



**POCA TECH** (501c3)/EIN 45-5496763  
3526 NE 57<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland OR, 97213  
**Liberation Acupuncture**  
**Admission Application - 2024**

Applications for Cohort 11 will be accepted beginning January 1st, 2024, and must be received by **August 9th, 2024.**  
**(Classes start September 13, 2024.)**

Have you read our website and catalog? ([www.pocatech.org](http://www.pocatech.org))

Applications are accepted by Mail; Local residents may deliver in person to the address shown above.

**PLEASE PRINT THIS APPLICATION SINGLE SIDED!**

## **Rolling Admissions**

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.

Once POCA Tech has received an applicant's "Intent to Attend" form (sent to you by the registrar once the application review is complete), 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.

Intent to Attend forms must be received within 30 days of applicant's acceptance.

**Classes start September 13, 2024.**



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## **Incomplete Applications**

Incomplete applications are kept for 90 days without communication from the applicant. Applications are considered complete once all official transcripts, both letters of recommendation, and application form, quiz, essays, 2 passport style photos of yourself and application deposit are received by the registrar.

## **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 graduation. 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.



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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**

Students are responsible for being aware of all communications sent to them via email by administrators or faculty to their assigned POCATech email addresses once classes have begun. All students are required to maintain and check their school email daily.

## **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 Pagones](#) and [Acupuncture Points are Holes: a Case Study in Social Entrepreneurship by Lisa Rohleder](#). Applicants must have completed reading these books before enrolling.

## **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.

## **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](mailto:registrar@pocatech.org)



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## **Application Instructions**

- Complete the application form, quiz, and essays
- Include 2 passport style photos of yourself (2x2 size, just head and shoulders)
- Include a check or money order with the application fee of \$100.
- Mail to: Admissions, POCA Tech, 3526 NE 57<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97213.  
(USPS mail works just fine. 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 57<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Application Deadline:**

**Complete Applications for Cohort 11 must be received by**

**August 9th, 2024**



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<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>  <u>Preferred pronouns:</u>
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<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>County</u>
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<u>Email &amp; Phone Number</u>
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<u>Emergency Contact</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone Number/Email</u>
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<p><u>Other names you have used:</u></p>	<p><u>Are you a US citizen? (circle one)</u></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p>If No, are you approved to take classes in the US?</p>
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<p><u>Race</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)</p> <p>Please check one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Black</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> White</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer</li></ul>	<p><u>Gender</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Female</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Male</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer</li></ul> <p><u>Veteran Status</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)</p> <p>Please circle one:</p> <p>Yes                          No</p> <p><u>Disabled</u> (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)</p> <p>Please circle one:</p> <p>Yes                          No</p>
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**Education**

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

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

High School Code - find this at [nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/) (used by Oregon's HECC for statistical purposes)

<input type="checkbox"/> High School Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> GED <input type="checkbox"/> other	Year Completed
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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)

## **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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COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO COHORT 11  
MUST BE RECEIVED BY POCA TECH NO LATER THAN:

**August 9th, 2024**

(COHORT 11 CLASSES BEGIN: September 13th, 2024)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.)
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?



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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?

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



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**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



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**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 - 2024**

## Admission Application Checklist

- Completed application forms
- Quiz
- 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 with letters of recommendation.)
- \$100 application fee.\* A non-refundable \$100 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 (Clear headshot/ photo size 2x2)

### For International Applicants

In addition to the above documents you will also need:

- Official transcripts evaluated by World Education Services ([www.wes.org](http://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**

**POCA Tech Admissions**  
**3526 NE 57<sup>th</sup>**  
**Portland, OR**  
**97213**

**\*\*Applications are not considered complete until all items on the checklist are received by the registrar.**

