Chiropractic is a branch of the healing arts that is based on the premise that good health depends, in part, upon a normally functioning nervous system. The science of chiropractic holds as a basic tenet that a causative factor in many disease processes is improper nerve supply to the body organs or tissues. The primary procedure in chiropractic health care is, by using natural methods, to examine and evaluate the spine and pelvis to determine if any one area of the spine is malfunctioning or if many areas of the spine are causing abnormal body movements. There are different areas that Chiropractors can work in. Along with general chiropractic practice, some chiropractors specialize in sports injuries, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, nutrition, internal disorders, or diagnostic imaging.

*Recommended Personal Qualities* for those interested in Chiropractic medicine include: above average mental ability, the ability to manage time and work independently, strong desire to serve the sick, ability to maintain high ethical and professional standards, tact, adaptability, ability to inspire confidence and respect, high moral character, integrity, patience, and manual skill and dexterity.

Career Opportunities include General Practice, Chiropractic Radiologist, Nutritional Specialist, Sports Chiropractor, Personal/Occupational Injury Specialist, Chiropractic Pediatrician, Teacher, and Research.

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**Core Pre-Requisites**

Applicants must have 90 undergraduate hours before applying to a Chiropractic college and at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

48 semester hours should be in:
- English Language Skills (6)
- Psychology (3)
- Social Sciences/Humanities (15)
- Biological Sciences (6)
- Chemistry (12)
- Physics (6)

As well as 30 semester hours of upper division credits
How to become a Chiropractor

To become a Chiropractor one must receive their Doctorate of Chiropractic (D.C.) and a state licensure. Before students can obtain their D.C., they must have at least 90 undergraduate hours in areas such as liberal arts, physics, chemistry, and biology; which is why many students receive a Bachelor’s degree before going to chiropractic school.

Four years of graduate work at a nationally accredited college are required to earn a D.C. Subjects studied are similar to those of medical schools. Applicants to a Chiropractic College must meet the same admission requirements as most Medical Schools. However, the GPA required is considerably lower, averaging 3.0 for most colleges.

Career Opportunities

- General Practice
- Chiropractic Radiologist
- Nutritional Specialist
- Sports Chiropractor
- Personal/Occupational Injury Specialist
- Chiropractic Pediatrician
- Teacher
- Research

General Statistics

- In 2004, 11% of Americans were seeking chiropractic care
- Between 2012-2022 the field of Chiropractic Medicine is expected to grow by 15%
- Median salary in 2014 was $66,720 per year (depending on client base)
- The large aging population is expected to boost the need for chiropractic care
- Ohio is the second best paying state in the United States for Chiropractors

Licensure

All practicing Chiropractors must have their state licensure. The test is issued by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE). A growing number of states are requiring a Bachelor’s degree before being able to take the licensure examination.

The examination consists of four tests:

- Part 1- Basic Science Subjects
- Part 2- Clinical Science Subjects
- Part 3- Written Clinical Composition
- Part 4- Practical Examination

Elective exams are also offered in physiotherapy and acupuncture.