



# Pre-Chiropractic

## Advising Guide 2014 - 15

### **Nature of Work:**

Doctors of Chiropractic – often referred to as chiropractors or chiropractic physicians – practice a drug-free, hands-on approach to health care that includes patient examination, diagnosis and treatment. Chiropractors have broad diagnostic skills and are also trained to recommend therapeutic and rehabilitative exercises, as well as to provide nutritional, dietary and lifestyle counseling. Chiropractic is a health care profession that focuses on disorders of the musculoskeletal system and the nervous system, and the effects of these disorders on general health.

Doctors of Chiropractic are licensed by the state in which they plan to practice. Chiropractic education The Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) is a health professional who addresses the health care needs of the general public. The primary focus of chiropractic is the relationship of the neurological and structural systems of the body to health. The application of science in chiropractic concerns itself with the relationship between structures, primarily the spine, and functions, primarily coordinated by the nervous system of the human body, as that relationship may affect the restoration and preservation of health. Chiropractic focuses on the inherent ability of the body to heal without the use of drugs or surgery. The responsibilities of a doctor of chiropractic include wellness promotion, health assessment, diagnosis and the chiropractic management of the patient's health care needs. When indicated, a doctor of chiropractic consults with, co-manages, or refers to other health care providers.

Doctors of chiropractic may assess patients through clinical examination, laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and other diagnostic interventions to determine when chiropractic treatment is appropriate or when it is not appropriate. Chiropractors will readily refer patients to the appropriate health care provider when chiropractic care is not suitable for the patient's condition, or the condition warrants co-management in conjunction with other members of the health care team.

### **Preparation:**

Students may major in any discipline as long as they meet the requirement for admission into the chiropractic school of their choice. Most schools prefer that students receive a bachelor's degree before attending an accredited chiropractic college. However, you may apply to and attend Chiropractic school after accumulating 90 credits at an accredited university.

Applicants must provide evidence of ability to communicate, relating with others, involvement in extracurricular activities, character, integrity, emotional stability, and motivation for chiropractic. It is also helpful to volunteer or work with a chiropractor. Be sure to keep good records of your observations and work experience, as they are often needed on one's application for chiropractic school. The typical applicant at a chiropractic college has already acquired nearly four years of pre-medical undergraduate college education, including courses in biology, inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, psychology and related lab work. Once accepted into an accredited chiropractic college, the requirements become even more demanding — four to five academic years of professional study are the standard. Because of the hands-on nature of chiropractic, and the intricate adjusting techniques, a significant portion of time is spent in clinical training.

# Admission Requirements

**Admissions Requirements are GENERAL and may differ from school to school.**

**Please contact the schools you're considering to discuss specific admissions requirements.**

- A minimum of 90 semester hours
- A minimum of 24 credit hours must be life and physical science courses, and half of those courses must contain a substantive laboratory component.
- A minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in the required prerequisite courses and the required 90 semester hours
- Although not all Chiropractic schools require specific life and physical science courses, the following UWEC courses would provide good preparation for chiropractic study:

Academic Prerequisites	UW-Eau Claire Courses
Biological Sciences w/ lab (6 credits)	BIOL 214 & 314
Chemistry w/ lab (12 credits)	
At least six semester hours of chemistry courses must include a corresponding lab. The chemistry requirement may be met with the following:	
3 semester hours must be General/Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 103 or 115
6 semester hours must be Organic and/or Biochemistry	CHEM 325 & 326, CHEM 352
3 semester hours of Chemistry elective	
Physics w/ lab (6 credits)	
Two unduplicated classes, with a corresponding lab <i>-or-</i>	PHYS 211 and 212
3 semester hours in Physics, with corresponding lab <i>and</i>	PHYS 211 and one of the following:
3 semester hours in Biomechanics, Kinesiology, Statistics	KINS 294, 304, 308, or MATH 264
<i>or</i> Exercise Physiology. (Physics I and II with lab are required by certain states).	
English Comm. &/or English Language Skills (6 credits)	WRIT 116 and one more course
Psychology (3 credits)	PSYC 100
Social Sciences or Humanities (15 credits)	GEIII or IV courses (see pre-chiro advisor)

**A suggested pre-chiro sequence, no specific major; it's important you work with a pre-chiro advisor each semester.**

<p><b>Freshman—Fall</b></p> <p>Math<sup>1</sup> WRIT 116 CHEM 103<sup>2</sup> <i>GE &amp; Major courses</i></p> <p><b>Freshman—Spring</b></p> <p>PHYS 211 CHEM 104 MATH <i>GE &amp; Major courses</i></p>	<p><b>Sophomore—Fall</b></p> <p>BIOL 214 PSYC 100 <i>GE &amp; Major courses</i></p> <p><b>Sophomore—Spring</b></p> <p>BIOL 314 additional science <i>GE &amp; Major courses</i></p>	<p><b>Junior—Fall</b></p> <p>CHEM 325 <i>GE &amp; Major courses</i></p> <p><b>Junior—Spring</b></p> <p>CHEM 326 <i>GE &amp; Major courses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply to chiro school during summer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Senior—Fall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete remaining major/minor, GE requirements</li> <li>• Additional recommended courses</li> </ul> <p><b>Senior—Fall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete remaining major/minor, GE requirements</li> <li>• Additional recommended courses</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup>Beginning course in mathematics is dependent upon mathematics placement examination

<sup>2</sup>Beginning course in chemistry is dependent on math placement

<sup>3</sup> Beginning course in biology is dependent on math and chemistry placement



# Professional Programs

There are 20 chiropractic schools in the United States. Most chiropractic programs require applicants have at least 3 years of undergraduate education, and an increasing number require a bachelor's degree. In either case, your undergraduate studies must include a prescribed number of prerequisite courses, as defined by the field's accrediting body, the Council on Chiropractic Education (see previous page).

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS:

National University of Health Sciences (IL)	<a href="http://nuhs.edu/admissions/chiropractic-medicine/">nuhs.edu/admissions/chiropractic-medicine/</a>
Northwestern Health Sciences University (MN)	<a href="http://nwhealth.edu/college-of-chiropractic/">nwhealth.edu/college-of-chiropractic/</a>
Palmer College of Chiropractic - Davenport Campus (IA)	<a href="http://palmer.edu/">palmer.edu/</a>
LIFE University – Atlanta (GA)	<a href="http://LIFE.edu">LIFE.edu</a>
For a list of all schools	<a href="http://chirocolleges.org/members.html">chirocolleges.org/members.html</a>

## Helpful Tips

- Meet regularly with a pre-chiro advisor
- Join the pre-chiro club to learn more about the profession and chiropractic school
- Seek out a job-shadowing experience with a variety of chiropractors and other health professionals
- Chiropractic schools are looking for students who take full loads of at least 15 credits per semester so they will be prepared for the loads in chiropractic school. Students should be able to handle at least two science courses each semester.
- To graduate in 4 years, students should plan to take BIOL 214, BIOL 314 and CHEM 103, CHEM 104 during their first two years. Though BIOL 151 (Biology of Humans) and BIOL 196 (Human Nutrition) count as life and/or physical sciences, they do not count toward biology major requirements.

## Pre - Chiro Advising

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## Resources

- American Chiropractic Association (ACA)**  
[www.acatoday.org](http://www.acatoday.org)
- Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)**  
[www.chirocolleges.org](http://www.chirocolleges.org)
- Chiropractic College Application Service (ChiroCAS)**  
<https://portal.chirocas.org/>
- The Council on Chiropractic Education**  
[www.cce-usa.org](http://www.cce-usa.org)