



Chiropractors treat patients with health problems of the musculoskeletal system, which is made up of bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons. They use spinal manipulation and other techniques to treat patients' ailments, such as back or neck pain. Chiropractors typically do the following:

- Assess a patient's medical condition by reviewing his or her medical history, listening to the patient's concerns, and performing a physical examination
- Analyze the patient's posture and spine
- Provide musculoskeletal therapy, which involves adjusting a patient's spinal column and other joints by hand
- Conduct additional diagnostic tests, including evaluating a patient's posture or taking x rays
- Provide additional treatments, such as applying heat or cold to a patient's injured areas
- Advise patients on health and lifestyle issues, such as exercise and sleep habits
- Refer patients to other medical specialists if needed

Chiropractors focus on patients' overall health. Many believe that misalignments of the spinal joints interfere with a person's nervous system and can result in lower resistance to disease and many different conditions of diminished health. Some chiropractors use additional procedures, such as acupuncture, massage therapy, and ultrasound. They also may apply supports, such as straps, tape, braces, or shoe inserts, to treat patients and alleviate pain. In addition to operating a general chiropractic practice, some chiropractors specialize in sports injuries, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, nutrition, internal disorders, or diagnostic imaging. Chiropractors in private practice are responsible for developing a patient base, hiring employees, and keeping records. (*Occupational Outlook Handbook*)

A minimum of 90 semester hours is required for admission to most chiropractic colleges. However, students pursuing these programs are expected to choose a major so that he/she can be working towards a baccalaureate degree concurrently with the pre-chiropractic program. This requires a major/minor combination or a comprehensive major as well as completion of the UNK general studies requirements and other degree requirements as set forth in the college catalog. These programs do not specify which major a student should pursue in conjunction with his/her pre-chiropractic studies. **Gaining acceptance into a chiropractic school is a very competitive process. Completion of the pre-requisite courses does not automatically guarantee admission.**

The following curriculum is the recommended course of study for pre-chiropractic students in order to be prepared for the rigors of chiropractic school. Students should check with the specific school(s) to which they intend to apply to ensure that all requirements are met and see their pre-chiropractic advisor for course planning.

Take all of the following:

CHEM 160	General Chemistry	4
CHEM 161	General Chemistry	4
ENG 101	Introduction to Academic Writing	3
PSY 203	General Psychology	3
SPCH 100	Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3

Choose a minimum of 24 total credit hours in the life and/or physical sciences (half with a laboratory component), recommendations include:

BIOL 103	General Biology	4
BIOL 106	Biology II	4
BIOL 211	Human Microbiology	4
BIOL 215	Human Physiology	4
BIOL 225	Anatomy and Physiology	4

BIOL 226	Anatomy and Physiology	4
BIOL 325	Medical Terminology	1
CHEM 250	Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM 351	Biochemistry	4
KSS 310	Introduction to Human Physiology of Exercise	3
KSS 360	Introduction to Anatomical Biomechanics	4
PHYS 203	General Physics for Allied Health	4
PHYS 205	General Physics I	5

Choose a minimum of 12 credit hours of social sciences and humanities coursework:

Recommended courses include English literature, foreign language, history, psychology, philosophy, political science, economics, sociology, and fine arts.

Academic Rigor

All chiropractors go through a rigorous doctoral educational curriculum that includes subjects such as spinal anatomy, physiology, neurology, pathology, histology, biochemistry, microbiology, nutrition, research, and patient examination procedures. To practice chiropractic, an individual must also pass four National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) exams. As such, students who wish to be successful in these programs and, eventually, as a chiropractor, should complete a well-rounded undergraduate general education program of study that will prepare them for a chiropractic program. Therefore, students should consider courses from the following areas: biology, chemistry, mathematics, sociology, psychology, business administration, healthcare management, and healthcare economics. See your advisor for suggestions. Students should be aware of prerequisites on all courses and plan their coursework accordingly.

Academic Guidelines

A minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 in the required prerequisite courses and the required 90 semester hours; however, a higher GPA is preferred and will result in the student being a more competitive applicant. Each required course must be passed with a grade of "C" or better. A grade of "C-" will not be accepted.

Non-Academic Guidelines

There is no magic formula for acceptance in to professional school. Admission is based on GPA, test scores, shadowing and medical experiences, community involvement and volunteerism, leadership qualities, the interview, the essay, and letters of recommendation. Shadowing and medical experiences are of utmost importance. Students should plan to shadow a minimum of 40 hours in their selected profession. Health Sciences offers opportunities to meet these non-academic guidelines through the Shadowing Program, the Health Science Club, and volunteer experiences. Research experience is not required, but will be looked upon favorably. Other important non-academic factors include good moral character, excellent interpersonal skills, a deep commitment to healthcare, evidence of leadership potential and service to others.

The Application Process

Student will make application to each program individually. Additional information can be found on the program's website. Early application is encouraged. Students should make application in the summer or early fall of the calendar year proceeding the year in which they hope to enroll in professional school. Check with the schools to which you are applying to verify their policies and procedures regarding supplemental applications.

Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation

Letters of evaluation will be required of applicants. Letters from a faculty member, chiropractor, academic advisor, or employer would be appropriate. Information about the non-academic character of a student would be most useful as academic information is already in the application.

Interviews

Most schools screen applicants with some form of personal interview. The format of the interview may vary depending on the schools to which you are applying.

Criminal Background Checks

Prerequisite for enrollment into any health science professional program is consent for an external background check. This check includes, but is not limited to, past criminal offenses and registry information. If there is evidence of arrest for a crime(s), conviction for a crime(s), presence on an abuse registry, or other information which reasonably suggests that patient safety might be compromised, the student will be asked to provide additional information.

Citizenship/International Students

Professional schools in the health sciences vary as to whether they accept non-U.S. citizens. Some schools that do accept non-citizens require a substantial financial commitment up front. Plan to visit with your advisor about your options.

3+3 Program Information

The 3+3 Bachelor of Science combined degree program between the University of Nebraska Kearney and the affiliated chiropractic programs listed below was specifically developed for students who intend to pursue a chiropractic education. The program provides qualified students with an opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences degree and a Doctor of Chiropractic degree in only six years.

Participating Programs:

Cleveland University Kansas City
Life Chiropractic College West (Bellevue, NE)
Life University (Marietta, GA)
Logan University (Chesterfield, MO)
Northwestern Health Sciences University (Bloomington, MN)
Palmer College of Chiropractic (Davenport, IA or Port Orange, FL)

UNK students are granted guaranteed acceptance into a participating chiropractic program after 90 credit hours of pre-requisite coursework and completion of UNK requirements, **including general studies and experiential learning credit**. Each program has a minimum GPA requirement to receive guaranteed admission. The first year (30 semester hours) of professional study at chiropractic school fulfills the remaining senior-level requirements at UNK. After successful transfer of completed chiropractic credits, the student will be awarded the Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences from UNK.

Websites

Association of Chiropractic Colleges
American Chiropractic Association

www.chirocolleges.org
www.amerchiro.org

Suggested Sequence of Key Courses

	Fall	Spring
Year 1	CHEM 160 Life/Physical Sciences Course LOPER 1 LOPER 4	CHEM 161 Life/Physical Sciences Course ENG 101 SPCH 100
Year 2	Life/Physical Sciences Course PSY 203 LOPER 5 LOPER 6	Life/Physical Sciences Course LOPER 9 LOPER 10
Year 3		
Year 4	Professional training or Complete final major courses	Professional training or Complete final major courses

- A minimum MATH ACT score of 22 or prior completion of College Algebra (MATH 102) or higher is a pre-requisite for CHEM 160.
- A minimum MATH ACT score of 20 or prior completion of College Algebra (MATH 102) (Grade of B+ or better) or higher is required for entry into PHYS 205.
- Sophomore standing is a pre-requisite for BIOL 225.

Students who are accepted into chiropractic school prior to completing a baccalaureate degree at UNK may be eligible to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Health Sciences if they have completed at least 85 semester hours completed in pre-chiropractic studies, as well as all general studies and other graduation requirements.