The status of Chinese traditional medicine in Hong Kong received a boost in 1989 when the government appointed a 'working party' to take direct control of the promotion of the discipline throughout the region. A report that followed recommended that the education system provide for the training and education of TCM practitioners. Since then, the University of Hong Kong has placed a higher emphasis on TCM, currently engaging more than 60 teachers in the faculties of both medicine and science. Activities in TCM are coordinated by the Centre for TCM, the director of which is currently the university’s pro-vice-chancellor, Professor Samuel T H Chan (陈廷洪教授). Two deputy directors, professors Sarah S C Hui (许小珍教授) and Ricky Y K Man (文英强教授) take charge of the education and research sections, respectively.

Since 1991, TCM courses for basic and further education have been offered in the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE). Currently, SPACE offers five diploma and over 20 certificate programs, including some of these listed below:

1. Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine
   This program is offered with the academic support of the Shanghai University of TCM. It is a four-year part-time course with some clinical training provided in China. The program aims to provide formal education and training to enable students to become TCM general practitioners. There is also talk of the program developing into a degree course by 1999.

2. Diploma in Pharmaceutical Management in Chinese Medicine
   This program, offered in collaboration with the Guangdong College of Pharmacy, is a three-year part-time course encompassing Chinese pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, marketing of TCM products, etc. It aims to produce personnel who are knowledgeable in all areas of Chinese medicine.

3. Certificate and Diploma Courses for Continuing Professional Development
   In addition to the existing 'Certificate in TCM for Practitioners' and 'Diploma in Acupuncture and Moxibustion,' the school also offers courses in 'Diploma in TCM Orthopaedics and Traumatology,' 'Postgraduate Certificate in Chinese Medicines.' Courses entitled 'Diploma in TCM Clinical Practice' and 'Certificate in Chinese Medicine for Dispensers' are also in the planning stage. All of these are one-year, part-time courses.

4. Certificate and Diploma Courses in TCM for Western Medicine Practitioners
   The 'Certificate in Acupuncture' and 'Diploma in Clinical Acupuncture' aim to provide acupuncture training for practitioners of western medicine. A 'Postgraduate Certificate in Traditional Chinese Medicine (for Medical Practitioners)' will be launched in September 1998.

5. Short Courses
   A number of short courses in TCM are offered semi-annually. These include 'An Introduction to TCM,' 'Treatment and Prevention of Cancer Using TCM,' 'Basic Course in Medical Botany,' and 'Short Course in Chinese Herbal Medicines.' Enrollment in these courses has been very high, attesting to the popularity of TCM in Hong Kong at present.

SPACE recently established a TCM Clinical Center to support training for students enrolled in the various TCM subjects. The clinic provides service on an outpatient basis in general TCM as well as various clinical specialties, including TCM internal medicine, acupuncture, TCM gynecology, TCM pediatrics, TCM orthopedics, traumatology, etc. In addition, clinical attachments have been arranged in the teaching hospitals of the Shanghai University of TCM and other reputable TCM hospitals and institutions in China. The University of Hong Kong is therefore, through SPACE, providing a comprehensive range of courses in TCM education in Hong Kong. Students are recruited from a broad background, including western medical training. Future plans for the school include the establishment of an international center for acupuncture which will offer intensive training programs in the practice for students from South-east Asia and the Pacific Rim.