

- The ability to articulate and apply an understanding of the history, structure, social, cultural, political, legal, ethical, technological, economic, and educational forces, as well as media focus, impacts upon modern day health care systems
- The ability to assess individual and/or population health status and, where necessary, in consultation with other professionals and community members, formulate, implement and monitor management plans within the scope of an integrated medical practice.

## What is the structure of the course?

The course provides an introduction to discipline-specific subjects and the option to study up to four electives from a wide-ranging list of subjects chosen from our other courses. It also provides a basic underpinning knowledge in bioscience and social science subjects.

In this way it is similar to University Arts degree, but in the CAM field.

There are six semesters of the course, each containing eight credit points of study plus some two credit point and four credit point subjects.

Years one and two of the course provide a science base and seven introductory subjects – one for each of the six major disciplines, and one clinical observation subject. The final year includes the opportunity for students to further explore one or more of their preferred disciplines. As well as some more in-depth social science and public health subjects, students can choose four credit points from elective subject option in each Semester.

## What are the opportunities for further study?

This course will prepare students for further study in a variety of fields including health science, public health, public administration, health administration and social work. Some further study options for graduates of this degree include (but are not limited to):

- Bachelor of Health Science in a specialised CAM discipline (possibly with some Advanced Standing)
- Bachelor degrees in other areas of science (e.g. pre-medicine)
- Honours degree
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health
- Graduate Certificate in Health Promotion
- Graduate Certificate of Health Administration
- Graduate Certificate of Public Administration
- Diploma of Population Health (VET)
- Diploma of Clinic Management (VET)
- Diploma of Nursing (VET)

## Career and Employment Opportunities

This course will provide a solid background in complementary medicine which will be useful in fields such as healthcare and public policy as they increasingly recognise and support the integration of CAM into multidisciplinary healthcare teams. This integration is supported at an international level by the World Health Organisation (WHO) through its evolving Traditional Medicine Strategy since 2002.

Graduates of the BCompMed may work in the allied sectors of the CAM industry as:

- Manager, Patient Services Coordinator or Receptionist in multidisciplinary / integrative medicine clinic or health retreats
- Clinic Assistant/Facilitator in behavioural change support programs (e.g. cardiac wellness)
- Policy Advisor/Writer at any level of government (health and lifestyle areas)
- Health store owner/operator
- Product sales representative for natural products companies
- Customer service representative / advisor for health funds
- Administration in a health-related not-for profit/charity organisation
- Complementary medicine program administrator in aged care
- Health and lifestyle advisor in fitness centres
- Retail and pharmacy assistant (particularly in natural health stores)

Depending on your previous skills and qualifications, outcomes could also include:

- Integrative health advisor within a conventional medicine setting
- Complementary health nurses in specialist settings (e.g. oncology, aged care)
- Health and lifestyle journalist
- Health coaching
- Natural health product marketing consultant

Unanswered questions about the Bachelor of Complementary Medicine?

**Talk to our Admissions Team today:**

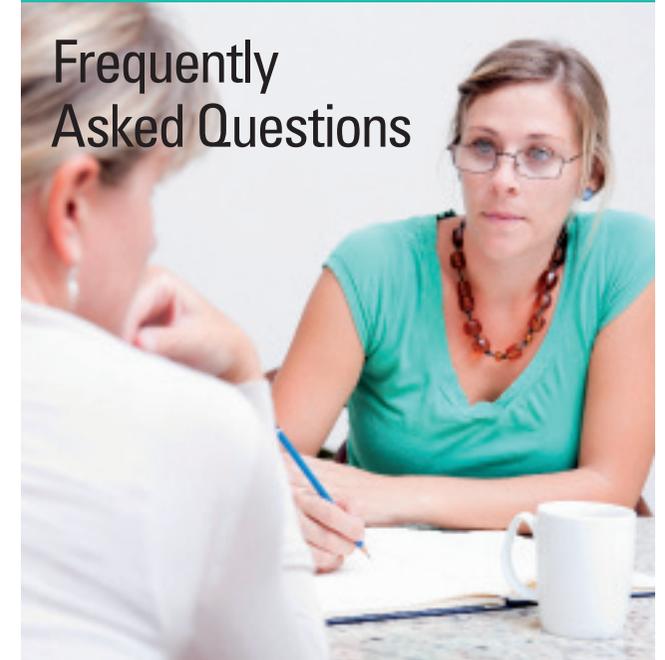
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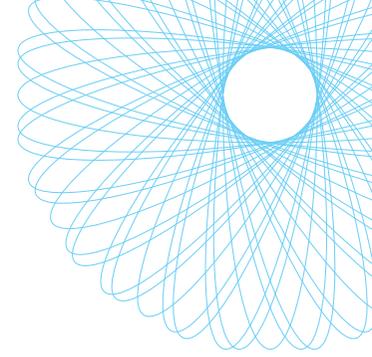
# Bachelor of Complementary Medicine

## Frequently Asked Questions



Offered in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney from Semester One 2014. First year subjects fully online.

# What is Complementary Medicine?



Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) can also be known as Traditional Medicine (TM) and refers to a broad set of healthcare practices that have generally not yet been integrated into the healthcare system that is dominant in the country in which they are practised. CAM encompasses modalities, practices and underpinning theories and belief used in the maintenance of health as well as prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.

CAM disciplines take a holistic view of illness and wellness and encompass therapeutic approaches that address body, emotions, mind and spirit.

Whole Medical Systems are complete systems of theory and practice that have evolved independently over time in different cultures including Traditional Chinese Medicine, Ayurveda, Naturopathy (nutritional medicine, herbal medicine, musculoskeletal therapy) and Homeopathy.

The study of individual CAM disciplines at the tertiary or university level incorporates a rigorous grounding in health sciences and evidence informed practice to meet the demand for complementary medicine patient care, services and products.

Source: General Guidelines for Methodologies on Research and Evaluation of Traditional Medicine, 2000, World Health Organisation, Geneva

## About the program

The Bachelor of Complementary Medicine (BCompMed) course provides students with a broad perspective on the scope of CAM in the overall context of today's healthcare environment, including public health, ethics, research, health promotion and health behaviour. With exposure to a wide variety of natural medicine disciplines, students will be able to develop a sophisticated appreciation of their interrelationships and potential contribution in multidisciplinary and integrative health settings. A wide range of electives allows students to build knowledge in specific areas of their choosing and may lead to interest in further study to become a specialist practitioner.

## Why study a non-practitioner degree in this field?

The BCompMed is designed for students who are interested in the field as a whole and not necessarily in studying to become a practitioner. While practitioner degrees are generally health science degrees, this is more of a social science degree. For this reason, it requires half of the contact time (as it does not include clinical training nor the more in-depth bioscience training). It is suited to those who wish to gain a familiarity with the field, while learning some useful approaches they may implement in their own lives, and gain knowledge that will be useful in employment in the broader health environment.

Additionally, by completing a bachelor degree students have the opportunity to develop the Graduate Attributes (such as effective communication, critical judgment, ethical and social behaviour, and innovation and creativity) expected of bachelor level education and that are sought after by employers who want to know that a prospective employee is capable of completing complex long-term tasks.

## Who should study this course?

Students for this course will come from a range of backgrounds and may include (but are not limited to):

- School leavers interested in CAM but not sure in which area they wish to specialise.
- People seeking a career change without a specific area of specialisation in the natural health field.
- Those currently working in conventional medicine (from GPs to receptionists) looking for further education in CAM in order to appropriately refer patients to CAM practitioners or to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary clinic.
- People interested in health management, policy, public or population health and looking for careers in these areas and/or to go onto postgraduate study.
- People interested in CAM from a general knowledge point of view and to broaden their knowledge of how to apply CAM in their lives.

## What will I learn?

Students undertaking this course will develop:

- A comprehensive understanding of the history and philosophy of natural medicine
- The underpinnings of biological science and research skills necessary to critically examine scientific research and promote evidence-based complementary medicine practices
- The social science skills necessary to communicate effectively and promote positive health practices to the wider community
- The ability to analyse patient needs and refer onto relevant complementary medicine modality specialists
- The scope to explore natural medicine areas of interest to expand the depth and breadth of their knowledge
- An understanding of the provision of health care systems in a culturally diverse society including their advantages and limitations, the principles of efficient and equitable allocation and use of finite resources, and recognition of local and national needs in health care and service delivery
- The ability to analyse and evaluate empirical and recently published evidence-based medicine research validating their use within an integrated medical practice
- The ability to use information technology appropriately as an essential resource for a modern integrated medical practice
- Communication skills, including being able to convey information clearly, considerately and sensitively within an integrated medical practice
- The ability to locate different research models in the field of complementary medicine and utilise this knowledge in the review and identification of quality research outcomes that may be applied within an integrated medical practice

