



Chiropractors Are Well Educated Medical Professionals

They are the third largest primary healthcare professional after medical medicine and dentistry.



Chiropractors are medical professionals who specialize in conditions that affect the muscles and spine in an attempt to eliminate pain and increase mobility. Like other professional careers in health care, chiropractors must meet certain requirements in order to legally practice.



Chiropractors are “real doctors”. A medical doctor (MD) and a doctor of chiropractic (DC) are both doctors who have received a doctoral degree from a government accredited medical school or chiropractic college.

There were 18 schools approved by the Council on Chiropractic Education as of 2009. These include the Cleveland Chiropractic College, D'Youville College, Life University College of Chiropractic, Life College Chiropractic West, Logan College of Chiropractic, Southern California University, National University of Health Sciences, New York Chiropractic College, Northwestern Health Sciences University, Palmer College of Chiropractic in Iowa, California and Florida, Parker College of Chiropractic, Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic, Texas Chiropractic College, University of Bridgeport and Western States Chiropractic College.

As with any medical specialty, the academic curriculum will be based on the core philosophy. With chiropractic, the philosophy is in natural healing and preventative wellness care. Both medical doctors and chiropractors take 4 years of undergraduate work of basic sciences with both classroom and laboratory work. The next 5 years of education for chiropractors continues to focus on the sciences (with limited pharmacology or surgery as done with medical doctors) such as anatomy & physiology, nutrition, diagnosis, x-ray, and adjusting techniques.

Licensing and Postgraduate Education

The chiropractic physician must pass four levels of national board exams and a physical therapy exam to be eligible to sit for state board examinations. State board exams involve both written examination and oral practical exams involving clinical practice and x-ray interpretation.

After graduation, the DC may undergo postgraduate training to become board certified as a chiropractic radiologist, neurologist, orthopedist, internist, family practitioner, sports physician, rehabilitation specialists, clinical nutritionist, or pain management specialist. Chiropractic physicians are required to obtain continuing education units each year for license renewal.

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