

## General Information:

Chiropractors provide a valuable health care service to the general public. These health care providers assist individuals with physical misalignments of the skeletal system. Particularly, chiropractors focus on proper alignment of the spinal column. Misalignment of vertebrae generates subluxations that pinch nerve roots as they exit the spine. Pinching of the nerve root, in turn, causes impaired nerve function. Since proper nerve function is essential for normal organ function, chiropractors suggest that subluxations are responsible for impaired organ function, which is responsible for the symptoms accompanying the disease. They believe that elimination of subluxations by restoration of proper alignment to the spinal column restores normal nerve function, thus restoring proper organ function and relieving the underlying cause of the problem. They suggest that restoration of proper organ function allows the natural healing capacity of the body to come to fruition.

Although all chiropractors practice the same philosophy, two approaches philosophies exist within the field. Traditional chiropractors believe that subluxations cause all disease and repairing these misalignments of the spinal column can treat all ailments. Subscribers to this philosophy focus exclusively on aligning the spinal column. Non-traditional chiropractors use a broad spectrum of techniques and tools in addition to repairing subluxations. Such individuals make use of stethoscopes, reflex hammers, otoscopes, splints, wraps, supports, and lab tests. Furthermore, these chiropractors also recommend specific exercise regimens for rehabilitation, modifications to diet, and counseling for mental health. Since some of these recommendations fall outside their field of expertise, non-traditional chiropractors frequently work closely with other health care professionals in their communities. As such, such individuals occupy a specific niche in the health care industry as opposed to addressing all health issues.

Different chiropractic colleges emphasize different approaches. As such, students must determine which approach is most appropriate for their philosophy and career goals. They must carefully investigate specific chiropractic colleges and determine which one(s) provide the type of education they desire. Links to all accredited schools are available at <http://www.chirocolleges.org/collegest.html>.

Prerequisite curriculum for Chiropractic College is fairly uniform for accredited schools. Courses required for application include:

- General Biology I and II (BIOL196/196L and BIOL197/197L)
- General Chemistry I and II (CHEM121/121L and CHEM122/122L)
- Organic Chemistry I and II (CHEM241/241L and CHEM242/242L)
- General Physics I and II (PHYS151/151L and PHYS152/152L)
- Six Semester Hours English
- Three Semester Hours Psychology
- Fifteen Semester Hours Humanities

While the general prerequisites are fairly uniform, some colleges require specific courses or offer multiple options for satisfaction of each requirement. Therefore, students interested in pursuing

Chiropractic College should investigate all programs of interest to ensure completion of all required coursework.

### **Freshman Year:**

Students should take the placement tests to determine if they are eligible to enroll in the science prerequisites for Chiropractic College. Failure to do so results in the inability to register for either the General Biology or General Chemistry prerequisites. Instead, the student may spend the entire first year completing prerequisite coursework required to take required prerequisite coursework. This could delay application to professional school by up to one year. Following completion of the placement tests, students should enroll in the appropriate science courses to begin completion of the basic science sequence. The SAT or ACT score determines what mathematics course the student can register for. To avoid taking a remedial chemistry course, students should take the placement test. Information for when and where to take this test is found at <http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Sciences/Chemistry/Placement/>. Students interested in placing out of BIOL189 may request a placement exam by visiting the Department of Biological Sciences Office located in WHI101.

Why take the placement test? Without taking these exams, the student cannot enroll in the General Biology, General Chemistry, or English courses required for admission to any professional school. Instead, the student will spend at least the first semester (if not the entire freshman year) simply satisfying prerequisite course work required to take the prerequisite course work that professional schools require. The end result of failing to take the placement tests is usually the delay of acceptance to medical school by at least a year, unless the student compensates by either taking classes during the summer or having multiple semesters with exceptionally heavy course loads (19 credit hours or more).

Students must investigate each Chiropractic College they wish to apply to. Some colleges offer several options to satisfy science prerequisites while others have extremely specific requirements for humanities prerequisites. Links to information for all accredited schools in the United States are available at <http://www.chirocolleges.org/collegest.html>. While investigating prerequisites, students should also learn about requirements for letters of recommendation and specific work/service experience as these vary between programs. If any program requires work/service experience, plan on acquiring this during the summer between the freshman and sophomore year.

### **Sophomore Year:**

Continue to work towards completion of prerequisite coursework. If any program of interest requires letters of recommendation, students should begin to secure these during the sophomore year. It is in the student's best interest to get to know your professors, supervisors, and employers as they will write these recommendations for you. It is in the student's best interest to become acquainted with professors outside the classroom environment. One of the best means for establishing a relationship with a professor is to conduct undergraduate research. As you enroll in your upper division coursework, you may find some of the topics particularly interesting. If you find yourself in this situation, you should approach the professor instructing such classes to inquire about research opportunities related to these topics. Professors often

teach in their field of expertise and either conduct research in that field or know someone who does. If you choose not to conduct research as an undergraduate, than you have no choice but to request a letter of recommendation from a professor whose class you enrolled in. Even if you earned an A in the course, he or she will not have much to comment on other than the fact that you did well in their course. Such letters are not very informative to admission committees or preprofessional interview committees. Finally, you should continue to acquire appropriate service or work experience during the summer if necessary.

### **Junior Year:**

Students will apply to chiropractic school during this year and, therefore, must complete all prerequisites. These include both course work and work/service experience, if required. Chiropractic Colleges currently do not require any kind of standardized test and rely strictly on grade-point average and letters of recommendation for admission decisions. The minimum GPA required for admission is a 2.5, but the average accepted GPA is substantially higher (above a 3.0). Students should request letters of recommendation from professors and supervisors during the spring semester of this year. Some programs want the letters submitted directly to the admissions office while others require an evaluation from the pre-professional committee. If a committee evaluation is needed, the student must obtain an evaluation packet from the Pre-Health Advisor. This packet contains an evaluation form that students must submit to all individuals who will write recommendations. Students are to instruct all authors to send the evaluation and accompanying letter to the Pre-Health advisor. The pre-professional committee uses these letters along with a personal statement, grade report, and a resume summarizing all relevant experience to draft a composite evaluation of the student's aptitude to succeed in professional school. The committee sends this evaluation to all programs the student seeks admission to. Chiropractic schools currently do not have a centralized application service. As such, you will need to contact the admissions offices for all schools you intend to pursue and request the appropriate application material. Students can access the websites for all accredited Chiropractic Colleges by visiting <http://www.chirocolleges.org/collegest.html>.

### **Senior Year:**

Students should complete any recommended curriculum for the program for which they gained admission. In the event that all curriculum is complete, take courses for personal enrichment.