

CHIROPRACTIC (D.C.) ACADEMIC AND CAREER INFORMATION

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS, AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

According to the American Chiropractic Association, chiropractic is a branch of the healing arts, which is concerned with human health and disease processes. Because of the emphasis on holistic care, chiropractic is associated with the field of alternative medicine. Chiropractors, also known as doctors of chiropractic medicine or chiropractic physicians, diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine. Chiropractors believe by making adjustments to these systems & the spine, patient's health can be improved and preserved. They practice knowing that spinal dysfunction and skeletal imbalance affect many important parts of the body, like the nervous system, and if untreated can lead to pain. Chiropractic is a drug-free, non-surgical science; although they will refer patients for such services if medically necessary.

Chiropractic care of back, neck, extremities, and other joint damage has become more accepted as a result of recent research and changing attitudes. Chiropractors can specialize in specific areas of chiropractic care, including orthopedics, radiology & diagnostic imaging, sports chiropractic, pediatrics, occupational injuries or nutritional consultation. In chiropractic, as in other types of independent practice, earnings are relatively low in the beginning, but increase as the practice grows. Most chiropractors are in solo practice, although some are in group practice or work for other chiropractors. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the mean annual wage of chiropractors, in 2013, was \$78,410.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Students should *carefully consider their motivation and preparation for this career*. Chiropractic programs are looking for an academic record that indicates the aptitude and knowledge base needed to successfully complete the Chiropractic school curriculum.

Pre-Chiropractic students are able to choose a major in **any discipline** provided they successfully complete all prerequisite coursework. The most common undergraduate majors among accepted applicants include exercise science, biology, kinesiology, and psychology. In selecting a college major, students should consider how they will satisfactorily complete the prerequisite courses for the designated programs in addition to the college/university's degree and major requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Council on Chiropractic Education has designated the following pre-chiropractic requirements. Students should consult specific chiropractic programs directly for various interpretations of these requirements. 90 semester hours at accredited institution with a 3.0 or better. The 90 hours will include a minimum of 24 semester hours in life and physical science courses. At least half of these course will have a substantive laboratory component. The student's undergraduate preparation should include a well-rounded general education program in the humanities and social

sciences. The coursework below is offered only to provide some idea of the range of courses that may be needed. *All applicants should check with the individual schools in which they have interest.*

CSULB courses which fulfill admission requirements for most U.S. Chiropractic programs:

Coursework	CSULB Courses	Units
One year of General Chemistry with Lab	Chemistry 111A & 111B	5, 5
One year of Organic Chemistry with Lab	Chemistry 220A & 220B + 320L (Chem & Biochem majors) OR 220A w/ 223A & 220B w/ 223B (Biology & other majors)	4, 4
One year of General Biology with Lab	Biology 211 & 212	4, 4
One year of General Physics with Lab	Physics 100A & 100B OR 151 & 152	4, 4
One year of English (Composition and Literature preferred)	English 100 AND another course from the English department such as: 102, 180, 300	3, 3
Behavioral Science courses	Sociology 100 and Psychology 100	3, 3

CA Chiropractic Schools:

- [Southern California University of Health Sciences](#)
- [Palmer College of Chiropractic West](#)
- [Life Chiropractic College West](#)

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

CLINICAL EXPOSURE: Many programs require applicants to have a certain number of volunteer or paid experiences working with patients under the supervision of a licensed chiropractor.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Applicants must provide at least one letter of references from a licensed practicing Doctor of Chiropractic. Other reference and evaluation process may vary.

STANDARDIZED TEST: Most programs require the [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#) for admission and have established a GRE Code for the reporting of scores.

ADMISSIONS CYCLE: Applicants must have completed 90 semester hours or 135 quarter hours of under graduate work with specified coursework leading to a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution, or the completion of an undergraduate degree at a four-year college (an increasing number of chiropractic programs require the baccalaureate degree. At least a 3.00 GPA (some chiropractic programs may consider a cumulative GPA of 2.75 for baccalaureate degree-holding students). Applications are considered for each academic term. It is recommended the application be submitted one year prior to the desired enrollment. The application process varies between programs. It is important for students to check their specific program for their process and deadlines. Applicants will be required to submit transcripts and a personal statement or essay that expresses their motivation for choosing the chiropractic profession. Some programs conduct informal interviews with each applicant. These interviews generally take place in conjunction with a campus visit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#)
- [The Council on Chiropractic Education \(CCE\)](#)
- [The Association of Chiropractic Colleges \(ACC\)](#)
 - [ACC: Prospective Students](#)
- [Discover Chiropractic](#)

For more information on the Chiropractic profession, visit www.discoverchiropractic.org and see your HPAO advisor for further information on the application process, application assistance, and a list of upcoming workshops and events.