

THE CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSION

The chiropractic profession is a branch of health care that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system, especially the spine, and the manipulation of the body as the best mode of care and treatment for many injuries and illnesses. It emphasizes the interrelatedness of the body parts as a whole system, but especially as they relate to the functions of the nervous system. Since the majority of the body's organs are connected by nerves that enter or leave the spine, chiropractic practice places emphasis on the correct structure, posture, and function of the spine and the body joints.

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION

Most chiropractic programs require the completion of a bachelor's degree prior to admission to their program. Typically, any major is acceptable. The most common undergraduate majors among pre-chiropractic students include exercise science, biology, and health and fitness studies. Additionally, keep in mind that a competitive academic record is important. Strong grades in academic course loads that are science- and math-heavy can be advantageous. In selecting a college major, consider how you will complete the pre-requisite courses for your desired chiropractic graduate program, in addition to graduation requirements at Nebraska Wesleyan.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSES

Although there is no required undergraduate major for entering the chiropractic field, each graduate program will have a required list of pre-requisite coursework that must be completed. Some programs accept AP/CLEP/other transfer credits, while other programs do not. Students should contact their desired institution directly for specific pre-requisite requirements, transfer equivalencies, or other questions. To the right is a general list of courses and credits needed for chiropractic school from Cleveland University - Kansas City (in Overland Park, KS).

Courses	Credits
Chemistry	8
English or Communications	6
Psychology	3
Social Science & Humanities	12
Life & Physical Sciences	24

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-Chiropractic students are encouraged to participate in experiences such as leadership activities, volunteer opportunities, research, and shadowing of professionals, which will help prepare them for graduate school and the chiropractic profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge of the chiropractic profession. In particular, shadowing chiropractors will help students learn more about the daily activities of the profession.

At Nebraska Wesleyan, student organizations that may be interesting or useful to a pre-chiropractic student include Biology Club, Health and Human Performance Club, Pre-Health Club, Yoga Club, and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Also consider Beta Beta Beta (Biology Honorary) and Phi Epsilon Kappa (Health and Human Performance Honorary).

CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION

There are around 20 accredited chiropractic schools in the United States that offer the Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree. Currently, Life West at Bellevue University is the only chiropractic program offered in Nebraska. The total number of credit hours required for degree completion may vary from school to school. Some institutions offer joint degrees, post-doctoral residencies, and fellowships. Practical experience is important, so many chiropractic programs have dedicated time spent on hands-on clinical education and other training opportunities, rather than focusing solely on classroom study.

APPLICATION & ADMISSION

1. Most chiropractic schools do not require the GRE for entrance, but you should always check the requirements for each desired program.
2. Some chiropractic schools participate in a centralized application service called ChiroCAS. This standardized application permits a student to apply directly to multiple schools and colleges with one application and distribution of transcripts. As well, the ChiroCAS application includes additional documents that programs require, such as the personal statement, course summary, and list of extracurricular activities. **Before applying, be sure to check chirocolleges.org to find out which schools participate in ChiroCAS.** If a school does not participate in ChiroCAS, apply directly to the school.
3. Check school websites for required application materials. Note that many schools require letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and interviews for admission.
4. Consult with the chiropractic schools to which you plan to apply for information about what type of letters of recommendation are required. Generally, you will need at least three letters of recommendation: typically, this will include one from a science faculty member, one from a doctor of chiropractic, and one from an employer/volunteer supervisor.

Schools	Credit Requirement	Avg. GPA	Length of Program	Degree Offered
Life West at Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)	90 credit hours	3.0 min.	3 years 6 months (14 quarters)	DC
Palmer College of Chiropractic (Davenport, IA)	90 credit hours	3.0 min.	3 years 4 months (10 trimesters)	DC
Cleveland University - Kansas City (Overland Park, KS)	90 credit hours	3.0 min.	3 years 4 months (10 trimesters)	DC
Logan University (Chesterfield, MO)	90 credit hours	3.0 min.	3 years 4 months (10 trimesters)	DC

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<http://explorehealthcareers.org> (Explore Health Careers)

<http://acatoday.org> (American Chiropractic Association)

<http://cce-usa.org> (Council on Chiropractic Education)

<http://portal.chirocas.org> (ChiroCAS)

<https://www.chirocolleges.org/students/> (Assoc. of Chiro Colleges)

Life West at Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)

<https://lifewest.edu/bellevue/>

How do I connect with NWU alumni in the chiropractic profession?

Visit career.nebrwesleyan.edu and scroll down to “**Career Assistance Network**”. Use this database to find alumni in this profession and see their current position titles and employers. Feel free to reach out!