

October is:

National Chiropractic Month



Doctor of Chiropractic Job Description

A chiropractor is a primary care physician whose focus is on the human frame and the proper function of the nervous system. Chiropractors use non-surgical, no-drug treatments that help/allow the body to heal naturally. Chiropractic care is over 100-years-old and time after time has been shown to be effective treatment for low back pain and neck pain, and is beneficial overall for proper well-being.

The spinal adjustment is the way chiropractors treat the subluxation complex, which is interference to the nervous system. Most chiropractors treat with their hands, others use instruments like the activator.

Chiropractic Education

In some recent surveys it was surprising to note that some people were unaware of the educational level of a Doctor of Chiropractic. The basic question was, "Is the education of a Doctor of Chiropractic at the same level as a Medical Doctor?" The correct answer is, of course, YES! Doctors of Chiropractic undergo a rigorous and demanding professional education equivalent to any other primary care provider. To obtain a Doctor of Chiropractic degree, they must complete several years of prerequisite undergraduate education and spend nearly the same number of classroom hours at a fully accredited Chiropractic college as MDs do in medical schools. Student doctors are thoroughly trained in the appropriate use of sophisticated analytical equipment including X-rays, examination procedures, and state of the art Chiropractic investigative technologies. Before they can practice, all Doctors of Chiropractic must pass a series of National Boards, as well as a licensing exam for the state in which they choose to practice. Even after all that, most states require the doctors to attend clinical continuing education programs for annual re-licensure.

What does it take to become a Chiropractor?

According to many sources Chiropractic is the second largest health care profession. Some articles and authors have referred to Chiropractic as "alternative". This label may not fit in the face of the growing numbers of people seeking Chiropractic care. In the 1998 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine is an article on Chiropractic that makes a profound statement, "Even to call Chiropractic alternative is problematic, in many ways it is distinctly mainstream."

Even with all this growth and increased usage, many people are unaware of the rigors of a Chiropractic education. In order to become a Doctor of Chiropractic, Chiropractic students must go through college and a Chiropractic program every bit as strenuous and in-depth as other health care practitioners.

Comparison of Hours of Basic Sciences Education in Medical and Chiropractic Schools

Subject	Chiropractic Schools		Medical Schools	
	Hours	% of Total	Hours	% of Total
Anatomy	570	40	368	31
Biochemistry	150	11	120	10
Microbiology	120	8	120	10
Public Health	70	5	289	24
Physiology	305	21	142	12
Pathology	205	14	162	14
Total Hours	1,420	100%	1,201	100%

Chiropractors are taught to be natural healers who work without surgery or drugs to bring relief to patients with nerve disorders, spinal problems and various maladies. As the population lives longer and more productive lives, the need for quality health care increases daily. The science of chiropractic is leading the way in healing by practicing the highest standards in health care education today.

Maxwell Family Chiropractic Center
www.maxwellchiropractic.com
540.992.3354

Reference: <http://www.chiroweb.com/archives/ahcpr/chapter3.htm>