



# CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES

The following requirements are subject to change without notice. To assure accuracy of the information on this sheet, consult with a counselor for additional information.

Chiropractors diagnose and treat spinal and other health disorders to help patients regain and maintain good health. They work to prevent disability and to correct abnormalities caused by interference with the nervous system. They manually adjust the spinal column and other parts of the body. They may use water, light, heat, ultrasound, nutritional, and electric therapy.

## How Much Education Does It Take?

It typically takes 8-9 years to complete your education. Many chiropractic students have three to four years of undergraduate college units **and** a baccalaureate degree, though this is not required. Once admitted, students can expect four to five years of chiropractic school, with the first two years mainly focused on classroom instruction, while the final years are focused on clinical experiences.

## Academic Preparation

Requirements are set by the Council on Chiropractic Education and include: 90 semester units at an accredited institution with a 3.0 GPA or better. The 90 units of coursework should include 24 units of life and physical sciences, with at least half of those courses having substantial lab components. The CCE also recommends a well-rounded GE program in humanities and social sciences.

**Note:** students who are planning to apply to earn a bachelor’s AND apply to Chiropractic school need to complete the requirements of their undergraduate major, general education required of the transfer institution, AND the course requirement units of their Chiropractic school.

The following classes can be used to meet the 90-unit admissions requirement for many Chiropractic schools. Students are **STRONGLY** recommended to review each school for specific requirements.

Courses at ECC that can fulfill admissions requirements at most US Chiropractic Schools	
One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry	Chemistry 1A & 1B
One year of Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 7A & 7B
One year of Biology	Biology 110, 120
One year of Physics	Physics 3A & 3B or Physics 2A & 2B **Phys 3 series requires Calc
One year of English	English 1A & 1B or 1C
Behavioral Science Courses	Psychology 101; Sociology 1
Recommended Courses include: (Vary by School)	Anatomy, Physiology, Broad range of GE

There are **18 Chiropractic Colleges in the United States**. Three accredited Chiropractic Colleges in California; one in Southern California, and two in Northern California.

- [Southern California University of Health Sciences](#)
  - Applicants must have completed a minimum of 90 semester units. The prerequisite courses and the cumulative grade point average must be at least 3.00. The prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better: English 1A and 1B or English 1A and Communication Studies 100 or 140 or English 1C; Psychology 101; Chemistry 1A-1B, 7A-7B; Physics 2A-2B; Biology 110 and 120 (preferred Anatomy 32, Physiology 31); 15 transferable units of general education courses (Humanities/ Social Sciences).
- [Palmer College of Chiropractic West](#)
  - Applicants must complete a minimum of 90 semester units of college or university credit (Bachelor's degree is preferred). All pre-requisites must be completed with a grade of "C" or better and the cumulative grade point average must be at least a 2.75 or above on a 4.00 scale. Each science course must be taken with a corresponding laboratory. Recommended courses: 24 semester units in life and physical sciences with labs to include: Anatomy/Physiology, Biology 110-120; Chemistry 1A-1B, 7A- 7B; Physics 2A-2B;
- [Life Chiropractic College West](#)
  - Applicants must have a minimum of 90 semester units and a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00. Recommended courses: 24 units of physical and life sciences with labs may include: Biology 110-120, Anatomy 32; Physiology 31, Anatomy and Physiology 34A-34B, Microbiology 33, Chemistry 1A-1B, Organic Chemistry 7A-7B, and Physics 2A-2B; additional recommended non-science courses: English 1A; Communication Studies 100; Psychology 101; a minimum of 15 semester units of Social Science and/or Humanities (Cultural Anthropology, Art, Communications, Economics, English, Ethnic Studies, Foreign Language, History, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Sociology)

## Factors For Application

- **Standardized Test.** A few schools require the [Graduate Record Examination Exam](#) (GRE) for admission. Check each school for requirements.
- **Clinical Exposure.** Some programs require applicants to have volunteer or paid experience working with patients under the supervision of a licensed chiropractor. Check each school for requirements.
- **Letters of Recommendation.** Applicants typically provide at least one letter of reference, though requirements vary school to school.

## Resources

- [The Association of Chiropractic Colleges \(ACC\)](#) Collaborative member network of accredited chiropractic educational programs across North America that is dedicated to excellence in chiropractic education with open attendance to chiropractic programs worldwide.
  - [ACC Become a Chiropractor](#) (for prospective students)
- [The Council on Chiropractic Education](#) - Accrediting agency for Doctor of Chiropractic Degree programs.