



## CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

### Educational Level of Chiropractic Doctors

As a primary care provider, the doctor of chiropractic has a high level of education and training in areas of diagnosis and clinical sciences. Recognition of this academic standing<sup>1</sup> has come from both federal and state government.

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) as the authorized accrediting agency assuring excellence in chiropractic colleges since 1974. Before taking the Board of Chiropractic Examiners written and practical exams for California state licensure, the applicant must be a graduate from a chiropractic college accredited by CCE. For admission to one of the accredited colleges, the student must have first successfully completed a minimum of two years of college courses in basic biosciences.

During the four to five years of study in chiropractic college, the candidate for the doctor of chiropractic degree will complete more than 4,400 hours in specific basic science and clinical subjects.

Bioscience = 1,840 hrs.

Anatomy  
Physiology  
Inorganic Chemistry  
Organic Chemistry  
Pathology  
Hygiene  
Public Health  
Nutrition  
Dermatology

Clinical Science = 2,080 hrs

Physical Diagnosis  
Clinical Diagnosis  
Laboratory Diagnosis  
Differential Diagnosis  
Roentgenology Technique and Interpretation  
Neurology  
Geriatrics  
Principles of Chiropractic

In addition to the above classroom and laboratory study, the doctor-candidate undergoes a 550-hour clinical internship. The education is completed with courses in ethics, law and economics.

A recent medical study indicated that chiropractic doctors might be better prepared academically than family physicians in areas of back pain management.<sup>1</sup> In a representative sample of family physicians, 42% said they felt "poorly trained to manage low-back pain when they first entered practice", while only 15% in a representative sample of chiropractic doctors felt the same.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cherkin, MacCornack and Berg, "Managing Low Back Pain Care - A Comparison of the Beliefs and Behaviors of Family Physicians and Chiropractors", Western Journal of Medicine, October 1988; 149:475-480.*



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## Today's Doctor's of Chiropractic Have Six or More Years of College

Have you ever wondered just how much education your doctor of chiropractic has? The facts will surprise you.

Six years of highly specialized college training are required to graduate and earn license, and chiropractic has gained recognition as a compressive, scientifically sound force among the healing arts. Only chiropractic concerns itself with the interrelationship of structure and body functions, and only chiropractic effectively utilizes natural, drugless methods of treatment - primary spinal adjustments.

The doctors of chiropractic readily acknowledge that the early formative years of chiropractic education - like those in medicine left much to be desired.

Doctors of chiropractic must meet stringent educational requirements, including approximately 600 hours of externship, which qualifies them for licensure in all states and Canadian provinces. In many states they must pass a basic science examination - the very same examination that is given to all medical students. Doctors of chiropractic must also pass a rigid chiropractic board examination. All states require continuing educational seminars for annual licensure renewal.

### Chiropractic Education

### VS

### Medical Education

#### Class Hours

520  
420  
271  
300  
114  
370  
320  
217  
65  
65  
225

#### Subject

Anatomy  
Physiology  
Pathology  
Chemistry  
Bacteriology  
Diagnosis  
Neurology  
X-Ray  
Psychiatry  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Orthopedics

#### Class Hours

508  
326  
335  
325  
130  
374  
112  
148  
144  
198  
156

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**2,887**

**TOTAL HOURS**

**2,756**

Other required subject for doctors of chiropractic:

Adjusting, Manipulation, Kinesiology, and other similar basic subjects related to their specialty.

Other required subjects for doctors of medicine:

Pharmacology, Immunology, general surgery, and other similar basic subjects related to their specialty.

## GRAND TOTAL CLASS HOURS

**CHIROPRACTIC**  
**4,485**

**MEDICAL**  
**4,248**