



POCA TECH (501c3) 3526 NE 57th Ave., Portland OR, 97213
www.POCA Tech.org EIN 45-5496763

Liberation Acupuncture

Admission Application - 2023

Important Dates

Applications for Cohort 10 will be accepted beginning April 1st, 2023, and must be received by August 4th, 2023.

Intent to Attend forms must be received within 30 days of applicant's acceptance. Classes start September 1, 2023.

How to Apply

Please review the following information about POCA Tech's application process. Have you read our website and catalog? (www.pocatech.org)

Applications are accepted **ONLY** by Mail.

PLEASE PRINT THIS APPLICATION SINGLE SIDED!

Rolling Admissions

Once POCA Tech has received an applicant's "Intent to Attend" form, and there is still a spot available, the applicant has a **place** in the next cohort. We will continue this process until all available spaces in the cohort are filled. This means that we make a decision about your application based on its own merits, not by comparing it to the entire pool of possible applicants.

It also means that applying early greatly improves your chances of securing a spot in the next cohort. Once all available spaces are filled, admissions for a cohort will be closed and applicants will be placed on a waiting list.



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Incomplete Applications

Incomplete applications are kept for 90 days without communication from the applicant.

Admission Requirements

Age

POCA Tech applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Basic Education Requirement

All applicants to POCA Tech must have completed at least 2 academic years (60 semester credits/90 quarter credits) of secondary education or the equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S Secretary of Education.

Co-Requisites

420 hours or 28 semester credits/42 quarter credits hours of Western Biomedical & Social Science classes (including required courses: Anatomy & Physiology I & II) must be completed before the beginning of the third year. Western Biomedical science training will be accomplished by transfer credits from a post-secondary educational institution accredited by the Department of Education. Tuition for this portion of the program will vary according to the institution. Additional required Western Biomedical classes are included in the curriculum.

Clean Needle Technique and First Aid/CPR are required courses NOT offered on campus.

Please note, the student's chosen state for practice may dictate additional classes for licensure. For instance: students who plan to practice in Washington must include a class in microbiology; students who wish to practice in New York must have a total of 9 semester credits in biology.



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English Proficiency

All instruction is in English. English language competency is required of all students seeking admission to the program. This must be demonstrated by one of the following means:

1. The student must have completed a two-year (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) baccalaureate- or graduate-level, English-based education in an institution: a) accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, or

a) accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, or

b) in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, or Ireland. In all cases, English must have been both the language of instruction and the language of the curriculum used;

2. Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT)

Acceptable scores: TOEFL iBT total score – 61 with minimum speaking score – 20 and minimum listening score – 17, or

3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Acceptable scores: IELTS overall band score 6 with minimum speaking score – 6.5 and minimum listening score – 6

If any of these apply, please note them in this application's "Other Section."



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Transfer Credits & Assessment of Prior Learning

All accredited Western Science and non-acupuncture general college credits from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S Secretary of Education are accepted by POCA Tech. (Most US Colleges & Universities are accredited).

Undergraduate education from abroad may be accepted for the Basic Education Requirement And/or Co-Requisites with an evaluation from the Center for Educational Documentation or a similar organization. Please contact the Registrar with questions.

All POCA Tech students enter at the beginning of the Liberation Acupuncture Program.

Due to the unique nature of the POCA Tech curriculum, it is unlikely that other acupuncture and Oriental medicine schools will accept transfer credits from POCA Tech. All applicants should be aware of this when deciding which school is the best match for them.

Ability to Benefit from POCA Tech

Applicants demonstrate their ability to benefit from POCA Tech by the grades they achieved in their general education and co-requisite classes, and their participation in and understanding of liberation acupuncture.



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Communication

All students are required to maintain and check an email address daily. Students are responsible for being aware of all communications sent to them via email by administrators or faculty.

Supplemental Reading Material

As part of the application process, POCA Tech requests that applicants read two books: [Acupuncture as Revolution: Suffering, Liberation and Love by Rachel Pagonis](#) and [Acupuncture Points are Holes: a Case Study in Social Entrepreneurship by Lisa Rohleder](#). Applicants must have completed reading these books before enrolling.

Additional Questions?

First - please read the [POCA Tech Student Catalog](#) and the [POCA Tech Website](#). Still have questions – mail POCA Tech’s Registrar at registrar@pocatech.org



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Application Instructions

- Complete the application form, quiz, and essays and MAIL it to POCA Tech. Include 2 passport photos of yourself, and an application fee of \$25. Mail to Admissions, POCA Tech, 3526 NE 57th Ave, Portland, OR 97213. USPS mail works just fine – you do not need to use an expensive delivery service. Local residents may deliver in person.
- Order official copies of **all** your college transcripts – **to be mailed directly from the school** to Admissions at POCA Tech, 3526 NE 57th Ave, Portland, OR 97213. Electronic versions are also accepted - have them sent to registrar@pocatech.org.
- Request 2 letters of recommendation – **to be mailed directly to Admissions at POCA Tech.** Your signature is required on the “Letter of Recommendation” form, which must be submitted with a recommendation letter by your recommender.
- Interview with the Admissions Committee. Once your application is complete, you will be notified by the Registrar’s office and the Admissions Committee will contact you to schedule an admissions interview.
- Once the above requirements are received or met, applicants will be notified of their admission decision within 45 days.

**Application Deadlines - Applications for Cohort 10 must be received by
August 4, 2023**



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Non-Discrimination Policy

POCA Tech does not discriminate against any individual whether student, volunteer, instructor, or administrator, on the basis of age, physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin or any other status protected by the law in its admissions or employment practices.

Mar 2022



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Admissions Application

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>
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<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)</u>
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<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>County</u>
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<u>Email</u>	<u>Gender</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)	<u>Pronouns</u>
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<u>Emergency Contact</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone Number/Email</u>
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<u>Other names you have used:</u>	<u>Are you a US citizen? (circle one)</u> Yes No If No, are you approved to take classes in the US?
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<u>Race</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)	Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer
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<u>Veteran status</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)	Please circle one:
	Yes No

Disabled (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)	Please Circle One:
	Yes No

Education

Please list (or attach resume) all post-secondary education/training, including any current programs.

Institution/Agency	Dates Attended	Major/Training Program	Degree/Certification



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High School/GED	Year Completed
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High School Code - find this at nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/ (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)
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Have you met the POCA Tech Western Biomedicine Co-Requisites? (Please see the catalog to review requirements.)

Yes No

If no, how do you plan to meet them? (attach another sheet of paper if needed)



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Other Programs

Are you currently attending another graduate program?

If yes, what are you studying in that program?

When do you graduate?

What do you hope to do with both degrees (POCA Tech's and the other) when you are done with school?



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Employment/Volunteer Experience

Please list all employment/volunteer experience (or attach resume).

Employer/ Organization	Start Date	End Date	Position



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Deadlines

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION MUST BE RECEIVED BY POCA TECH NO LATER THAN: August 4, 2023	FOR CLASSES BEGINNING: September 1, 2023
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I certify that all statements on this application and accompanying documents are complete and true. I also understand that if I am admitted and do not enroll for the “start date” to which I am admitted, I may need to reapply for admission. I understand that submitted materials will not be returned or duplicated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Other Information?

Is there any other information you would like to provide that might affect your ability to benefit from the POCA Tech program (i.e., physical limitations, personal conditions, financial, felonies or other police records, etc.)? Please explain in the space below. Any information provided herein will be kept confidential. Attach additional sheets of paper if needed.



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Letter of Recommendation (1)

I hereby authorize _____ (recommender)
to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf for admission consideration to POCA Tech.

I waive _____ / do not waive _____ my right to read said letter. (Check one only)

Applicant's Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant Name: _____

How long have you known the applicant?

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

Please address one or more of the following areas:

Commitment to Service Commitment to Social Justice Cultural Competence

Social Skills

Teamwork Communication Skills

Ethical Responsibility to Self/Others Reliability

Adaptability

Capacity for Learning Self-Awareness

Ability to Navigate Uncertainty

Completed by: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please MAIL this form and any accompanying letter directly to Admissions at, *POCA Tech*, 3526 NE 57th Ave, Portland OR, 97213



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Letters of Recommendation (2)

I hereby authorize _____ (recommender)
to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf for admission consideration to POCA Tech.

I waive _____ / do not waive _____ my right to read said letter. (Check one only)

Applicant's Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant Name: _____

How long have you known the applicant?

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

Please address one or more of the following areas:

Commitment to Service Commitment to Social Justice Cultural Competence

Social Skills

Teamwork Communication Skills

Ethical Responsibility to Self/Others Reliability

Adaptability

Capacity for Learning Self-Awareness

Ability to Navigate Uncertainty

Completed by: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please MAIL this form and any accompanying letter directly to Admissions at, *POCA Tech*, 3526 NE 57th Ave, Portland OR, 97213



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Application Essays

Please write essays on **each** of the following 7 topics. Please keep each essay to less than 250 words. Include the topic at the head of each essay.

Applicants who feel a non-written response would be more appropriate may provide a video or audio recording in lieu of written essays. Please keep times to under 4 minutes per topic. A URL may be provided, but a physical archive such as a CD/DVD, USB drive, or other media must be submitted as well.

Essay Topics:

1. Please describe your study habits. POCA Tech cultivates a collaborative rather than competitive environment, and students are most successful when they are able to get support from their classmates by studying together as well as having solid, disciplined individual study habits. What's your track record with studying alone and together?

2. Please tell us why you want to attend POCA Tech and become a community acupuncturist.

3. POCA Tech's purpose is to train students to provide thoughtful, nonjudgmental care to patients whose lives are often really difficult due to factors such as: chronic illness/pain, toxic stress, lack of socioeconomic resources, and marginalization by society. Please describe what experiences in your life will allow you to empathize with your future patients. Feel free to tell stories. (Pro tip: we're looking for students who are coming from a place of solidarity rather than charity.)



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4. Talk about your relationship with money. Include anything relevant about your history, your family's attitudes and behaviors, your partner(s) and/or children, and anyone else with whom you share resources. What concerns do you have about money, related to being in school or being in practice as a community acupuncturist?

5. One of POCA Tech's goals is to prepare graduates to be successful in owning and/or working in a small business. We're looking for students who are self-directed, creative, resourceful, and flexible in the face of challenges. The nature of the POCA Tech program requires students to already have, or work hard on developing these qualities. Please describe your relationship to these qualities.

6. Please describe your commitment to serving underserved and/or marginalized communities after graduation. What are you planning to do, with whom are you planning to do it, and how firm are your plans?



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7. Please consider the following question: In an environment that has more challenges than it has resources, and where what you want/need might not be readily available to you, you are most likely to:

- a. complain loudly about how unfair it is that you can't have what you want/need
- b. demand that someone fix the situation
- c. withdraw and give up
- d. creatively figure out a way to get what you want/need
- e. work with other people to build what you want/need so that everyone can share it

Describe a situation where this has actually happened in your life and how you responded. If you've never experienced this, please speculate about how you think you might respond to such an environment (spoiler: it's POCA Tech!).



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Application Quiz

Please circle the correct answers, and submit this quiz with your application.

1. Applicants must have completed at least 2 years of college level education (or 90-quarter credits or 60-semester credits) at an institution(s) of higher education accredited by a federally recognized accrediting agency.

True / False

2. Applicants must be at least 18 years old.

True / False

3. Total program tuition is designed to be comparable to what a new graduate can expect to earn by working full-time, currently about:

- a. \$10,000
- b. \$25,000
- c. \$45,000
- d. \$65,000

4. Most students will need to move to Portland in their second year in order to complete the clinical internship requirement.

True / False

5. Success in this program will require the following:

- a. Self-directed study in between modules
- b. Lots of rote memorization
- c. Small group work and class participation
- d. All of the above

6. There are 420 hours of required Western Biomedical and Social Science classes that are not taught at POCA Tech. Students must complete these co-requisites prior to:

- a. Enrolling
- b. The end of the first year
- c. The beginning of the third year
- d. Graduation

7. The following is/are additional co-requisite(s):

- a. First Aid
- b. CPR
- c. Clean Needle Technique
- d. All of the above

8. Acupuncture is a licensed profession. Licenses are granted by:

- a. The school upon graduation
- b. A national board after passing the exams
- c. The federal government
- d. Each state

9. POCA Tech offers Federal financial aid.

True / False

10. As graduates of an ACAOM-accredited school, POCA Tech students may apply to take the NCCAOM exams, a foundation for licensing in many, but not all states. Students need to understand licensing requirements for the state where they plan to practice. A solid plan for employment is a graduation requirement.

True / False

11. The degree granted by POCA Tech is:

- a. Master's Certificate of Acupuncture
- b. Master's Degree in Acupuncture
- c. Master's Degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- d. None of the above

12. Some states' licensing boards require all acupuncturists to be qualified in Chinese herbal medicine. POCA Tech does not offer instruction in Chinese herbal medicine.

True / False

13. POCA Tech's ability to meet its mission of providing affordable acupuncture education relies heavily on volunteer labor, and on maintaining a lean administrative structure. Students and prospective students also shoulder much of the burden of ensuring a strong and functional operation, and cooperatively meeting the needs of everyone in the school community.

True / False

14. POCA Tech is governed via sociocracy. Students have a significant responsibility for school governance.

True / False



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Admission Application Checklist

All Applications must be mailed. Electronic Applications are NOT accepted.

Domestic Applicants

- Completed application form. (this document)*
- Quiz (included above)*
- Essays*
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges attended, mailed/emailed directly to POCA Tech
- Two Letters of Recommendation mailed directly from your recommender to POCA Tech*. Include the cover letter from this application form.
- \$25 application fee.* A non-refundable \$25 application fee, payable to POCA Tech must accompany your application. Checks returned from the bank will be charged an additional fee of \$25.
- 2 Passport size photographs*

For International Applicants

In addition to the above documents you will also need:

Official transcripts evaluated by World Education Services (www.wes.org) or an equivalent organization.*

Have you taken 2 years of college level courses in English? If not, please submit a copy of official TOEFL iBT or IELTS scores (Non-native English speakers only)*

*Mail to Admissions, POCA Tech, 3526 NE 57th, Portland, OR 97213