• Doctors of Chiropractic Medicine help patients maintain overall health by emphasizing the inherent power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery.
• As holistic healers, they stress many facets of a healthy life including exercise, nutrition, and rest. They do not, however, prescribe medications or perform surgery.
• Chiropractic doctors diagnose and treat patients with health problems associated with the muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems.
• Chiropractors take detailed histories; conduct physical, neurological, and orthopedic examinations; order laboratory tests; and interpret X-rays and other diagnostic images.
• Besides employing hands-on adjustments of imbalances in the patient’s skeletal system, chiropractors may use water, light, massage, ultrasound, and heat therapy as well as acupuncture and acupressure (if specially trained).
• Specialties in orthopedics, neurology, sports injuries, nutrition, rehabilitation, radiology, industrial consulting, family practice, or pediatrics are available by completing additional training and taking a specialty exam by that chiropractic association.

Education & Licensure
• To attend one of the accredited chiropractic medical programs in the United States, generally a bachelor’s degree in any major is needed (must have completed at least 90 credit hours) along with prerequisite coursework (see below).
• Some state licensing boards require a completed bachelor’s degree for licensure.
• Chiropractic school is a 3-4 year professional school program following an undergraduate degree; the degree earned will be a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.).
• Chiropractic students receive a minimum of 4200 hours of classroom, laboratory, and clinical experience during their training.

Preparation
• Observe a chiropractor to make sure this is the right field for you.
• Chiropractic programs do not have a standard set of requirements, although many similarities exist. The initial courses are similar to other professional health care fields.
• Individual programs vary in the courses they require; a broad academic background is encouraged including completion of the following courses with grades of C or better.

Common Prerequisite Courses (required courses determined by each chiropractic program but similar to this list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Recommended</th>
<th>Purdue Equivalents (specific courses may vary by major)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences Schools generally require 24 credit hours of life science including biology; general organic &amp; biochemistry; physics; exercise physiology; nutrition; biomechanics</td>
<td>Biology with labs</td>
<td>BIOL 11000-11100 or BIOL 13100 &amp; BIOL 23100 &amp; 23200 (lab) or BIOL 23000 &amp; upper level biology (including 2 hours of lab) or BIOL 20300-20400 (BIOL 30100-30200)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry with labs</td>
<td>CHM 11500-11600 or CHM 12500-12600 or CHM 12300-12400 or CHM 12901 (recommend taking CHM 11500 credit exam) or CHM 13600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry with labs</td>
<td>CHM 25500-25600 or CHM 26100-26200 or CHM 26505-26605 or MCP 20400-20500 or CHM 25700 (with lab and a biochem course) (often need 6 hours of organic and/or biochemistry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>BOHM 30700 or 56100 or CHM 33900 or CHM 43300 or MCP 20800 (CHM 33400, CHM 33300)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics with labs</td>
<td>PHYS 22000-22100 or PHYS 23300-23400 or PHYS 17200-27200 or PHYS 17200 &amp; 24100 &amp; 25200 (lab) or ENGR 16100-16200*(at least 1 semester of physics and biomechanics, kinesiology, or exercise physiology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomechanics, Kinesiology, Exercise Physiology</td>
<td>HK 26100 (need BIOL 20400 or BIOL 30200 as prereq)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>PSY 12000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>At least 12 credit hours in addition to psychology and English requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Composition (6 credit hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 10600 or 10800 or SCLA 10100*; plus an upper level course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Courses</td>
<td>Business management, entrepreneurship, accounting, statistics, interpersonal communications, Spanish, upper level biology (such as microbiology, anatomy &amp; physiology, genetics), nutrition, biomedical ethics,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Pre-Med Planning Seminar BIOL 39600-0 credit 10 week class covering how to apply to medical school and other health professions programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Ask individual chiropractic schools if they will accept these courses toward requirements. Courses no longer offered.
Student Organizations: Pre-Chiropractic Club, Caduceus Club

Program Information
- Association of Chiropractic Colleges Find a School https://www.chirocolleges.org/find-a-school

Applying
- Apply directly to individual schools.
- Some schools, though not all, require an interview.
- Competitive applicants have:
  - Strong academic performance including a grade point average of 3.2 or better
  - Leadership, teamwork, and communication skills
  - Undergraduate research experience is viewed positively but not required
  - Volunteer and shadowing/observation experiences
  - Strong positive letters of recommendation (mostly from faculty and chiropractors)
- Early application is recommended. Chiropractic programs often have more than one start date each year. You will have the most flexibility by applying early.

Fee Assistance
- Visit specific school websites to learn if fee assistance is available.

Employment Outlook
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for chiropractors is expected to increase by 4% through 2029. https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm
- Chiropractors emphasize healthy lifestyle so chiropractic care is appealing to many health-conscious people.
- Demand for care depends, at least in part, on the ability to pay. Coverage of services by health insurance is critical and many plans now cover such services.
- Approximately 58 percent of Chiropractors are self-employed in a solo practice.
- Others work in group practices, teach, conduct research, or work in hospitals and clinics.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics states the median salary was $70,720 in 2020 but many chiropractors in private practice make over $100,000. In a survey by Glassdoor, the average salary was $109,000. https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/chiropractic-physician-salary-SRCH_K00,22.htm.

Diversity Matters
The chiropractic profession needs professionals who look just like you, and who share your life experiences. Race or ethnicity, LGBTQ+ identity, disability, age, geographic region, socioeconomic status, social and cultural identity, and nationality all add to a richer experience for all students in the chiropractic classroom, contribute to the chiropractic profession, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for patients.

Programs in the Region
- Palmer College of Chiropractic Davenport, IA https://www.palmer.edu/
- National University of Health Science Lombard, IL https://www.nuhs.edu/admissions/chiropractic-medicine/
- Logan University Chesterfield, MO https://www.logan.edu/

More Information
- Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) https://www.chirocolleges.org/
- American Chiropractic Association (ACA) https://www.acatoday.org/
- Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) https://www.cce-usa.org/

Other Fields to Consider
Podiatry · Physical Therapy · Naturopathic Medicine

Preparing for your Giant Leap
purdue.edu/preprofessional