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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. Most chiropractors are employed in private practice and can set their own working hours if they own their own 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. To investigate requirements for state licensure go to <http://www.fclb.org/>. Some states require a bachelor's degree prior to starting chiropractic school; all require it before licensure.

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	One of these Chemistry sequences:
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 109: Introductory Chemistry
BMS 309: Human Anatomy Lab (Cadaver)	CHM 231: Introductory Organic Chemistry
BMS 212+213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 232: Biological Chemistry
BMS 290+391: Human Physiology and Lab	OR
One of these Physics sequences:	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
PHY 200: Physics for the Life Sciences	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
OR	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.

** Please note that prerequisites may vary from school to school. Do your 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.

What do I need to do to be a competitive applicant for chiropractic school?

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

- **Chiropractic-related Clinical Volunteer Experience and/or Shadowing**
 - See <http://gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional> for a list of chiropractors in the area
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** visit 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 (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- **Research experience** 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.

* **Keep a journal** of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application; you can use the “Service Tracker” at www.gvsu.edu/service if you’d like. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally.

Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Visit the GVSU Pre-Professional Programs YouTube channel to view webinars and recordings of previous workshops.
- Subscribe to the **PreChiropractic Google Group** to receive chiropractic related updates and announcements while you are at GVSU: www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/googlegroup.

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 and click on “Schedule Appointment”