



SECTION TWO
GENERAL ADMISSIONS
PROCESS

The journey of
a thousand miles
starts with the
first step.

—Lao Tzu

Prospective Students

Welcome!

It is an honor to support your exploration of Tai Sophia's master's degree and graduate certificate programs. Each distinct program provides you with the knowledge and skills to build a successful career and to become a healing presence in the community.

We invite you to visit Tai Sophia, speak with an admissions counselor, and observe a class. The admissions team is committed to providing you with clear information, institutional resources, and personalized guidance throughout the admissions process. We look forward to joining you as you take the next steps.

In partnership,



Gabrielle Julien-Molineaux
Director of Graduate Admissions

Honoring Diversity

Tai Sophia seeks qualified applicants who have the maturity, commitment, and preparation necessary to take full advantage of the specialized studies offered by the Institute in each of our programs of study.

Tai Sophia is committed to being, communicating, and educating in ways that recognize and honor the full range of human diversity. Each student, faculty, staff, and board member strives to use language and manifest behavior that promotes inclusiveness. Further, each student and faculty, staff, and board member is responsible for creating an atmosphere that supports all in growth and movement toward inclusiveness and the acceptance of diversity. The Institute is committed to broadening the diversity of student body, staff, administration, and board members.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Tai Sophia Institute is an equal opportunity institution. Applicants for admission, employment, and financial aid are considered on the basis of individual merit. No person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subject to discrimination in any program or activity of Tai Sophia Institute on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, age, religion, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law. Please see the Director, Office of Human Enrichment, for inquiries or concerns related to this policy.

Application and Admission Procedures

Campus Visit

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to visit Tai Sophia Institute, meet with an admissions counselor, and observe a class before applying. Please call or e-mail the Office of Graduate Admissions to schedule your visit.

Application Process

We encourage prospective students to apply as soon as you decide which programs best match your interests and career objectives. Applications for admission are accepted throughout the academic year. In most cases, applications are reviewed as they are received on a space available basis. However, there are priority deadlines for the Master's programs. We recommend you apply six to eight months before the intended start date to ensure a space in the class, and that you are mindful of the priority deadlines listed below.

The completed application form, essay, and resume must be submitted with the application fee. The following application fees apply:

Graduate Certificate in Chinese Herbs	\$75
All other Graduate Certificate Programs	\$50
All Master's Degree Programs	\$95

For Master's Degree Program applications received after July 15 for September classes and November 15 for January classes, the fee is \$150.

Once application materials have been received, you may be contacted to schedule a formal admissions interview. Applicants will be notified in writing regarding the decision of the admissions committee.

Transcripts

Official transcripts for all degrees should be sent directly from the respective college or university. Transcripts for prerequisite coursework may be sent to admissions for review. Tai Sophia Institute reserves the right to request additional transcripts and course descriptions.

Applicants who have earned degrees outside of the U.S. will be required to have their transcripts evaluated by a credential evaluating service in the United States prior to submission. Please refer to the requirements outlined in the International Students section.

Please mail or deliver all application materials to:

Office of Graduate Admissions
Tai Sophia Institute
7750 Montpelier Rd
Laurel, MD 20723

Tuition Deposit

An individual accepted into one Tai Sophia's academic programs will be billed a non-transferable, non-refundable tuition deposit. This fee holds a seat in the class for which the applicant has been accepted and will be applied to tuition upon matriculation. This fee is due upon acceptance and may be paid by cash, check, MasterCard, or Visa.

The following Deposit fees apply:

Post Bachelor's Certificates	\$500
All Master's Programs except Acupuncture	\$750
Acupuncture	\$1000
Post Master's Certificates (Women's Holistic Health)	\$500

Deferrals

Offers of acceptance and applications prior to acceptance may be deferred one time for up to one year. Requests for deferral must be made in writing to the Office of Graduate Admissions. If a student with a deferred acceptance does not enroll and the Deposit fee has been paid prior to the request for deferral, that fee is forfeited.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition

Tuition rates vary by program. For current tuition rates contact the Office of Graduate Admissions or visit the academic programs pages of our website at www.tai.edu.

Costs Not Covered in Tuition

All programs require students to have computer and internet access, as well as books.

Acupuncture

Required materials include: a long, white, polyester-cotton examination coat; a sphygmomanometer (blood pressure cuff) and stethoscope; disposable acupuncture needles and moxa (to be purchased before entering Level III); and regular (e.g. seasonally, five times a year minimum) acupuncture treatments.

Herbal Medicine

Required materials include: the software program, Endnote, is highly recommended to assist in writing requirements of the program. Other costs include those associated with field trips (i.e., transportation, food, and lodging) and supplies in the Herbal Medicine program.

Each student is required to have three consultations with a clinical herbalist within Level I of the program. Individual consultation fees vary, depending on whether the student sees a Level III clinic intern, a graduate of the program, or a professional member of the American Herbalist Guild.

Transformative Leadership and Social Change

Required materials include miscellaneous supplies for your studies. In addition, if the student chooses to participate in a class, workshop, program, or any other fee-based experience as part of an Independent Study, the student is solely responsible for that expense.

Nutrition and Integrative Health

Required materials include: a cutting board, apron and 2 high-quality knives, which can all be purchased in the Meeting Point Bookstore. Additionally, the software program, Endnote, is highly recommended to assist in writing requirements of the program. Other costs include transport to cooking classes, completion of the ServSafe™ Online Manager Program from the National Restaurant Association, and five nutritional counseling sessions with a Tai Sophia Institute approved nutrition practitioner by the end of the fourth trimester. Individual consultation fees will vary.

Chinese Herb Program

The cost of materials may be approximately \$700 and includes several required and recommended books. Students also may be required to purchase sample herbs for their learning.

Health Coaching and Wellness Coaching Certificate Programs

Required materials include books, and other additional reading material. The cost of required books and reading material is between \$250-300. All required books can be found in our library. Students may choose to purchase suggested books, or may find several of them in our library.

Herbal Studies Certificate Program

Required materials include: supplies needed for making herbal preparations (teas, lotions, tinctures) for the Fall Herb Show. The cost of the Fall Herb Show can range from \$75 to \$300. The cost of books required for the program runs between \$150 and \$215.

Medical Herbalism Certificate Program

Required materials include: supplies needed for making herbal preparations (teas, lotions, tinctures) for the Fall Herb Show. The cost of the Fall Herb Show can range from \$75 to \$300. The cost of books required for the program runs between \$250 and \$300.

For all programs, please note: the costs associated with books will vary dramatically by person and program. Many choose to borrow rather than buy some of the required and recommended texts.

Health Requirement Costs

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, and Chinese herb students are responsible for the costs associated with one-time and ongoing health requirements, including CPR certification, PPD tests, and hepatitis B vaccinations. The Institute's mandatory annual bloodborne pathogens classes are free.

Clinic and Resource Fees for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Programs

An additional continuing registration fee is due each month for any student who does not complete the program by her or his anticipated completion date. Please see the student handbooks for more detailed information on these fees.

Post Graduate Trainee Program Fees for Acupuncture Program

Students who wish to complete additional hours of supervised clinical treatment beyond the Master of Acupuncture degree requirements may enroll in the Post Graduate Trainee Program. A one-time application fee and a continuing monthly supervision fee applies. Please see the Clinical Student Handbook for details.

Refund Policy

Tai Sophia Institute follows Maryland State refund guidelines and the federal policy for return of Title IV funds. This information is posted on the Tai Sophia website, www.tai.edu and also available by request from the business and finance office.

Financial Aid

Types of Financial Aid Available

The William D. Ford Direct Loan Program

Tai Sophia participates in the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. This program offers loans that are funded by the federal government, guaranteed by guarantors, and reinsured by the federal government. The Federal Direct Stafford and the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans are offered through this program to Tai Sophia students attending at least half time and seeking a master's degree or post-bachelorette graduate certificate.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan can be subsidized and/or unsubsidized. The subsidized loan is awarded on the basis of financial need. If you qualify for a subsidized loan, you can receive up to \$8,500; and the federal government pays the interest on the loan until you begin repayment and during authorized periods of deferment thereafter. The unsubsidized loan is not awarded on the basis of need. If you qualify for an unsubsidized loan, you can receive up to \$20,500 less subsidized eligibility. You will be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. You can choose to pay the interest while you are in school, or choose to have the interest added to the principal of the loan. The interest rate is fixed at 6.8 percent; an origination fee of 0.5 percent and a default aversion fee of 1 percent may be deducted from the loan before it is disbursed. Repayment of the Federal Direct Stafford Loan begins six months after the last date of attendance, or if the student's enrollment status drops less than half-time. Students who have prior loans that are in repayment may be eligible for an in-school deferment. Students should contact their prior lender to verify if they are eligible.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan is a non-need based loan, which, before approval, requires a credit check by the lender to determine that the student does not have an adverse credit history. Students must apply for their annual Stafford Loan maximum eligibility before applying for this loan. The student can receive up to the cost of attendance less other financial aid in the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan. The interest rate is fixed at 7.9 percent; however, the federal government may offer interest rate reductions. An origination fee of 3 percent and guarantee fee of 1 percent may be deducted from the loan before it is disbursed. Interest begins to accumulate on the date of the first disbursement; and repayment begins six months after you graduate or if the student withdraws or drops below part-time enrollment. Lenders may offer deferment and/or forbearance repayment options; students should contact the federal government for details.

Scholarships

Tai Sophia Institute-sponsored Minority Scholarship

The Tai Sophia Institute-sponsored Minority Scholarship may provide up to 40 percent remission from the tuition cost of a degree program for one year to a new or continuing eligible minority student who demonstrates financial need. The scholarship will be awarded each September and January based on an evaluation of eligible applicants and availability of funds. Students who are not selected for the scholarship or are nearing the end of their one-year scholarship award period must reapply for future consideration. Candidates for the scholarship must be a member of a racial minority and demonstrate financial need, have a current processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the financial aid office at the time of application, meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, be in good standing as defined by the Institute's academic policy, and be enrolled as a degree-seeking student in one of the master's degree or post-bachelorette certificate programs. Eligible students who are interested in applying for a scholarship must submit an application to the chair of the Scholarship Review and Selection Committee by May 31 for the September intake, and September 30 for the January intake. The application must include an essay (no more than two pages) describing why you believe you are deserving of the scholarship, your unique skills and interests that embody the Institute's values and mission, and two letters of recommendation.

The Debora A. Mahan & Charles D. Hock Scholarship

The Debora A. Mahan & Charles D. Hock Scholarship provides up to \$1000 for education-related expenses for one year to new or continuing eligible students who demonstrate financial need. The scholarship will be awarded each September and January based on an evaluation of eligible applicants and availability of funds. Students who are not selected for the scholarship or are nearing the end of their one-year scholarship award period must reapply for future consideration. Candidates must demonstrate financial need, have a current processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the financial aid office at the time of application, meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, be in good standing as defined by the Institute's academic policy, and be enrolled as a degree-seeking student in one of the master's degree or post-bachelorette certificate programs. Eligible students who are interested in applying must submit an application to the chair of the scholarship review and selection committee by May 31 for the September intake, and September 30 for the January intake. The application must include an essay (no more than two pages) describing why you believe you are deserving of the scholarship, your unique skills and interests that embody the Institute's values and mission, and a letter of recommendation.

Sherman L. & Lucy Diaz Cohn Scholarship

Sherman L. & Lucy Diaz Cohn Scholarship provides up to \$500 for education-related expenses for one year to a new or continuing eligible student who demonstrates financial need. The scholarship will be awarded each September and January based on an evaluation of eligible applicants and availability of funds. Students who are not selected for the scholarship or are nearing the end of their one-year scholarship award period must reapply for future consideration. Candidates for the scholarship must demonstrate financial need, have a current processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the financial aid office at the time of application, meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, be in good standing as defined by the Institute's academic policy, and be enrolled as a degree-seeking student in one of the master's degree or post-bachelorette certificate programs. Eligible students who are interested in applying for the scholarship must submit an application to the chair of the scholarship review and selection committee by May 31 for the September intake, and September 30 for the January intake. The application must include an essay (no more than two pages) describing why you believe you are deserving of the scholarship, your unique skills and interests that embody the Institute's values and mission, and a letter of recommendation.

Helen M. & Annetta E. Himmelfarb Scholarship

Helen M. & Annetta E. Himmelfarb Scholarship provides up to \$700 for education-related expenses for one year to new or continuing eligible Master of Acupuncture students who demonstrate financial need. The scholarship will be awarded each September and January based on an evaluation of eligible applicants and availability of funds. Students who are not selected for the scholarship or are nearing the end of their one-year scholarship award period must reapply for future consideration. Candidates for the scholarship must demonstrate financial need, be enrolled full-time in the Master of Acupuncture program, have a current processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the financial aid office at the time of application, meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, and be in good standing as defined by the Institute's academic policy. Eligible students who are interested in applying for the scholarship must submit an application to the chair of the scholarship review and selection committee by May 31 for the September intake, and September 30 for the January intake. The application must include an essay (no more than two pages) describing why you believe you are deserving of the scholarship, your unique skills and interests that embody the Institute's values and mission, and a letter of recommendation.

The Jo Ann Barlow Fellowship

The Jo Ann Barlow Fellowship provides partial tuition and/or financial assistance up to one academic year to a new or continuing student enrolled in one of the master's degree or post-bachelorette certificate programs who will help the Institute develop a relationship with the international community. Fellowship awards will be decided each September and January based on an evaluation of eligible applicants and availability of funds. Continued funding of the fellowship will be evaluated at the end each trimester or academic year. Candidates for the Jo Ann Barlow Fellowship must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student in one of the master's programs, meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, be in good standing as defined by the Institute's academic policy, and pursue work to help the Institute develop a relationship with the international community. Eligible students must be nominated by a faculty member and be approved by the President. Nominations by faculty to the President should be submitted by July 1st for the September awarding period, and November 1st for the January awarding period.

Maryland State Scholarships

Maryland State Scholarships are available to Maryland residents who qualify. To apply, students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1 of each year. Recipients will be notified by the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Outside Scholarships

Outside Scholarships are financial aid funds awarded through outside agencies to assist students with their educational expenses. Contact the financial aid office for a list of scholarship websites.

Alternative Loans

Alternative loans are available to students who need additional assistance with their educational expenses, are enrolled in the Chinese Herb or Animal Acupuncture programs, or do not qualify for Stafford Loan funds. In an alternative loan, a student can receive up to the cost of attendance less other financial aid. A list of possible lenders is available in the financial aid office.

Eligibility Requirements for Financial Aid

To qualify for federal financial aid, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate.
- Have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent.
- Not be in default on any student loans or owe a refund on any grant under the Title IV federal student aid programs.
- Be registered with Selective Service if you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25.
- Not be ineligible due to a drug conviction.
- Not have borrowed in excess of the annual or aggregate Federal Stafford Loan limits.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.

How to Apply for Federal Financial Aid

To apply for financial aid, you will need to complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you do not have a personal identification number (PIN), go to www.pin.ed.gov to request one.

You will need your federal tax returns, your social security number, bank statements, investment records, and Tai Sophia's school code (G25784) to complete the FAFSA.

Once your FAFSA is processed by the Department of Education, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which will indicate your expected family contribution (EFC). The EFC is used to determine if you qualify for need-based aid. The way this is determined is by subtracting the EFC from the Cost of Attendance (COA). The COA is an estimate of expenses that includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and personal expenses for your period of enrollment.

Once the financial aid office receives your SAR from the Department of Education, you will receive an award offer in the mail indicating the types and amounts of financial aid for which you qualify. You will need to accept or decline the award offer and submit it, along with additional forms, to the financial aid office.

If you are selected for verification by the Department of Education, or if there is data on the SAR that is incomplete or conflicting, you will be asked to submit documentation required to complete the verification process.

Financial aid funds usually are disbursed at the beginning of each trimester or at the beginning and midpoint of the academic year, depending on the academic program. Financial aid funds in excess of tuition and fees will be mailed by check to the student within 14 days of disbursement if the student is eligible.

Return of Federal Funds

If a student withdraws, drops out, is dismissed, or takes a leave of absence prior to completing more than 60 percent of a trimester or period of enrollment, Tai Sophia is required to return any federal funds disbursed and not earned by the student to the lender no later than 45 days after the effective date of the student's termination of enrollment.

The amount to be returned will be calculated as follows: Percentage of earned aid = the number of days completed up to the withdrawal date, divided by the total days in the payment period or term. (Any break of five days or more is not counted as part of the days in the term.) Funds to be returned = (100 percent of the aid that could be disbursed minus the percentage of earned aid) multiplied by the total amount of aid that could have been disbursed during the payment period or term. Funds will be returned to the lender in the following order:

- Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans
- Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans
- Federal Graduate (PLUS) Loans

Any balance remaining on the student's account once funds are returned to the lender will be due to Tai Sophia. If a student earned more aid than was disbursed, Tai Sophia will owe the student a post-withdrawal disbursement which will be paid within 120 days of the effective date of the student's termination of enrollment.

Veterans Benefits

Students attending Tai Sophia Institute and receiving Veterans Benefits must be aware of the following:

- Students are expected to pursue degree programs or approved postbaccalaureate certificate programs at the Institute.
- Students must achieve satisfactory academic progress toward degree or program completion.
- Students must report changes in enrollment including drops, adds, withdrawals, changes to audit, and changes to educational objectives to the associate vice president of student affairs/registrar as well as the DVA.
- Students who register for courses and do not attend without officially withdrawing are misusing federal funds.
- Students who repeat a course for which a passing grade was awarded are ineligible for DVA benefits for that course.
- Students who audit a course or register for a non-credit course will be ineligible for DVA benefits.
- Students who wish to receive Veterans Benefits must also notify the Registrar's Office in writing one month prior to the intended start date of every trimester of enrollment.

For further information, please visit the Veterans Benefit website at www.va.gov or call 1-888-442-4551.

Transfer and Exemption Policy

In some circumstances, students may apply for transfer credits or course exemptions. The number of credits allowed and the Tai Sophia courses eligible for transfer or exemption is determined by faculty and, therefore, varies by program. All applications for transfer credit or course exemption are processed by the Registrar's Office. No reduction in tuition will be granted for transfers or exemptions for specific programs.

Note: Transferring credits is based on academic equivalency between schools. Exemption of courses is based on experience.

Transfer Credit Policy

Transfer credits may be considered in cases where a student has taken postgraduate coursework and met the same course outcomes at another institution within five years of starting a program at Tai Sophia. Courses older than five years are not eligible for transfer credit (student may apply for course exemption). Equivalency is determined by the program director. Each transferred course must meet a minimum grade of "B-" or 80 percent. Upon approval, course credits are transferred to the Tai Sophia transcript. To apply for transfer credit:

- Contact the Registrar's Office to obtain a list of courses eligible for the Transfer Credit and the Transfer Credit form.
- Submit the form with official documentation to the Registrar's Office. Official documentation includes the transcript(s) and a syllabus for each course for review from the previous school(s).
- **Note:** The application and documentation for transfer credit must be submitted at least one trimester prior to the start of the Tai Sophia course(s) being considered.

Exemption Policy

Course exemptions may be considered in cases where a student has prior experience in the subject that meets the outcomes of a particular course. Students who are approved will have an "X" placed on their transcript. Because no credits will be awarded for an exempted course, students may be required to take another course to meet total program credit requirements. To apply for course exemption:

- Contact the Registrar's Office to obtain a list of courses eligible for Course Exemption and the Course Exemption form.
- Submit the form with official documentation to the Registrar's Office. Official documentation requirements are listed on the course eligibility form for each program and may include: transcripts for a course older than five years; documentation of licensure; portfolio; written assignment, etc., as determined by program faculty.
- In some cases an exam or other evaluation will be required. If an exam is required, arrangements for taking the exam can be made through the program director or designee. The cost of exams is \$75 per credit and should be submitted to the Registrar's Office prior to scheduling the exam.
- **Note:** The application and documentation for course exemption must be submitted at least one trimester prior to the start of the Tai Sophia course(s) being considered.

International Students

If you earned your bachelor's degree or equivalent outside the United States, in addition to all required application documents, you must submit:

An official evaluation (in a sealed envelope) from a foreign credential evaluation service confirming that the foreign degree earned is equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate. Students must order this evaluation independently. Below are two recommended resources (not affiliated with Tai Sophia) for credential evaluation services.

National Association of Credential Evaluation Services

Web: www.naces.org

World Education Service

Phone: 212-966-6311 | Web: www.wes.org

The Institute is authorized under U.S. law to enroll non-resident alien students. Tai Sophia Institute requires that all applicants who intend to hold F-1 student visa status while enrolled in a program submit a financial statement to determine eligibility to receive an I-20 Form. In order to receive the I-20, applicants must be able to support themselves or be able to receive financial support from a sponsor.

When considering study in the United States, applicants should carefully consider how they will support themselves financially. Students should not expect to support themselves through employment, as immigration laws limit employment for international students. Additionally, Tai Sophia is not responsible for changes in students' financial circumstances while enrolled. Applicants must complete and return the I-20 Application Form along with a current bank statement providing evidence of the required funds. Applicants with dependents who will apply for F-2 visas must also provide proof of financial support for their dependents as well.

Individuals already in the United States who are applying for admission must present proof of a valid passport, visa stamp page and I-94 arrival/departure card, and any other document that may involve the student's current visa status.

Maintaining Legal F-1 Status

As an international student, it is essential that you adhere to the Department of Homeland Security regulations that govern your status. This is your individual responsibility of which you must be aware and for which you are accountable. Please be advised that these policies are enforced and that ignorance of the law is not considered an excuse for non-compliance. Therefore, it is essential that you maintain your legal F-1 status. The following is provided solely for informational purposes:

- Ensure that your passport is valid at all times. Contact your embassy regarding extension issues at least six months prior to your passport expiration date (www.embassy.org).
- Students must be registered for a full course load in each trimester to maintain F-1 status.
- Should you move to another address, ensure that the registrar's office is notified in writing within 10 days of the move.

- Should you leave the U.S., make sure the F-1 visa in your passport is valid. If this is not the case, you must apply for a new one overseas before attempting to re-enter the U.S. (see Department of State Visa Services). Make an appointment with the associate vice president for student services and registrar to have your I-20 endorsed for travel before departing from the United States.

- F-1 students are not permitted to work.

- Should you change your program or need an extension of time to complete the program, you must apply for an extension, one month before your I-20 expires.

- New students with a Form I-20 are required to pay the SEVIS fee, which is non-refundable (subject to change). This is a separate fee paid to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program in the Department of Homeland Security. You can fill in the Form I-901 online at www.fmjfee.com. For more information on the SEVIS I-901 non-refundable fee, please see the website at <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901>.

In December 2003, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented a new system for recording information on international visitors entering and exiting the U.S. As part of this initiative, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) was implemented and administered by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), which is a division of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and considered the largest investigative division of the Department of Homeland Security. SEVIS is a centralized and automated web-based information system that manages and maintains data for international students and exchange visitors who are studying in the United States and their dependents. We do realize this is an involved process and have provided the SEVIS information and website (<http://www.ice.gov>) to assist you in learning more about this process.

English Language Requirements

Success in Tai Sophia's graduate degree programs is dependent on a student's ability to communicate in English. This ability not only includes comprehending, reading, and writing English, but specifically the ability to understand the nuances in the language and to speak effectively. This level of proficiency is greater than that which is required for daily living. The requirements stated below are in place to ensure a student's ability to take full advantage of the academic programs and serve the outside community as practitioners.

Students who are non-native English speakers may be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the TOEFL Internet-based Test (IBT). Tai Sophia Institute's school code is 8400. Contact TOEFL directly at toefl.org for information about registering for the test. If you have any questions related to fulfilling the language requirement, please speak with an admissions counselor.

Commonly Asked Questions

How are the programs at Tai Sophia different from other programs?

Tai Sophia offers a holistic healing approach at the foundation of our degree programs. Our programs are experiential and relationship-based. The philosophical core of this work incorporates ancient wisdom from around the world. These teachings will help you recover a worldview that honors the unity of all life. This oneness will have an enormous impact on you as a healer and in your person-to-person relationships with patients, clients, friends, family, and all those in your community. All three programs begin with an opening ceremony and SOPHIA® (School of Philosophy and Healing in Action®) Intensive course in which this core philosophy is introduced.

May I visit the school and sit in on a class?

Yes. Please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions to make arrangements. Open Houses, class visits, and the Redefining Health weekend workshop also provide wonderful opportunities for prospective students to meet faculty and staff and get a sense of the philosophy that is the foundation of our programs.

How important is it that I have a background in a health-related field?

Approximately 30 percent of our students have experience in professional healthcare, while about 70 percent have backgrounds or degrees in a broad range of areas. We find that the learning of each class is enriched by this diversity of backgrounds and gifts provided by people from all walks of life.

May I talk with some of the students or graduates who have the same background as I do?

Yes. Please make arrangements through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Am I too old to start something new?

Our students have ranged in age from 22 to 73, with an average age of 40. Thirty percent have advanced degrees beyond a bachelor's degree. For most of our students, pursuing one of our degree programs is an important and desired change of career. Many shift from successful and lucrative jobs in order to study a healing modality that has changed and enriched their own lives. For many, this change is an opportunity to pursue a path for which they have a passion.

What if I don't have a bachelor's degree?

You must have a bachelor's degree in any discipline as the minimum requirement for all of the graduate degree programs and all of our graduate certificate programs. If you do not have a bachelor's degree, we recommend that you contact a variety of local and online universities and colleges to investigate bachelor's programs tailored to adult learners.

Is Federal Financial Aid available for the graduate degree programs?

Yes. Please speak directly with our financial aid director for details on financial aid. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at ext. 6628.

Is it possible to work while enrolled in the degree programs?

It is possible to hold a part-time job and attend the Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine programs. Based on our experience working with students in these programs, we recommend that you work no more than 15 hours per week on average. Please note that the clinical portion of these programs places significant additional time and energy demands on students, and that this may have an impact on the amount of time that will be available for employment. The Transformative Leadership and Social Change program and the Nutrition and Integrative Health program are offered in an part-time format thus designed for working professionals, as are the graduate certificate programs.