

Iowa Licensed Acupuncturist and Chiropractic Acupuncture Comparison

	Licensed Acupuncturist	Chiropractic Acupuncture
Iowa Regulation	<p>Must have a 3+ year Master's degree specific to Acupuncture/Chinese medicine and pass 3 boards to receive a license from the Iowa Board of Medicine</p> <p><i>To keep license, LAc must maintain a current membership with NCCAOM, which requires 60 hours of continuing education every 4 years.</i></p>	<p>Must have a Chiropractic license (DC) and take a 100-hour in-person seminar on acupuncture</p> <p><i>To maintain designation, DC must take 12 hours of continuing education every 2 years.</i></p>
Minimum Educational Requirements	<p>3+ years Master's degree with a minimum of 1905 hours (105 credits), comprised of a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 705 hours in Acupuncture/Chinese medicine theory • 660 hours of clinical experience (observation, direct clinical experience) • 450 hours of (Western) Biomedicine • 90 hours of ethics/communication/practice management/etc. <p><i>These are the minimums to sit for the NCCAOM boards; minimums could vary by state, but these are IA's minimum.</i></p>	<p>100-hour acupuncture seminar (in addition to their Chiropractic Doctoral degree)</p>
Required Tests & Certifications	<p>The following tests are required for licensure (LAc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Needle Technique Certification from CCAHM • 3 board exams from NCCAOM: Western Biomedicine, Acupuncture with Point Location, and Foundations of Chinese Medicine <p><i>Passage of these boards and exam are implied by having an acupuncture license (LAc) because they are required for a license but may be indicated specifically by stating "Dipl.Ac" after their name.</i></p>	<p>All certifications and tests are optional. The two main ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBCE Acupuncture: eligible for the exam after a 100-hour seminar • DABCA: eligible for the exam after 300 hours of training – indicated by "DABCA" after their name; stands for "Diplomate of the American Board of Chiropractic Acupuncture."