used CAM in that past year.
2000	\$27 Billion are spent on CAM therapies, far exceeding all out-of-pocket costs of US hospitalizations.



Once you become a naturopathic physician you could impact the world of medicine by becoming:

- A member of the World Health Organization helping other countries with their health issues OR
- A winner of a national award for your website on acupuncture. OR
- A formula designer of a face cream, which will not only include all natural ingredients but also will cut costs and get better results. OR
- A Co-medical director for a traveling, medical clinic for the uninsured. OR
- On the Discovery Health channel with 2 episodes of a health show. OR
- The director of naturopathic medicine for a state.

These are just some of the actual career paths of naturopathic physicians and alumni of Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine.



## FAQ's

### How can I practice in an unlicensed state?

First of all, each state is *very specific* even in a *licensed* state as to the scope of practice. Licensure does not have to affect your income. As a matter of fact, some of the largest naturopathic physician income earners come from unlicensed states. What it will affect, though, is what you call yourself to the public. The use of the word physician would be out but you can use the title Doctor. The modalities that most probably will not cause any violation of state statutes are: Hydrotherapy, Botanical Medicine, Nutrition, and Homeopathy. Again, please check with your local authorities on all of these. It is also suggested to touch base with the other naturopathic physicians practicing in that state to see how they are operating and use their strategy.

Other strategies used by physicians are to obtain an acupuncture license in the unlicensed state because in many states an acupuncture license allows more use of naturopathic modalities. A useful reference book is, "Legal Guidelines for Unlicensed Practitioners" by Dr. Lawrence Wilson and is available in the SCNM library.

### How does NDs compare to allopathic physicians?

- Primary Care MD's earn \$150,000 gross annual income.
- ND's earn \$107,565 gross annual income.
- Workweek for MD is 50+ hours.
- Workweek for ND is 20-32 hours
- Student loans debt for MDs is \$200,000+
- Student loans debt for ND's is \$100,000+
- Primary Care physicians earn at a rate of \$61.43 per hour.
- ND physicians earn at a rate of \$67.23 per hour.
- MD's after medical school can take 4 – 8 years to realize full earnings potential.
- ND's after medical school can take 3-5 years to realize full earnings potential.

## Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 480.858.9100 ext. 311 or email us at [j.hagan@scnm.edu](mailto:j.hagan@scnm.edu).