



# MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	February 15, 2011
<b>TO</b>	Acupuncture Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	Benjamin Bodea, Education Coordinator Janelle Wedge, Executive Officer
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>School Site Visit &amp; Application Review: Nine Star University of Health Sciences, Master of Science in Orinetal Medicine (MSOM) Program</b>

On January 27, 2011, Janelle Wedge and Benjamin Bodea conducted a site visit of Nine Star University of Health Sciences (NSUHS), which is located at 441 DeGuigne Drive, #201, in Sunnyvale, CA.

Prior to the on-site visit, staff conducted extensive reviews of the school's application and supplemental materials including course outlines, faculty resumes, school catalog, and financial summaries. The on-site visit consisted of the following:

- Tour of the facility
- Review of student and faculty files
- Tour and review of clinic
- Interview with President and CEO, Philip Yang, and administrator Carol Chen.

## **School History and Facility Information**

Nine Star University of Health Sciences (NSUHS), was incorporated as a non-profit organization on May 25, 2007. The school began operations on September 2, 2008. NSUHS has applied to the new Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education for school approval and is awaiting their approval. This has been verified with the Deputy Bureau Chief.

NSUHS's first application for program approval was disapproved by the Board at their August 2010 board meeting. NSUHS took steps to correct their deficiencies and reapplied for program approval in October 2010.

Mr. Yang is the owner of the building in which NSUHS is housed. The school's facilities take up three of the building's suites for a total of 10,921 square feet. The facilities include 10 rooms that can be used for classroom space with each room seating between 15-20 people, eight clinic rooms, an herb dispensary, a reception area, faculty and administrative offices, a computer lab, an event center that can hold up to 150 people, and a library.

The clinic rooms each have space for one or two treatment beds. All of the treatment rooms do contain appropriate disposal containers for biohazard and sharps waste disposal. During our tour of the clinic, Mr. Yang indicated that he is the only acupuncturist currently in practice there, and his is the only license we saw displayed in the clinic.

The large event center on the lower floor of the facility is currently used for continuing education classes, large school events, and weekly community tai chi classes.

The library is housed on the second floor near the classrooms with easy access by the students. The library houses approximately 2,600 books (1,300 in English and 1,300 in Chinese) and journal volumes. This is a significant expansion since the Board conducted its first site visit.

### **Admission Requirements & Student Population**

At the time of the school's opening, 10 students were enrolled in the MSOM program. Since September 2008, enrollment has increased to a total of 25 students. Nineteen of those students are waiting to begin their clinic training.

During the original site visit in November 2009, the Board had noted that about half of the student files did not contain official transcripts to verify the completion of prerequisite requirements. However, during our most recent site visit, all student files were neatly organized and contained all required documents.

### **Program Curriculum**

NSUHS operates on a trimester system and grants a Master of Science in Oriental Medicine upon successful completion of the program. The program's required curriculum includes 2,475 hours of didactic training and 960 hours of clinical training for a total requirement of 3,435 hours. In the initial application submitted by NSUHS in 2009, the curriculum failed to comply with both the minimum hours and subject matter requirements set forth in the CAB regulations. However, it appears the administration has carefully thought out the new syllabi for all of the classes offered. After being notified of these deficiencies, the school administration submitted new syllabi for all of the classes offered. The new syllabi and course descriptions are in compliance with the regulations.

NSUHS requires all applicants for admission for whom English is not a native language to submit an official copy of their TOEFL score. The minimum required TOEFL score is 55 iBT.

NSUHS offers its program in two languages: English and Chinese. Currently there are only students in the Chinese language program. The school previously had two students in the English language program, but one transferred to another school so they could start their clinic and the other student is not taking classes this trimester.

## **Faculty**

NSUHS employs 16 faculty members, 13 of whom are licensed acupuncturists in California. All faculty files appeared complete and orderly. In general, all faculty members appear qualified for the courses they instruct.

## **Finances**

NSUHS has been in operation for two years. During the 2008 fiscal year, the majority of funding came from an \$85,000 loan and donations to the school. The schools main income now is from student tuition. From 2008 to 2009, tuition income has more than quadrupled. The school has not actively recruited students until such time as they receive Board approval. It is anticipated that upon Board approval enrollment will double and tuition and clinic income will significantly increase.

## **Conclusions**

NSUHS has made numerous improvements, including a well-thought out Mission Statement with education objectives, standardized syllabus, faculty, student and clinic handbooks, and a restructured Board of Directors.