Our program was created in 2003 in response to a nation-wide NIH-funded educational initiative to incorporate Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) into health professions. This program is focused on training students to objectively assess the safety and efficacy of various CAM modalities and to introduce scientific rigor to much needed research into understanding the mechanistic basis for CAM therapies such as acupuncture, massage, herbs and supplements, and mind-body interactions. By embedding CAM principles and paradigms firmly into a conventional basic/clinical sciences context, we are preparing a new generation of healthcare providers, educators, and researchers for the challenging task of delivering the healthcare of the future: a multi-disciplinary evidence-based approach to healthcare characterized by more effective health maintenance and disease prevention.
The intense consumer-driven interest in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM), and the increasing clinical integration of various CAM modalities, has led to the demand for well-informed and properly trained health care providers and scientists. The goal of the innovative Complementary and Alternative Medicine Master of Science degree (CAM-MS) in Physiology is to provide advanced study in the science and philosophy of predominant CAM therapies and disciplines. This program offers an academically rigorous graduate education in CAM anchored in state-of-the-art biomedical science. Our objective is to educate open-minded health care providers and scientists eager to explore the state of the evidence in this field with objectivity and rigor. Graduates receive an M.S. degree in Physiology.

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CURRICULUM
The CAM-MS program is designed to be completed in eleven months, comprised of two semesters and a summer practicum.

Fall courses
• Survey of CAM Modalities
• Cell & Molecular Physiology
• Biostatistics
• Mind-Body Medicine Skills
• Critical Readings in CAM
• History of Conventional & Alternative Medicine in the US
• Seminars in Physiology and CAM
• Electives on sex differences, legal issues with CAM, pharmacology, research tutorial.

Spring courses
• Fundamentals of Human Physiology
• Herbal Medicine & Dietary Supplements
• Mind-Body Medicine & Physiology
• Critical Readings in CAM
• Nutrition & Health
• Seminars in Physiology and CAM
• Electives on bioethics, western practices of eastern medicine, research tutorial, and the endocrine basis of sex differences.

Summer practicum
In order to emphasize the cross-disciplinary application of academic knowledge and develop real-time problem-solving skills, the students complete a six to eight-week long practicum in a relevant professional CAM-related environment or public health field. Examples include NIH, Federal Trade Commission, PAHO, National Foundation for Alternative Medicine, Samueli Institute, and the Lombardi Cancer Center.

PREREQUISITES
Admission requirements are consistent with other competitive Masters of Science programs and include:
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university
• Completion of courses in biology, chemistry, math & physics
• Competitive GPA, GRE, DAT, LSAT or MCAT scores
• An essay detailing your experience or interest in a CAM

WHO SHOULD APPLY?
We encourage applications from students who wish to pursue the following careers:
• Biomedical research in a CAM-related area (will usually require further training to doctoral level)
• Medicine or other health professions
• Law with a focus on the legal aspects of CAM
• Administrative or regulatory affairs within the CAM industry or in the public sector
• Current or future practitioners of CAM therapies seeking basic science education relevant to their practices

To submit an application please go to http://camprogram.georgetown.edu. Class size is limited to 30. Applications are accepted beginning December 1st.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THE DEGREE?
The majority of our graduates traditionally enter medical school or other health professions, go on to law school, or have pursued careers in dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and acupuncture. Some of our exceptional students are currently enrolled in our MS/MD program or in PhD programs. Graduates who have directly entered the workforce are now working for federal agencies (NIH, the National Archives), industry (Eli Lilly, Proctor and Gamble), non-profit organizations, and some have opted for a teaching career. Our graduates are considered uniquely qualified for CAM-related federal positions (such as NCCAM and NCI-OCCAM).