

American Medical Student Association
House of Delegates 2012
Resolution: A-10

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SCHOOL:	Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine, Bastyr University of Naturopathic Medicine, National College of Natural Medicine, Nova Southeastern University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Iowa, Boston University, Mayo Medical School, Harvard, Oregon Health & Science University, Trinity College, University of North Carolina, Columbia University, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
SUBJECT:	AMSA position statement on Naturopathic Medicine
TYPE:	Resolution of Preamble, Purposes and Principles

- 1 WHEREAS The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the national
- 2 accrediting agency for the Naturopathic Doctorate degree, is recognized by the U.S.
- 3 Department of Education.¹
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- 5 WHEREAS The Department of Education classifies the Naturopathic Doctor degree
- 6 (ND) from CNME schools as a Doctor's degree - Professional practice, along with MD
- 7 and DO degrees.^{2,3}

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WHEREAS There are six Naturopathic medical schools in North America that are accredited by both the national and regional accrediting authorities.^{4,5}

WHEREAS The Naturopathic doctoral program is at least 4 years in duration and during the first two years of biomedical and diagnostic sciences, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND/NMD) students' credit loads are equivalent to those of Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) students. Third- and fourth-year ND students receive clinical training as Primary Care Physicians (PCP's) at their schools' teaching clinics and off-site clinics including those in rural and underserved areas.⁶

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians-in-training are eligible for the same student loans as MD and DO students, thus incurring comparable debt as well.⁷

WHEREAS All licensed Naturopathic physicians must complete four years of graduate medical education from CNME approved schools and successfully pass NPLEX/NABNE board exams⁸ (basic sciences and clinical science board exams, similar to USMLE Step I and II respectively, upon graduation).

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians are Primary Care Physicians trained in conventional medical sciences including physical examination, lab diagnosis, pharmacology and minor surgery, as well as safe and evidence-based Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) such as botanical medicine, environmental medicine, Chinese Medicine, physical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, counseling and clinical nutrition.⁹

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WHEREAS 33% (over 4,000 students) of respondents to the American Association of Medical College's 2007 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire reported that the instructional time devoted to clinical nutrition and CAM during their training was inadequate. Naturopathic doctoral programs offer a model of medical training designed for the medical student aiming to practice natural and integrative medicine.¹⁹

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians-in-training serve as content experts in integrative, complementary and alternative medicine (ICAM).

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians have the most comprehensive evidence-based ICAM training at the physician level upon graduation and serve as invaluable resources in the medical field.

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians help to fill a gap in the healthcare system and are part of the solution to the PCP shortage in underserved populations.^{20,21,22,23,24}

WHEREAS Chronic illness is implicated as a major cause for rising health care costs^{25,26} and Naturopathic physicians are trained in the prevention, treatment and management of those conditions which results in significant cost savings and cost effectiveness.

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55 WHEREAS the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) is the only
56 national professional society that represents licensed or licensable Naturopathic
57 physicians who are graduates of one of the six naturopathic medical schools accredited
58 by the CNME.

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60 WHEREAS The Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA) is the only
61 international professional organization that represents Naturopathic physicians-in-training
62 enrolled in CNME-approved doctoral programs.

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64 WHEREAS a statement in American Medical Student Association (AMSA)'s PPP's on
65 Naturopathic medicine is entirely supportive of and in alignment with several of AMSA's
66 strategic priorities and principles including Primary Care, ICAM, global health, access to
67 quality health care, health equity, medical professionalism, ethics, patient safety, patient-
68 centered care, health policy, medical humanities, community and environmental health.

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70 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the list of Principles in the Preamble, Purposes
71 and Principles, be amended to include Principles Regarding Naturopathic Medicine and
72 be amended to read:

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75 **PRINCIPLES REGARDING NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE**

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77 1. AMSA DEFINES Naturopathic medical student as any student enrolled in a
78 Naturopathic doctoral program at a Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME)
79 accredited institution and a Naturopathic physician as a licensable graduate of a CNME
80 accredited institution. (2012)

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82 2. AMSA RECOGNIZES the parity between ND/NMD, MD and DO degrees within the
83 healthcare community as a whole. (2012)

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85 3. AMSA RECOGNIZES that Naturopathic doctors are Primary Care Physicians trained
86 to provide quality primary and preventive care, and willing to serve in rural and
87 underserved areas. Naturopathic physicians are also part of a solution to the workforce
88 shortage issues and rising health care costs in our health care system. (2012)

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90 4. AMSA SUPPORTS collaborative efforts with the American Association of
91 Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) and/or the Naturopathic Medical Student Association
92 (NMSA) on issues consistent with the AMSA strategic priorities and principles. (2012)

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94 5. AMSA SUPPORTS full licensure of Naturopathic physicians in all 50 states and
95 supports legal provisions for Naturopathic physicians to practice within their full scope of
96 training both domestically and abroad. (2012)

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98 6. AMSA RECOGNIZES that Naturopathic medical students incur debt comparable to
99 that of conventional medical students and SUPPORTS inclusion of Naturopathic medical

100 students in federal loan repayment programs, such as the Public Health Service Act
101 (PHSA). (2012)
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103 To this end, AMSA SUPPORTS the efforts of the AANP and NMSA in accomplishing
104 these goals. (2012)

¹ U.S. Department of Education. *Accreditation in the United States: Specialized Accrediting Agencies*.
http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg7.html

² U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics.
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Glossary.
<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/?charindex=D>

³ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Association for Institutional Research. *New Post-Baccalaureate Degree Classifications*. 2008. <http://airweb.org/images/new%20post-baccalaureate%20degree%20classifications.pdf>

⁴ Council on Naturopathic Medical Education. *Accreditation Standards*. 2009. <http://www.cnme.org/>

⁵ U.S. Department of Education. *The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs*.
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

⁶ Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges. *Comparing ND and MD Curricula*. 2011.
http://www.aanmc.org/education/comparing-nd-md-curricula.php#first_two

⁷ Federal Direct Loans. Chapter 3: DL Awards & Payments, *Direct Loans School Guide*. Federal Student Aid Publications, 2008. <http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/pubs/dlguidech3.pdf>

⁸ North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners <http://www.nabne.org/>

⁹ Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine *2011-2012 Catalog*
<http://www.scnm.edu/images/stories/2011-12%20Course%20Catalog%20INDEX.PDF>

¹⁰ Bastyr University School of Naturopathic Medicine *2011-2012 Catalog* (pp. 76-85)
http://www.bastyr.edu/ftp/catalog/catalog_11-12/School_Naturopathic_Medicine_11-12.pdf

¹¹ National College of Natural Medicine *2011-2012 Catalog*
http://www.ncnm.edu/images/Publications/NCNM_Catalog_2011-2012.pdf

¹² University of Bridgeport *2010-2012 Catalog* (pp. 72-80)
http://www.bridgeport.edu/Media/Website%20Resources/documents/academics/registrar/UB_catalog.pdf

¹³ Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine. ND Program Course Listings.
http://www.ccnm.edu/prospective_students/course_listings

¹⁴ Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine. Curriculum- Course Description.
http://www.binm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=141&Itemid=96

¹⁵ National University of Health Sciences. Doctor of Naturopathy Curriculum Trimester by Trimester.
<http://nuhs.edu/academics/college-of-professional-studies/naturopathic-medicine/curriculum/trimester-by-trimester/>

¹⁶ Fleming S, Gutknecht N. *Naturopathy and the Primary Care Practice*. Primary Care. 2010.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2883816/>

¹⁷ LaMont S, Quinn S, et al. *Naturopathic Medicine: Primary Care for the 21st Century*.
http://www.dralysa.com/resources/Naturopathic_Medicine-Primary_Care_for_the_21st_Century.pdf

¹⁸ Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians. *Insurance Reimbursement*. 2011.
http://www.vanp.org/insurance_reimbursement.php

¹⁹ Abbott RB, Hui K, Hays RD, et al. Medical Student Attitudes toward Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine. *Evid Based Complement Alternat Med*. 2011; 2011: 985243
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3147138/>

²⁰ Naturopathic Physicians Research Institute. *Cost Studies*. <http://nprinstitute.org/cost-studies>

²¹ New York Association of Naturopathic Physicians. *Benefit Analysis of Licensing Naturopathic Doctors*. May 2011. <http://nyanp.org/ndreport511.pdf>

²² Coalition for Patients' Rights. *Recent Studies Show That Access to Full Spectrum of Healthcare Professionals Key to Cost-Effective Care*. 2011. <http://www.patientsrightscoalition.org/Media-Resources/News-Releases/Key-to-Cost-Effective-Care.aspx>

²³ Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians. *Fact Sheet*. 2011

²⁴ New York Council for Naturopathic Licensure. *Dr. Weil Endorses NY Licensure*. 2010.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h8OxUb6afU

²⁵ Bloom, D.E., Cafiero, E.T., Jané-Llopis, E., Abrahams-Gessel, S., Bloom, L.R., Fathima, S., Feigl, A.B., Gaziano, T., Mowafi, M., Pandya, A., Prettner, K., Rosenberg, L., Seligman, B., Stein, A., & Weinstein, C. (2011). *The Global Economic Burden of Non-communicable Diseases*. Geneva: World Economic Forum. www.weforum.org/EconomicsOfNCD

²⁶ DeVol R, Bedroussian A, et al. *An Unhealthy America: The economic burden of chronic disease – Charting a New Course to Save Lives and Increase Productivity and Economic Growth*. Milken Institute. 2007.
<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf?function=detail&ID=38801018&cat=resrep>