

Pathway to Chiropractor

What is a Chiropractor? What's the job outlook?

Chiropractors care for patients with health problems of the neuromusculoskeletal system, which includes nerves, bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons. They use spinal adjustment and manipulation, among other clinical interventions, to manage patients' health concerns, such as back and neck pain.



Employment for chiropractors is expected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030. Demand is expected to increase for non-surgical, drug-free ways to treat pain and improve overall wellness. Increased interest in integrative healthcare has led to more acceptance of chiropractic treatment of the back, neck, and limbs. Opportunities will also be created by the continued aging of the large baby-boom generation, as older adults are more likely than younger people to have neuromusculoskeletal and joint problems. The annual mean wage for chiropractors in the Denver Metro area is \$59,970.*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Pharmacists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm#tab-5>

How do I become a Chiropractor?

Chiropractors must have a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree from a chiropractic college, as well as licensure in the state in which they practice. Prerequisites for entry into chiropractic programs vary. Most chiropractic programs require at least 3 years of undergraduate study (90 credits) with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Of those 90 credits, a minimum of 24 should be in life and physical science courses with at least half of those courses containing a laboratory component. However, some states require a bachelor's degree in order to practice. D.C. programs typically take 4 years to complete.

Upon completion of the program, prospective chiropractors must pass all four parts of The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) exam and state board exams for the states in which they plan to practice. Many states also require applicants pass a background check and state-specific jurisprudence exams.

Currently in the U.S., there are 15 colleges that provide accredited chiropractic degree programs. A list of these chiropractic colleges can be found on the Colorado Chiropractic Association's website.

Colorado Chiropractic Association - <https://coloradochiropractic.org/chiropractic-education/>

Biology Faculty Advisor who can guide you for this path are:

Dr. Jeff Simpson

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General course prerequisites required for those interested in pursuing chiropractic school include:

- **General Biology with lab** – BIO 1080/1090 and BIO 1081/1091; 2 semesters
- **General Microbiology** – BIO 2400; 1 semester
- **General Chemistry with lab** – CHE 1800/1801 and CHE 1810/1811; 2 semesters
- **Organic Chemistry with lab** – CHE 3100/3120 and CHE 3110/3130; 2 semesters
- **Biochemistry I** – CHE 4310, no lab required; 1 semester
- **Math** – MTH 1110 and MTH 1120 (prerequisites for CHE & PHY); 2 semesters
- **Calculus** – MTH 1410; 1 semester
- **College Physics** – PHY 2010/2030 and 2020/2040; 2 semesters
- **Composing Arguments** – ENG 1010; 1 semester
- **Presentational Speaking** – COMM 1010; 1 semester
- **Introductory Psychology** – PSY 1001; 1 semester
- **Social Sciences** – cultural anthropology, history, psychology or sociology; 9 semester credits
- **General Education** – does NOT include vocational, arts, crafts or PE courses

Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II are not required biology prerequisites, but they are HIGHLY recommended – BIO 2310 and BIO 2320; 2 semesters

Biomechanics, Kinesiology, Exercise Physiology, or Statistics - may be substituted for second semester of Physics (depends on individual chiropractic school)

Social Sciences/Humanities – 15 credits (does not include mathematics, science, business, computers, engineering or physical education)

**REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN BIOLOGY
for 2020-2021 or future catalogs ONLY**

A grade of "C-" or better is required for each BIO prefix course to count towards the major

Required Biology Courses for both the B.A. or the B.S. Degree

BIO 1080-3 General Biology I	3
BIO 1090-1 General Biology Lab I.....	1
BIO 1081-3 General Biology II	3
BIO 1091-1 General Biology Lab II.....	1
BIO 3520-3 General Ecology	3

Take ONE of these Genetics options:

- BIO 3600-4 General Genetics (no lab).....4
 OR
 BIO 3610-4 Genetics: Principles & Analysis (has lab)4

Pick ONE of these options:

- Option 1: BIO 2100-5 General Botany
 OR
 Option 2: BIO 2400-5 General Microbiology
 OR
 Option 3: **Both BIO 2310-4 and BIO 2320-4** (Anatomy & Physiology I & II)
 (You must take both semesters to get credit for this option)
 OR
 Option 4: **Either BIO 3200-4** Invertebrate Zoology or **BIO 3260-4** Vertebrate Zoology
 (If you wish to take both zoology courses, the other will count as an upper division elective)

Students are required to take a Senior Experience course:

Fulfills Senior Experience Requirement	
<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4050-3 Advanced Cell & Molecular Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4510-4 Microbial Ecology
<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4230-3 Issues in Conservation Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4540-4 Plant Ecology
<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4300-3 Neurobiology	<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4550-4 Animal Ecology
<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4820-4 Developmental Biology	
<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4850-3 Evolution	

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Elective Biology courses: Biology courses from 2000, 3000, and 4000 must be completed to bring the total of biology courses approved for the major to 40 credits. *At least 21 of these Biology credits must be from the 3000 or 4000 courses of the Department of Biology.*

Recommended Elective Courses To Choose From (Specific to Chiropractic):

- BIO 3210 – Histology
- BIO 3320 - Advanced Human Physiology
- BIO 3330 - Cadaver Anatomy
- BIO 3340 – Endocrinology
- BIO 3350 – Immunology
- BIO 4300 - Neurobiology

Total Credit Hours in Biology (minimum of 40) _____

Upper Division Biology Credit Hours (minimum of 21) _____

B.S. Non-Bio Course Requirements:

CHE 1800-4 Gen Chemistry I _____

CHE 1801-1 Gen Chemistry I Lab _____

CHE 1810-4 Gen Chemistry II _____

CHE 1811-1 Gen Chemistry II Lab _____

CHOOSE YOUR PATH:

CHE 3100-4 Organic Chemistry I _____

CHE 3120-1 Organic Chemistry I Lab _____

AND

CHE 3110- 3 Organic Chemistry II _____

~OR~

ºCHE 3090- 4 Survey of Organic Chem _____

CHE 3120-1 Organic Chemistry I Lab _____

AND

ºCHE 4310-4 Biochemistry _____

º **Note on CHE 3090 – Survey of Organic Chemistry** - this class is no longer being offered

º **Note on CHE 4310 – Biochemistry** – requires completion of both Organic Chemistry I and II

B.A. Non-Bio Courses Requirements:

*CHE 1100-4 Principles of Chem _____

CHE 2100-4 Intro to Org/Biochem _____

~OR~

CHE 1800-4 Gen Chemistry I _____

*CHE 1801-1 Gen Chemistry I Lab _____

CHE 1810-4 Gen Chemistry II _____

CHE 1811-1 Gen Chemistry II Lab _____

*To use CHE 1100 or 1800 for the Natural and Physical Sciences requirement, students must take the corresponding lab (CHE 1150 or CHE 1801, respectively).

Math Requirement:

Two Semesters of Math: _____

One Semester of Math: _____

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Choose from the following math courses:

MTH 1108-1109 (Stretch College Algebra)*, MTH 1111 and MTH 1101 (College Algebra with lab), MTH 1110 (College Algebra), MTH 1112 (College Algebra through Modeling), MTH 1115/1116 (College Algebra through Modeling with Lab), MTH 1120 (Trigonometry), MTH 1210 (Intro to Statistics), MTH 1410 (Calculus I)**

MTH 1108-1109 is a Stretch Course and only counts as ONE of the required math courses for the BIO BS.

Students planning to take Calculus must take MTH 1108-1109, MTH 1110, or MTH 111

Physics Requirement (Specific to Chiropractic):

PHY 2010/2030 - College Physics I and College Physics I Lab*

OR

PHY 2020/2040 - College Physics I and College Physics II Lab**

*Prerequisite for PHY 2010 includes MTH 1120- College Trigonometry and ENG 1010

**Prerequisite for PHY 2020 includes PHY 2010 and ENG 1010

General Studies Requirements (33 cr. total), please visit

<http://www.msudenver.edu/advising/facultystaff/generalstudiesrequirements/>

Total Credits (Minimum 120) _____

Total Upper Division Credits (Minimum 40 TOTAL) _____

What is your Minor? (required) _____