

American Medical Student Association
House of Delegates 2012
Resolution: A-3

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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, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, University of Iowa, Boston University, Mayo Medical School, Harvard, Oregon Health & Science University, Trinity College, Columbia University
SUBJECT:	Eligibility of Naturopathic medical students for Medical Student Membership.
TYPE:	Resolution of Constitution and Bylaws

1 WHEREAS The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the national accrediting
2 agency for the Naturopathic Doctorate degree, is recognized by the U.S. Department of
3 Education.¹
4

5 WHEREAS The Department of Education classifies the Naturopathic Doctor degree (ND) from
6 CNME schools as a Doctor’s degree - Professional practice, along with MD and DO degrees.^{2,3}
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8 WHEREAS There are six Naturopathic medical schools in North America that are accredited by
9 both the national and regional accrediting authorities.^{4,5}
10

11 WHEREAS The Naturopathic doctoral program is at least 4 years in duration and during the first
12 two years of biomedical and diagnostic sciences, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND/NMD)
13 students' credit loads are equivalent to those of Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of

14 Osteopathy (DO) students. Third- and fourth-year ND students receive clinical training as
15 Primary Care Physicians (PCP's) at their schools' teaching clinics and off-site clinics including
16 those in rural and underserved areas.⁶
17

18 WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians-in-training are eligible for the same student loans as MD
19 and DO students, thus incurring comparable debt as well.⁷
20

21 WHEREAS All licensed Naturopathic physicians must complete four years of graduate medical
22 education from CNME approved schools and successfully pass NPLEX/NABNE board exams⁸
23 (basic sciences and clinical science board exams, similar to USMLE Steps I and II respectively,
24 upon graduation).
25

26 WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians are Primary Care Physicians trained in conventional
27 medical sciences including physical examination, lab diagnosis, pharmacology and minor
28 surgery, as well as safe and evidence-based Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)
29 such as botanical medicine, environmental medicine, Chinese Medicine, physical medicine,
30 homeopathy, hydrotherapy, counseling and clinical nutrition.^{9,10,11,12,13,14,15, 16, 17, 18}
31

32 WHEREAS 33% (over 4,000 students) of respondents to the American Association of Medical
33 College's 2007 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire reported that the instructional time
34 devoted to clinical nutrition and CAM during their training was inadequate. Naturopathic
35 doctoral programs offer a model of medical training designed for the medical student aiming to
36 practice natural and integrative medicine.¹⁹
37

38 WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians-in-training serve as content experts in integrative,
39 complementary and alternative medicine (ICAM).
40

41 WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians have the most comprehensive evidence-based ICAM
42 training at the physician level upon graduation and serve as invaluable resources in the medical
43 field.
44

45 WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians help to fill a gap in the healthcare system and are part of the
46 solution to the PCP shortage in underserved populations.^{20,21,22,23,24}
47

48 WHEREAS Chronic illness is implicated as a major cause for rising health care costs^{25,26} and
49 Naturopathic physicians are trained in the prevention, treatment and management of those
50 conditions which results in significant cost savings and cost effectiveness.^{xvii,xviii,xix,xx,xxi}
51

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

56 WHEREAS The Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA) is the only international
57 professional organization that represents Naturopathic physicians-in-training enrolled in CNME-
58 approved doctoral programs.
59

60 WHEREAS the Naturopathic medical profession has both a national organization representing
61 Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) as well as a national organization representing the ND medical
62 student voice (NMSA), thus demonstrating a well established profession with resources and
63 structure in place to further their contributions to the healthcare system.

64
65 WHEREAS Naturopathic medical students participate in AMSA seeking to further their
66 understanding of the broader health care system and strengthen alliances among all physicians-
67 in-training.

68
69 WHEREAS increasing numbers of Naturopathic medical students are AMSA members and
70 whereas many of these members have been active in AMSA (*e.g.*, attending Institutes, Regional
71 Conferences and National Convention, holding leadership positions in Action Committees,
72 Teams and Interest Groups and engaging in AMSA initiatives).

73
74 WHEREAS Naturopathic medical students have demonstrated competence, dedication and
75 enthusiasm while serving in leadership positions for Action Committees, Teams and Interest
76 Groups.

77
78 WHEREAS Naturopathic medical students desire to charter AMSA Chapters at their schools,
79 desire eligibility to serve in the full range of AMSA leadership positions that are offered to
80 Medical Student Members, and desire equitable medical student membership rates.

81
82 WHEREAS eligibility of Naturopathic physicians-in-training as AMSA Medical Student
83 Members will allow for a diversity within the Medical Student Membership that more accurately
84 reflects the current and future physician population.

85
86 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Constitution and Bylaws, Article III Membership,
87 Classification of Medical Student, be amended to expand eligibility to Naturopathic medical
88 students and read:

89
90 Available to medical students enrolled in or on leave of absence from any LCME, AOA, **or**
91 **CNME** accredited or provisionally accredited North American allopathic, osteopathic, **or**
92 **naturopathic** training program.

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](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/>

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- 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., Prettnner, 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>