

CHIROPRACTIC (D.C.) ACADEMIC AND CAREER INFORMATION

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS, AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Chiropractors diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine. 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. [Learn more about the profession of chiropractic.](#)

Earnings and Job Outlook: In 2018, the median salary of chiropractors was \$71,410. The job growth for chiropractors is expected to grow by 7% between 2018–2028 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018).

TRAINING

There are 18 chiropractic colleges in the United States. Preparation to become a chiropractor entails earning a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C. degree). The time-to-degree is 4-5 years of full-time study. Typically the first two years focus on classroom instruction while the final two years are focused on clinical experiences. In California, practitioners must be certified by the California Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is typically required for admission, although average GPAs may be higher.

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.

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. Students must complete 90 semester hours at an accredited institution with a 3.0 GPA 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

Students maintain responsibility for verifying course selection with individual programs.

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

CA Chiropractic Schools:

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

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

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

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.

ADMISSIONS: Applications can be submitted directly to schools. The Chiropractic College Centralized Application Service (ChiroCAS) is another option for applying to many programs in one place.

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.