

## **Participation in Skills Practice**

Chinese Medicine is a whole-person embodied medicine. Our programs are designed to help you become not merely proficient at individual techniques, but truly adept at helping people through their most difficult life experiences. This requires experiential learning, not just memorizing abstract concepts from a textbook. To this end, the programs at Daoist Traditions include both giving and receiving all necessary clinical skills. You learn how each technique and each point feels to develop sensitivity to patient needs.

When you enroll, you are agreeing to rise to the standards required to complete the program. Each course syllabus explains the course requirements, including giving and receiving palpation, needling, etc. By enrolling in skills courses, you are agreeing to the course requirements and telling us that you are able and willing to participate.

We are transparent about our palpation and participation expectations so you can decide if we are right for you and if this is the right time for you to begin this type of program. (We hope your answer is YES!)

<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>	
<b>Can I refuse to be touched altogether?</b>	Receiving palpation, needling, and other techniques is an essential element in training to become a practitioner. If you refuse to be touched altogether, you will not be able to complete the program.
<b>Do I get to choose who touches/needles me in each class?</b>	You will rotate partners in skills classes to gain the most experience with the widest variety of bodies. You will work with all classmates – all genders, ages, body types, comfort levels.
<b>Will I know ahead of time who will touch/needle me?</b>	Partners are announced at the beginning of each class, closely mirroring the dynamic that exists in clinical spaces, where you do not know exactly what you will encounter before it occurs.
<b>Will I be asked before I am touched?</b>	Your partner will check in with your readiness to participate by saying <i>“I’m going to start now.”</i> <i>“Are you ready?”</i> or <i>“Let me know if anything is uncomfortable at any time.”</i>
<b>Can I say no to being touched at certain points or body areas during a class session?</b>	Reciprocal palpation/needling/other techniques is expected at all required points/body areas. Partner pairs must complete the assigned activity. If you cannot participate fully, you may excuse yourself from class and use one of your allotted absences. Attendance and makeup policies, and related fees, are listed on course syllabi. The college may temporarily excuse a student from receiving palpation/needling for a specific medical contraindication such as a recent injury, as determined in writing by a licensed healthcare professional.
<b>What if I feel uncomfortable being touched/needled by a specific person?</b>	Everyone is expected to bring their most professional self, compassion, healing presence, and commitment to learning to each interaction. If a classmate is unprofessional you can talk to your instructor who will report to the dean of students. If you had a negative personal interaction with someone who is now a classmate, this should be disclosed to the dean for review.
<b>Can I take a break to calm myself before being touched/needled?</b>	If a point feels stressful, you can take a moment in class to get grounded. If you need to leave class and miss class time, you may be marked absent. You will need to make up the points/skills at a later date with applicable makeup fees. Refer to the class syllabus.
<b>Can I opt out of being touched/needled if I have a disability or medical condition?</b>	If you have a medical/disability need, you can ask for reasonable accommodations by completing the accommodation request form and submitting supporting documentation from a medical provider. The college provides reasonable accommodations for students with disability needs, but we do not lower academic standards or fundamentally alter essential elements of the program. An accommodation may change <i>how</i> you participate but will not change the requirement to participate in giving and receiving palpation, needling, and other techniques throughout the program.