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## Chiropractic School Fact Sheet

### What degree can I earn?

D.C.= Doctor of Chiropractic

### What is the nature of this profession?

Chiropractors diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine. They spend a great deal of time on their feet and use hands-on manipulation techniques. Most chiropractors are employed in private practice. Other areas of employment include nutrition, sports rehabilitation, and geriatrics. Chiropractors are known to have a good work-life balance, but often work hours will include weekends and evenings to accommodate patients.

### Where can I find additional information about Chiropractic?

The Association of Chiropractic Colleges [www.chirocolleges.org](http://www.chirocolleges.org). To investigate requirements for state licensure go to <http://www.fclb.org/>.

**YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY MAJOR YOU WOULD LIKE AS LONG AS YOU FULFILL THE PREREQUISITES FOR CHIROPRACTIC SCHOOL.**

**Most Chiropractic schools require 24 credits of life/physical sciences with at least ½ containing a lab component. They may have other requirements as well. Here are some examples of classes that should be taken to fulfill the science requirements:**

BIO 120: General Biology I	<i>One of these Chemistry sequences:</i>
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 109: Introductory Chemistry
BMS 309: Human Anatomy Lab (Cadaver)	CHM 231: Introductory Organic Chemistry
BMS 212+213: Intro Microbiology w/lab	CHM 232: Biological Chemistry
BMS 290+391: Human Physiology and Lab	<b>OR</b>
<i>One of these Physics sequences:</i>	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
PHY 200: Physics for the Life Sciences	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
<b>OR</b>	CHM 241: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences I
PHY 220: General Physics I	CHM 242: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences II
PHY 221: General Physics II	CHM 461: Biochemistry

**Other Suggested Courses:** BIO 355, MOV 300, MOV 304, STA 215, PSY 101, Business courses.

### No grade below a C is allowed for prerequisite courses.

Prerequisites may vary from school to school. Research to make sure that you have met the prerequisites for the chiropractic schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses. *Most chiropractic colleges require at least 3 years (90 credit hours) of undergraduate education; however an increasing number are requiring bachelor's degrees.*

### No Entrance Exam Required

### GPA

To be considered for admission to chiropractic school, a **minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA** is required in at least 90 credit hours of undergraduate course work.

## Besides a strong GPA, chiropractic schools look for the following:

- **Chiropractic-related Clinical Volunteer Experience and/or Shadowing**
  - See [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional) for a list of chiropractors in the area
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** visit [www.gvsu.edu/studentorg](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentorg) to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - Pre-Chiropractic Club; other clubs of interest
- **Community service** [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service)
- **Research experience** [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- **Strong letters of recommendation** (at least one letter from a Doctor of Chiropractic is typically preferred)
- Your ability to pass a **criminal background check** (CBC). Chiropractic schools will conduct a CBC before allowing admitted students to begin chiropractic school.

The Medical and Health Humanities Certificate, Certificate in Intercultural Training, and the Research Scholar Designation are great ways to attain competencies professional schools are looking for in applicants.

**Track your experiences.** Create a copy of our Preprofessional Action Plan document ([www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/actionplan](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/actionplan)) to log information you will need for your application process. This document has tabs for many items including your academic plan, experiences and hours, GPA calculators, potential letter writers, important contact info and more!

### Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU.
- Visit our prechiropractic website, [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/chiropractic](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/chiropractic), for more resources!

Sample Chiropractic School Curriculum	
Pre-clinical (4 trimesters)	Basic sciences, chiropractic philosophy, core adjusting techniques (varies by the philosophy of individual programs)
Clinical (3 trimesters)	Health center practicum, clinical sciences, chiropractic performance-based curriculum
Advanced clinical (3 trimesters)	Health center practicum, research, clinical sciences, chiropractic performance-based curriculum, rotations

Licensing standards vary by state, so be sure to check licensing requirements in the state you intend to practice in prior to enrolling in a program.

To schedule an appointment with a PreChiropractic Advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center, visit [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising) and click on "Schedule Appointment"

Also follow us on social media!  **YouTube** [GVSU Preprofessional Programs](https://www.youtube.com/GVSUPreprofessionalPrograms)

 | **Instagram** [@gvsupreprofessionaladvising](https://www.instagram.com/gvsupreprofessionaladvising)