

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OSTEOPATHY AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (CLINICAL SCIENCES), MASTER OF HEALTH SCIENCE (OSTEOPATHY)

WHAT IS OSTEOPATHY?

Osteopathy is a primary health care system, complementary to other medical practices, that emphasizes the role of the musculoskeletal system in health and disease. Osteopaths use a wide range of gentle, non-invasive manual techniques as part of a holistic and patient centred approach to optimizing health and preventing recurrence of symptoms. Osteopaths in Australia are government-registered practitioners of manual medicine, and are classed as primary care practitioners, meaning that you do not need a referral to consult one.

Osteopathy was founded in America in the 1870s by Andrew Taylor Still, a medical doctor of the period, and has developed to the point where it is one of the most widely used and accepted therapies in use today. In Australia, osteopathy is currently one of the fastest growing of all the therapeutic professions. Australian osteopaths undergo five years of full-time university level training, which, in addition to the study of osteopathic technique, includes study of anatomy, physiology, pathology, clinical diagnosis and management, biochemistry, radiology, pharmacology, nutrition, psychology and exercise prescription.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (CLINICAL SCIENCES)?

All applications must be made through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). A VTAC guide is available from newsagencies, usually from June each year. Applications can be made via the VTAC internet site at www.vtac.edu.au. The VTAC code for this course is 43051 (CSP), 43052 (Fee), 43053 (Int. Fee). Course information about the Bachelor of Science (Clinical Sciences) can be found on the Victoria University website at <http://www.vu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-science-clinical-sciences-hbos>.

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES?

You will need VCE units 3 & 4 English & Chemistry and one of Maths (any) or Physics. Non-year 12 applicants will also need these prerequisites or their equivalent at University or TAFE. Bridging courses in these subjects are available. One course that is commonly used can be found with Queensland Open Learning network on www.unilearn.net.au/courses.php.

Students are required to undergo a Victoria police check and have a level two first aid in the workplace qualification prior to commencing the course. (Details of where to undertake a suitable first aid course can be provided).

YEAR 12 APPLICANTS

You will be ranked according to your ENTER score. You do not need to complete a Personal Information (Pi) form unless you are required to provide some extra background information (see below).

WHAT ATAR DO I NEED?

A minimum ATAR/ENTER score is published (as a guide only) in the VTAC guide, based on the previous year's intake. In 2010, the minimum ENTER score for entry into this course was 87.

WHAT ABOUT NON-YEAR 12 APPLICANTS?

You apply through VTAC and must include a completed online personal information (Pi) form in which you can provide any relevant information to support your application (see below). Demonstrated interest in osteopathy is helpful but primarily your past academic performance is taken into consideration. This will include both your ENTER score and Grade Point Average (GPA) calculated from your previous university study results. In 2010, a minimum GPA of 5.5 (out of a total of 7) was necessary for selection (this means a distinction/high credit average).

THE VTAC PERSONAL INFORMATION (PI) FORM

The PI form can be accessed by logging into **MyInfo** at the VU web page. It is used to provide any of the following details to support your application: Work experience, Demonstrated background knowledge of osteopathy, Circumstances of disadvantage while undertaking tertiary study, Notification if you are currently enrolled in a course to meet the selection criteria and Reasons for applying.

CURRENT VU STUDENTS - INTERNAL APPLICATION

If you are currently enrolled in a course of study at Victoria University, you can apply for entry into the osteopathy program, HBOS, by completing an **internal application form**,

http://www.vu.edu.au/Future_Students/VCE_Students/How_to_apply/Application_Forms/index.aspx#4

You do not need to apply via VTAC as well. You will need to provide supporting evidence of pre requisites and any relevant personal information. Your application will be considered by the same criteria as other non-year 12 applicants. You will be notified in writing if your application has been successful.

Please provide your yr 12 Results which will show evidence of completion of the pre requisites.

International Applicants will need to provide evidence of the same pre requisites but apply through the international branch: International@vu.edu.au or telephone +61 3 9919 1164.

WHAT IF MY MARKS AREN'T HIGH ENOUGH?

If you are really committed to a career as an osteopath, the best advice is to enrol in a course of study at university Bachelor level, in which you feel you can achieve your best academic results, work hard to gain a high GPA, and reapply the following year.

WHERE IS THE COURSE OFFERED?

It is a full-time course offered at the City Flinders Lane campus. It is not offered part-time or off-campus. It is possible to defer a place after acceptance into the course. There is no mid-year intake.

HOW MANY CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK?

Contact hours range from 23 hours in year one, 28 in year two, and 34 in year three, in two 12-week semesters. In addition, students undertake clinical practical work in the Victoria University Teaching Clinics throughout the year. The clinic is open for 48 weeks of the year.

WHAT ARE MY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?

In order to apply for registration as an osteopath, you must complete the 5-year program. The 3-year Bachelor of Science – Clinical Science course enables you to progress to the 2-year full-time Masters of Health Science- Osteopathy.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Once enrolled into the program, you apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL) for any unit that you believe they have successfully undertaken in a previous course that maps against the learning outcomes. A committee assesses your application for RPL once you are enrolled in the program and have submitted all the appropriate paperwork. Should you be granted RPL's, this will not shorten your overall course length; merely lighten your course load in some semesters.

HOW MUCH DOES THE COURSE COST?

You will be required to pay a General Service Fee to Victoria University and are liable for payment of fees via the Commonwealth Supported Place Scheme (CPS). CPS fees are indexed each year and payable by the census date in each semester. You can choose to pay up front or defer payment via the tax system. The booklet "*information for Commonwealth supported students*" provides full details of the scheme and can be obtained by calling 1800 020 108, accessed at the website at www.goingtouni.gov.au or obtained from any University student administration office. You are also required to purchase books, uniform and diagnostic equipment for work in the student teaching clinic.

For further details concerning fees, scholarships and admissions, please contact:

Student Contact Centre, phone +61 3 9919 6100 or visit the Victoria University website www.vu.edu.au

IMPORTANT VTAC DATES 2011/2012

Applications to VTAC close	30 September 2011
Early offers (non year 12)	25 November 2011
Main round offers	TBC
Round 2 offers	3 February 2012

For any further questions, contact the Selection Officers (Osteopathy) on osteopathy@vu.edu.au

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OSTEOPATHY INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday 7 September 7-8.30pm

Flinders Lane Campus, 301 Flinders Lane, Level 1, Room 1.11