Chiropractic is a branch of the healing arts based upon the understanding that good health depends on a normally functioning nervous system. It addresses medical conditions not by the use of drugs and chemicals, but by locating and adjusting the musculoskeletal area of the body, which is functioning improperly.

A minimum of 90 units that are bachelor’s degree applicable are required. A bachelor’s degree is preferred, but may not be required. A chiropractic program consists of four academic years of professional education. Several areas of study are emphasized during the course of chiropractic education: adjustive techniques/spinal analysis; principles/practices of chiropractic; physiologic therapeutics; and biomechanics

## Lower Division Subjects Required by Most Schools Can Be Taken at Community College

| **Subject** | **Courses** |
| --- | --- |
| One year of English | English 101 & English 102, 103 or Philosophy 5 |
| One year of Biology | Biology 6 & 7 |
| One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry | Chemistry 101 & 102 |
| One year of Physics | Physics 6 & 7 or Physics 66 & 67 or Physics 101 & 102; Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Physics requirements. |
| Psychology | Psychology 1 |
| Humanities and Social Sciences | At least 15 units of humanities and social science courses. See IGETC Area 3B and Area 4 for a list of courses offered at Pierce College. |
| One year of Communication Skills | Communication 101, 104, 121, 151 |

Note: You need a “C” or higher in these courses. All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit.

## Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-chiropractor” is not a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Most chiropractic schools do not require a specific degree in order to apply. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. Students applying to a chiropractic school need to plan carefully and complete not only the chiropractic school admissions requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

## Chiropractic School Selection Criteria

* Bachelor’s Degree or 90 semester units of undergraduate coursework
* Completion of the prerequisite coursework.
* GPA in terms of overall college grades and prerequisite coursework are a major factor in the selection process.
* Letters of recommendation from professors, academic advisors, employers, and/or health care professionals.
* Interviews with faculty members from the Chiropractic program that assess your basic knowledge of the Chiropractic profession, that you have compelling reasons for pursuing the Doctor of Chiropractic degree, and that you show promise sufficient to justify admission to study at the graduate level.

## California Chiropractic Medicine Programs

* Cleveland College of Chiropractic ([cleveland.edu/](https://www.cleveland.edu/))
* Cleveland also offers a B.S. in Human Biology L.A. College of Chiropractic ([scuhs.edu/academics/los-angeles-college-of-chiropractic/](https://www.scuhs.edu/academics/los-angeles-college-of-chiropractic/))
* Life Chiropractic College West ( [lifewest.edu/](https://lifewest.edu/) )
* Palmer West College of Chiropractic ([palmer.edu/](https://www.palmer.edu/) [)](http://www.palmer.edu/))

## Salary Information

In 2021, the California average annual wage was $154,969 annually ([labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/](https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/)). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

## Recommended Websites

| **Website** | **Website Address** |
| --- | --- |
| American Chiropractic Association | [acatoday.org/](https://www.acatoday.org/) |
| Association of Chiropractic Colleges | [chirocolleges.org/](http://www.chirocolleges.org/) |
| California Chiropractic Association | [calchiro.org/](https://www.calchiro.org/) |
| Chiropractic Licensure and Education | [chiroweb.com/find/licen.html](https://www.chiroweb.com/find/licen.html) |
| National Board of Chiropractic Examiners | [nbce.org/](https://www.nbce.org/) |

## Select Chiropractic School Websites

| **Website** | **Website Address** |
| --- | --- |
| Life Chiropractic College West, San Francisco | [lifewest.edu/](https://lifewest.edu/) |
| Southern California University of Health Sciences/Los Angeles College of Chiropractic | [scuhs.edu/academics/los-angeles-college-of-chiropractic/](https://www.scuhs.edu/academics/los-angeles-college-of-chiropractic/) |

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information. *Web site links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and/or Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. The Los Angeles Community College District and/or Los Angeles Pierce College bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.*