

# Chiropractic Information

## Career Description

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Chiropractic care emphasizes the inherent power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery. It focuses on the relationship between the body's structure (primarily the spine) and function (as coordinated by the nervous system) and how that relationship affects the preservation and restoration of health. Often chiropractors work in cooperation with the patient's other health care practitioners.

Chiropractors diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems. Chiropractors believe that interference with these systems can impair normal functioning, cause pain, and lower resistance to disease.

The chiropractic approach to health care is holistic, stressing the patient's overall health and wellness. It recognizes that many factors affect health, including exercise, diet, rest, environment, and heredity. Chiropractors are most known for the hands-on technique they practice to adjust imbalances in the patient's skeletal system, particularly the spine.

The median pay for chiropractors in 2015 was \$64,440/year (bls.gov). The average workweek is 40 hours, although longer hours are not uncommon. Solo practitioners set their own hours and may work evenings or weekends in order to accommodate their patients.

## Admission Requirements

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- *Major:* Students interested in pursuing a chiropractic career may choose any major while at BYU, as long as they also complete the prerequisite courses for admittance to chiropractic school. Technically, a student must complete at least three years of undergraduate education for admittance. However, a Bachelor's degree is highly recommended before starting chiropractic school because the federal chiropractic licensing boards require a Bachelor's degree in order to practice in many states. Accredited chiropractic medicine programs last 3.5-4 years and lead to a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree.
- *GPA:* Most schools require a minimum GPA of 2.5; however, the current GPA for entering classes is around 3.15.
- *Test:* No standardized test (such as the MCAT or DAT) is required for admittance to chiropractic school.

## Sample Prerequisite Classes

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\*Remember, this list is a *sample* and may not be adequate for every school. Consult with your selected schools for actual requirements and better accuracy. Pay close attention to lab requirements and specific credit hours required.

### *Psychology*

Psych 111      General Psychology

### *Biology*

PDBIO 220      Human Anatomy with Lab  
PDBIO 305      Human Physiology  
PDBIO 363      Advanced Human Physiology

### *General Chemistry*

CHEM 105      General College Chemistry  
CHEM 106      General College Chemistry  
CHEM 107      General College Chemistry Lab

### *Organic Chemistry/Biochemistry*

CHEM 351      Organic Chemistry  
CHEM 352      Organic Chemistry  
CHEM 353      Organic Chemistry Lab  
CHEM 481      Biochemistry

### *Physics*

PHSCS 105      General Physics I  
PHSCS 107      General Physics Lab I  
PHSCS 106      General Physics II  
PHSCS 108      General Physics Lab II  
(or 121/123, if required by your major)

## Other Resources

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- Association of Chiropractic Colleges – [www.chirocolleges.org/](http://www.chirocolleges.org/)
- Chiropractic College Application Service (ChiroCAS) – <http://portal.chirocas.org/>
- BYU Allied Health Club – <http://alliedhealthclub.byu.edu/>