

# CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: [www.qvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.qvsu.edu/clasadvising)

## Chiropractic School Fact Sheet

### **What degree can I earn?**

D.C.= Doctor of Chiropractic

### **What is the nature of this profession?**

Chiropractors diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine. Most chiropractors are employed in private practice and work hours set by the chiropractor. Other areas of employment include nutrition, sports rehabilitation, and geriatrics. Chiropractors are known to have a good work-life balance, but often work hours will include weekends and evenings to accommodate patients.

### **Where can I find additional information about Chiropractic?**

The Association of Chiropractic Colleges [www.chirocolleges.org](http://www.chirocolleges.org)

### **What major and pre-requisites are required for chiropractic school?**

**You can major in anything as long as you fulfill the pre-requisites for chiropractic school.**

#### **The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for Chiropractic School:**

BIO 120: General Biology I	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 309: Human Anatomy Lab (Cadaver)	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
PHY 220: General Physics I	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
PHY 221: General Physics II	CHM 461: Biochemistry

\*\* Please note that pre-requisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the pre-requisites for the chiropractic schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.

### **What entrance exam is required and what GPA do I need?**

<b>No Entrance Exam Required</b>	<b>GPA</b>
	To gain entrance to chiropractic school, usually a minimum GPA above 2.5 is required. The 2009 national average for admission is 2.5. No grade below a C is allowed for pre-requisite courses. You should check with individual colleges to determine a competitive GPA. In the near future, the required GPA may be increasing to 3.0 and above.

## What do I need to do to be a competitive applicant to chiropractic school?

Besides a strong GPA, chiropractic schools look for the following:

- ✓ Chiropractic-related Clinical Volunteer Experience and/or Shadowing
  - See <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/chiropractic--dc-73.htm> for a list of chiropractors in the area
- ✓ Extracurricular activities [www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey)
  - Pre-Chiropractic Club; other clubs of interest
- ✓ Community service [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- ✓ Research experience [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- ✓ Strong letters of recommendation

\* Keep a journal of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally. At all times and in all ways, make sure that you are proud to be a Laker and appropriately represent GVSU for both yourself and your fellow Lakers who will follow after you.

### Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center (workshops in Writing Personal Statements, the Application Process, getting Healthcare experience, etc.) to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under MyOrganizations.

<b>Sample Chiropractic School Curriculum</b>	
Pre-clinical (4 trimesters)	Basic sciences, chiropractic philosophy, core adjusting techniques (varies by the philosophy of individual programs)
Clinical (3 trimesters)	Health center practicum, clinical sciences, chiropractic performance-based curriculum
Advanced clinical (3 trimesters)	Health center practicum, research, clinical sciences, chiropractic performance-based curriculum, rotations

Licensing standards vary by state, so be sure to check licensing requirements in the state you intend to practice in prior to enrolling in a program.

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