Chiropractic focuses on the relationship between the body’s main structures – the skeleton, the muscles and the nerves – and the patient’s health. Chiropractors believe that health can be improved and preserved by making adjustments to these structures, particularly to the spinal column. They do not prescribe drugs or perform surgical procedures, although they do refer patients for such services if these are medically indicated.

According to the American Chiropractic Association, the chiropractic approach to healthcare is holistic, stressing the patient’s overall health and wellness. They also recommend lifestyle changes regarding exercise, eating, and sleeping habits. Chiropractors believe that health is a state of optimal well being, and involves much more than the absence of pain and disease.

Chiropractic Work

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are about 49,100 practicing chiropractors. Most chiropractors are in solo practice, although some work in group settings. Opportunities for chiropractors are expected to increase due to an aging population, increased public acceptance, and the ability of patients to pay for services through public or private health insurance. Median annual earnings of salaried chiropractors were $66,490 in 2008. Self-employed chiropractors usually earn more than those on salaries.

Additional Information

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American Chiropractic Association
1701 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 276-8800
www.acatoday.org

The Association of Chiropractic Colleges
www.chirocolleges.com/

CSU Premedica Club or Pre-Physical Therapy Club
http://hp.casa.colostate.edu/HP-clubs.aspx

Human Health Pre-Professional Programs
http://hp.casa.colostate.edu/
**Admissions Requirements**

Admissions requirements are **GENERAL** and differ from school to school. Please contact the individual schools to discuss specific admissions requirements.

- Minimum of 90 semester credits of college education  
  (many applicants have a bachelor’s degree, and many states require D.C.s to have bachelor’s degrees in order to practice)
- Competitive cumulative GPA
- Application submitted to each school
- Letters of recommendation

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<tr>
<th><strong>Typical Academic Prerequisites</strong></th>
<th><strong>Recommended CSU Courses</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>General Biology (2 semesters with labs)</td>
<td>LIFE 102 and LIFE 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)</td>
<td>CHEM 111/112 and CHEM 113/114</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Organic Chemistry (1 or 2 semesters with labs) | CHEM 245/246 **OR** CHEM 341, 343/344  
  (many schools require full year of O Chem)  
  BC 351 |
| Biochemistry | |
| General Physics* (1 or 2 semesters with labs) | PH 121 and PH 122  **OR**  
  PH 141 and PH 142 |
| *Biomechanics, Kinesiology, Exercise Physiology, or Statistics may sometimes be substituted for one semester of Physics. Contact the individual chiropractic school. | |
| Social Sciences/ Humanities (5 semesters- 15 Credits) | Courses from prefixes ANTH, ECON, HDFS, PSY, SOC, JTC, POLS, **AND** ART, D, E, MU,PHIL,SPCM,TH, Languages |
| Composition/Lit/Communication/ (2 semesters) | CO 150, CO 300/301, E140, SPCM 200 |
| Psychology (1 semester) | PSY 100 |
| Highly recommended courses: | BMS 300, BMS 301, OT 215 |

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**Professional Programs**

There are 16 accredited chiropractic programs in the U.S. Becoming a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) takes at least seven years. Students must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours of undergraduate coursework (many states require a B.S. or B.A. along with the chiropractic degree in order to practice) and then four years of chiropractic training. Most chiropractic programs emphasize classroom and laboratory work in the sciences for the first two years, and then courses in manipulation and spinal adjustment as well as extensive clinical experience during the last two years.

For more information about specific chiropractic schools see:  
www.chirocolleges.com

Last updated 8/11—Information is subject to change.