

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS OFFICE

### CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

Chiropractic medicine is a branch of the healing arts that is concerned with processes of human health and disease. Doctors of chiropractic are physicians who consider man as an integrated being but give special attention to spinal mechanics; subluxations of the spine and musculoskeletal, neurological, vascular, nutritional and environmental relationships. The Council on Chiropractic Education and all of its accredited colleges has adopted the following definition: "Chiropractic science concerns itself with the relationships between structure (primarily the spine) and function (primarily coordinated by the nervous system) of the human body as that relationship may affect the restoration and preservation of health." Chiropractors diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine. They use natural, drugless, non-surgical health treatments, and take the patient's medical history, conduct physical, neurological, and orthopedic examinations, and may order laboratory tests. Chiropractors manually manipulate or adjust the spinal column and may use water, light, massage, ultrasound, electric and heat therapy and may apply supports. They may also counsel about nutrition, exercise, and stress management, but do not prescribe drugs or perform surgery.

#### **Straight Chiropractic**

The practice objective of straight chiropractic is to contribute to health by correcting subluxations. It should be noted that two schools of thought exist within the chiropractic professions. Straight chiropractic is distinguished by its commitment to the analysis and correction of vertebral subluxation- it does not adopt the medical objective of treating disease. Mixer chiropractors include more diagnostic and treatment approaches. They treat problems with both the spine and extremities as well, and may use naturopathic remedies and physical therapy devices, but their practice is still subluxation based.

Course Requirements for Admission - No particular major is required for entrance to chiropractic school. Interested applicants should visit the office of a practicing chiropractor to learn more about the profession and possibly to obtain a letter of recommendation. This visit demonstrates both an applicant's seriousness in applying to a college of chiropractic medicine and gives an opportunity to see first hand if the profession fits their needs and aptitude. Undergraduate preparations for chiropractic schools should include the following courses or equivalents:

<b>General Chemistry (with lab)</b>	Chem 1A/1AL, Chem 1B/1BL, Chem 1C/1CL (or the Chem 2 equivalent)
<b>Organic Chemistry (with lab)</b>	Chem 109A, 109B, 109C or 130A, 130B, 130C, and 6A, 6B
<b>General Physics (with lab)</b>	Physics 6A/6AL, 6B/BL, 6C/CL
<b>Biology (with lab)</b>	MCDB 1A/1AL, 1B, EEMB 2, MCDB 1BL or EEMB 2, EEMB 3/3L
<b>English</b>	Writing 2, 50 (plus a course in English Lit or Comparative Lit)
<b>Psychology</b>	Psych 1 (more may be required – check with individual school)
<b>Humanities/Social Sciences</b>	15 units -- This requirement may be met by selecting courses in a variety of areas including Sociology, Classics, Economics, History, Political Science, Anthropology and Philosophy, among others.

It is most important for you to carefully review the requirements at all of the schools that you are interested in to ensure that you meet the minimum courses needed for admission.

#### **Education**

All 50 states and the District of Columbia regulate the practice of chiropractic and grant licenses to chiropractors who meet educational requirements and pass a state board examination. Most state licensing boards require successful completion of a four-year chiropractic college course following two years of undergraduate education, although some states require a four-year bachelor's degree.

#### **Applying**

Ask each chiropractic school for their application materials, preferably one year before the projected date of entrance. Check with each school for application deadline information, and what materials should be supplied (transcripts, letters of reference, essay or personal statement). No entrance exam is required.

**Work Experience**

All chiropractic schools advise that you obtain practical experience with a health professional, preferably a chiropractor. This experience will provide you with a better understanding of chiropractic medicine and help you answer the commonly asked application question, “Why do you want to become a chiropractor?”

**For More Information**

American Chiropractic Association  
1710 Clarendon Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209  
[www.amerchiro.org](http://www.amerchiro.org)

**Programs**

Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City  
Cleveland Chiropractic College of Los Angeles  
Life Chiropractic College West – San Lorenzo, CA  
Life University – Marietta, GA  
Logan College of Chiropractic – Chesterfield, MO  
Southern California University of Health Sciences – Whittier, CA  
National College of Chiropractic – Lombard, IL  
New York Chiropractic College – Seneca Falls, NY  
Northwestern College of Chiropractic – Bloomington, MN  
Palmer College of Chiropractic West – San Jose, CA  
Parker College of Chiropractic – Dallas, TX  
Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic – Spartanburg, SC  
Texas Chiropractic College – Pasadena, TX  
University of Bridgeport – Bridgeport, CT  
Western States Chiropractic College – Portland, OR

If you need addresses or phone numbers of a particular school, they are available on the American Chiropractic web page ([www.amerchiro.org](http://www.amerchiro.org)) or in the Health Professions Office.