

The state's premiere school of naturopathic medicine

[Bastyr University California](#) became the state's first and only fully accredited higher-education institution for naturopathic medicine when it opened September 2012 in San Diego.

In its inaugural year, over 50 students are enrolled in Bastyr's science-based [Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine \(ND\) program](#).

Although it's currently the only area of study, the University has plans to increase the variety of natural health degree programs.



The first expansion is set for January 2013, when the [Simkin Center for Allied Birth Vocations](#) will open at Bastyr University

California. The Simkin Center will offer non-degree certificate workshops in birth vocations, including birth doula, childbirth educator and postpartum doula.

Founded in 1978 in Seattle, nonprofit Bastyr University is the world's leading academic center for the advancement and integration of the natural health arts and sciences, offering 17 degree and certificate programs. The University's expansion to California is its first out-of-state venture.



Naturopathic medicine

Naturopathic medicine is a distinct system of primary health care that emphasizes prevention and the self-healing process through the use of natural therapies. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) blend centuries-old knowledge and a philosophy that nature is the most effective healer with current scientific research on health and human systems.



Why California?

California is one of only 16 states to license naturopathic doctors to practice as primary care professionals, yet the state has an acute primary care shortage, an opportunity that could be filled by naturopathic doctors. The region's interest in natural medicine also will help with patient recruitment for the future teaching clinic.



How we can help

Bastyr University California's faculty members are natural health care experts, and many are nationally and internationally recognized for their work, including Tabatha Parker, ND, pictured, co-founder and executive director of Natural Doctors International. They are available to provide expert, consumer-friendly health advice to the media.