

North American Institute of Medical Herbalism Certificate in Western Herbalism

We are developing a comprehensive 304-hour certificate course by Distance Learning. It has been approved by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Private Occupational Schools Board and ***we expect it to be complete in December of 2012.*** It will typically take about 2 years of home study to complete, allowing 2-4 hours a week of study, but may be completed more quickly if the student has significant free time to devote to it.

Frequently asked question #1: This program does ***not*** duplicate our classroom and clinical training, and does not replace the Fundamentals of Medical Herbalism classroom program, which includes material on physiology, pathology, and nutrition not included in this certificate.

Frequently asked question #2: The courses in this program do ***not*** take the place of any courses in our classroom or clinical sequence. If students who have completed this certificate later enroll in our classroom program, we can't give advanced placement, but we will offer discounted tuition for the classroom courses previously taken.

Here are the courses in the program and their current status:

| | |
|---|---|
| First Course in Medical Herbalism | Available at the web site |
| Fundamentals of Western Materia Medica I | Under development |
| Fundamentals of Western Materia Medica II | Under development |
| Fundamentals of Western Materia Medica II | Available at the web site as the Materia Medica Intensive |
| Fundamentals of Herbal Formulation | Available at the web site |
| Fundamentals of Vitalist Medicine | Under Development |
| Vitalist Treatment of Acute Symptoms | Available at the web site |
| Adverse Effects of Common Herbs | Available at the web site |

- Until all the courses are available, we cannot enroll you in the Certificate program.
- Any courses you take now, will apply to the certificate when (and ***if***, see below) the full Certificate is available. We strongly advise you to start with the First Course in Medical Herbalism, even if you have previous experience.
- Although it is our intention to complete these courses and to offer the Certificate, we ***cannot commit*** to doing so, because unforeseen circumstances may arise. We do not want you to start taking the courses expecting that the full Certificate will be available, and then be disappointed if something unforeseen arises from our end. So:
- If you enroll for any of the above courses at this time, please do so for their own merits, for stand-alone credit. Each offers a certificate for hours completed.

If the planned certificate becomes available, you will enroll for the individual courses one at a time, and you will receive individual certificates for each course. Throughout our courses and the program, your tuition is paid in installments only as you complete the various sections of the courses, so there is no large up-front payment at risk if you do not complete the work, decide to pursue another path, or decide just to study the materials on your own without faculty supervision or tuition fees or certification. It is recommended you start with the First Course in Medical Herbalism. When you have

completed the coursework, you may enroll for the certificate course and take the final exam, and receive a comprehensive certificate for the entire 304 hours.

Here are the proposed costs and hours of the full certificate:

| | Lessons | Hours | Materials | # of disks | Tuition | Fees |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|-----------|------------|---------|------|
| First Course | 8 | 36 | \$70 | 2 | 120 | 10 |
| Western MM-1 | 5 | 35 | \$69 | 2 | 75 | 10 |
| Western MM-2 | 5 | 35 | \$69 | 2 | 75 | 10 |
| Western MM-3 | 8 | 36 | 169 | 16 | 90 | 10 |
| Vitalism | 5 | 30 | 120 | 12 | 100 | 25 |
| Acutes Course | 12 | 72 | 298 | 32 | 180 | 25 |
| Formulation | 6 | 36 | 149 | 12 | 120 | 25 |
| Safety | 8 | 24 | 149 | 12 | 120 | 25 |
| Final Exam and Projects | | | | | | 100 |
| Totals | 57 | 304 | 1024 | 90 | 940 | 240 |

These numbers are estimates. The materials costs will be discounted somewhat for those enrolled in the entire program. The total cost should be something a little under \$2000. If you eventually take our classroom certificate programs, the distance program payments will entitle you to tuition discounts.

At about 3 hours of work per week, it could be completed in about 2 years. With dedicated time, much faster than that, easily in a 9 month term for instance.

Frequently asked question #3: The meaning of "Certified Herbalist."

"Certification" can mean different things in different contexts. Some certificates are granted by governments, some by private organizations, and some by education institutions (especially occupational schools). For herbalists, *no state* recognizes herbalists or issues them certificates. One herbal organization, the American Herbalists Guild, issues certificates for professional herbalists, but these certificates are likewise not recognized by any governmental body. The AHG certificate requires at least 2 years of hands-on clinical practice, which is beyond the scope of the Certificates we offer. What you receive from us is an *educational certificate*. This may be useful for demonstrating your level of training to an employer or to the general public. It will state that you have completed a 304 hour program in Western Herbalism, and that the school and the work is approved and regulated by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Private Occupational Schools Board.

Paul Bergner
 Director January 6, 2012