

Pre-Chiropractic

Background on Chiropractic Programs

A Chiropractor is a licensed healthcare professional that emphasizes the body's ability to heal itself. Treatment typically involves manual therapy, often including spinal manipulation. The purpose of manipulations is to improve joint motion and function. Other forms of treatment, such as exercise and nutrition counseling, may be used as well. The scope of a chiropractor's practice (the services they are allowed to provide) varies from state to state.

Students pursuing a career as a chiropractor must pursue the Doctor of Chiropractic (DOC) degree. This is typically a four-year graduate degree. There are a limited number of accredited DOC programs, with only 19 in North America and 1 in Connecticut (University of Bridgeport).

Pre-Requisite Coursework

The pre-requisites for DOC programs *vary*. It is important for students to determine the specific requirements for each DOC program they wish to apply to, in consultation with a pre-health advisor. Most chiropractic programs require 24 credits in the physical/life sciences, with the following courses recommended:

Courses	DOC Prerequisites
BIO 103/104: General Biology 1 & 2	Most programs require both
BIO 105/106: Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2	Most programs require both
CHE 110/111: General Chemistry 1 & 2	Most programs require both
CHE 210/211: Organic Chemistry 1 & 2	Some programs require one or both
PHY 120/121: General Physics 1 & 2	Most programs require both

Other Requirements:

Students who intend to apply to Doctor of Chiropractic programs should take the GRE (graduate record examination) prior to applying. The GRE measures three areas in verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and analytical writing.

Applicants must have between 10-200 hours of clinical experience in a variety of physical and/or occupational therapy settings. This can be in a volunteer or paid capacity.

Grades:

Chiropractic programs typically require a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be considered, with a grade of B- or better on all prerequisite coursework. The average GPA of students admitted to Doctor of Chiropractic (DOC) programs is 3.0-3.4.

WCSU Pre-Health Programs



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Recommended Undergraduate Degree Programs:

Students can choose any undergraduate degree major they wish and still apply to a DOC program as long as they complete the prerequisite coursework required to apply. Many students pursuing DOC programs choose to declare the following majors at WCSU, as degree requirements align with completion of prerequisite coursework: BS in Public Health, Allied Health; BS in Public Health, Holistic and Integrative Health; BS in Biology.

Entrance Exams

Some DOC programs have no required entrance examination but virtually all require a bachelor's degree.

Some schools require the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). It's a standardized test that is about 2 hours long. The GRE tests your writing, reading, vocabulary, math, and logic skills - and also will test your decision making and carefulness. You can take official GRE practice tests at the ETS (the test provider) website. ETS offers two free practice tests and some paid ones as well. The website where you find the practice tests is <https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/powerprep.html>

Other Application Requirements

Other requirements for applying to DOC programs include the following:

1. Letters of Recommendation: Typically 1-4 letters, and they must be from a combination of licensed occupational therapists and academic advisors/professors
2. Personal Essay: These are specific to each program you apply to. Many programs have supplemental essays as well.
3. Interview: DOC programs may require competitive applicants to visit the campus for a formal interview. Applicants may be required to speak with a single faculty member, a student, a physical therapist, a panel of interviewers, or participate in an orientation session.
4. Criminal Background Check: DOC programs may ask applicants to disclose any previous felony or misdemeanor convictions as part of the application process. DOC programs may require criminal background checks and/or drug tests in order to verify an individual's suitability to participate in experiential education rotations, to confirm a student's eligibility for licensure, and to ensure patient safety.

Application Timeline

The application timeline for DOC programs varies. Visit the Council on Chiropractic Education for details about specific programs: <https://www.cce-usa.org/>

Helpful Websites

<https://www.cce-usa.org/>: Council on Chiropractic Education

<https://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/programs/chiropractic-dc/>: University of Bridgeport Doctorate of Chiropractic website