



CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION VS. MEDICAL EDUCATION

CLEVELAND CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

Kansas City

People are often surprised to discover that the education received at a chiropractic college is quite similar to the education received in medical school. Candidates for chiropractic college must complete a minimum of three years of college-level courses prior to entering school, and completion of a doctor of chiropractic degree requires four to five years of professional coursework. Also, the education of a chiropractor is similar in total classroom hours to that of a medical doctor.

Comparison of Overall Curriculum Structure

Characteristics	Chiropractic Schools		Medical Schools	
	Average	Percentage	Average	Percentage
Total Contact Hours	4826	100	4667	100
Basic Sciences hours	1420	29	1200	26
Clinical Sciences hours	3406	71	3467	76
Chiropractic Sciences hours	1975	41	N/A	N/A
Clerkship	1405	29	3467	76

Doctors of chiropractic receive more training in anatomy and physiology while physicians received more training in public health. Chiropractic colleges focus on chiropractic principles, diagnosis, orthopedics, physiologic therapeutics and nutrition. Three areas—manipulative/adjustive technique/spinal analysis, physical/clinical laboratory diagnosis and diagnosis imaging—account for more than half of the education in clinical sciences. During their internship, doctors of chiropractic complete two years of hands-on clinical experience focusing on manipulation/adjustment as the primary treatment procedure. Studies show that chiropractic students receive more training than their medical counterparts in the following areas: anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, diagnosis, X-ray and orthopedics. They also show that chiropractic institutions actually devote more time to the basic and clinical sciences than do medical schools.

Chiropractic vs. Medical

Chiropractic	Subject	Medical
540	Anatomy-Physiology	508
240	Physiology	326
360	Pathology-Geriatrics-Pediatrics	401
165	Chemistry	325
120	Microbiology	114
630	Diagnosis, Dermatology, Ears, Eyes, Nose, Throat	324
320	Neurology	112
360	Radiology	148
60	Psychology-Psychiatry	144
60	Obstetrics-Gynecology	148
210	Orthopedics	156
3065	Total	2706

Sources: "Chiropractic Education: A Comparison to Medical Education," MAC Journal (April 2009); Coulter, Ian, "A Comparative Study of Chiropractic and Medical Education," *Alternative Therapies* (September 1998), Vol. 4, No. 5; Parker Foundation, "How Well Educated is Your Chiropractor?"

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Questions? Call the Office of Admissions:

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