

Chiropractors are medical practitioners who diagnose and treat conditions related to the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, with special focus on the spine. They practice based on the philosophy that interference with these systems impairs the body's normal functions and lowers its resistance to disease. They work with patients to treat dysfunction and injury, but also to maintain health. Chiropractors provide natural, drugless, non-surgical health treatments and rely on the body's inherent recuperative abilities. Chiropractors can work in a variety of settings, and will often have their own practice. When appropriate, chiropractors consult with and refer patients to other health practitioners.

Degree

Chiropractic schools award a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree. All states and the District of Columbia regulate the practice of chiropractic and grant licenses to chiropractors who meet educational and examination requirements established by the state. Chiropractors can practice only in states where they are licensed. Specialty councils within some chiropractic associations offer programs leading to clinical specialty certification, called "diplomate" certification, in areas such as orthopedics, neurology, sports injuries, occupational and industrial health, nutrition, diagnostic imaging, thermography, and internal disorders.

Note: Because the medical field is ever-changing with new advancements, research, and technology, chiropractors are expected to engage in continuing education throughout their careers.

Admission

Chiropractic schools require a minimum of 90 credits of college level work, although many strongly recommend a bachelor's degree (some require a bachelor's degree). A minimum of 24 credit hours should be in life & physical sciences, with at least half of those having a lab component. Schools look for students who possess the desire and patience to meet the needs of a diverse population of people, a commitment to academic rigor, and motivation and enthusiasm for the profession. In addition, chiropractic schools require at least a 3.0 GPA for admission.

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE)

This is the 4-part board exam that chiropractic students will take to become licensed. Each part can be taken separately as a student work towards completion of their degree.

Typical Prerequisite Courses for Chiropractic School

Two semesters of biology with laboratories; two semesters of physics with laboratories; four semesters of chemistry with laboratories including organic. Other coursework should include anatomy & physiology, microbiology, social sciences, professional ethics, and research methods (statistics). Admission requirements vary by program. Research each program you are interested in.

Examples of MCC Courses

- CHE 151 & 152 - General College Chemistry I & II
- CHE 251 & 252 - Organic Chemistry I & II
- PHY 154 & 155 – General Physics I & II
or
- PHY 161 & 261 – University Physics I & II
- BIO 155 & 156 – Intro to Cell & Molecular Bio and Intro to Organismal Bio & Ecology
- BIO 144 & 145 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II
- BIO 202 – Microbiology
- PHL 250 – Professional Ethics
- PSY 101 – Intro to Psychology
- SOC 101 – Intro to Sociology
- MTH 160 – Statistics

Additional Requirements

Additional recommended or required courses may include cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, anthropology, humanities, and English composition courses. Certain technical standards must also be met. These include but are not limited to physical strength, coordination and manual dexterity.

There are two chiropractic schools in NYS:

- D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY
- Northeast College of Health Sciences (formerly NY Chiropractic College), Seneca Falls, NY

Additional Information

- [USBLS Occupational Outlook Handbook info for Chiropractors](#)¹
- [The Council on Chiropractic Education \(CCE\)](#)²
- [American Chiropractic Association \(ACA\)](#)³
- [The Association of Chiropractic Colleges \(ACC\)](#)⁴

Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.

¹ Occupational outlook for Chiropractors webpage: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm>

² The Council on Chiropractic Education website: <https://www.cce-usa.org/>

³ American Chiropractic Association website: <https://www.acatoday.org/>

⁴ The Association of Chiropractic Colleges website: <https://www.chirocolleges.org/>