Chiropractor

Overview

Chiropractic care (also simply "chiropractic") is a health care discipline which emphasizes the inherent power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery. It focuses on the relationship between the body's structure (primarily the spine) and function (as coordinated by the nervous system) and how that relationship affects the preservation and restoration of health. When appropriate, doctors of chiropractic work in cooperation with the patient's other health care practitioners.

Chiropractic doctors diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems. Chiropractors believe that interference with these systems can impair normal functioning, cause pain, and lower resistance to disease. They are most well known for the hands-on technique they practice to adjust imbalances in the patient's skeletal system, particularly the spine.

The chiropractic approach to healthcare is holistic, stressing the patient's overall health and wellness. It recognizes that many factors affect health, including exercise, diet, rest, environment, and heredity.

Working Conditions

Chiropractors work in clean, comfortable offices. They spend a great deal of time on their feet and practice using hands-on manipulation techniques to resolve imbalances in the patient's skeletal system. The average workweek is 40 hours, although longer hours are not uncommon. Solo practitioners set their own hours, but may work evenings or weekends on order to accommodate their patients.

Academic Requirements

Most chiropractic medicine programs require that applicants have at least 3 years of undergraduate education, and an increasing number require a bachelor's degree. In either case, your undergraduate studies must include a prescribed number of prerequisite courses, as defined by the field's accrediting body, the Council on Chiropractic Education (http://www.cce-usa.org/).

Accredited chiropractic medicine programs last 4 years and lead to a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree. The standard curriculum covers:

- anatomy
- biochemistry
- physiology
- microbiology
- pathology
- public health
- physical, clinical and laboratory diagnosis
- gynecology & obstetrics
- pediatrics
- geriatrics
- dermatology
- otolaryngology
- diagnostic imaging procedures
- psychology
- nutrition/dietetics
- biomechanics
- orthopedics
- neurology
first aid and emergency procedures
spinal analysis
principles and practice of chiropractic
clinical decision making
adjustive techniques
research methods and procedures
professional practice ethics

For a list of accredited chiropractic medicine programs, see the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (http://www.chirocolleges.org/collegest.html) website.

Professional Associations
Association of Chiropractic Colleges (http://www.chirocolleges.org/)
American Chiropractic Association (http://www.chirocolleges.org/)

Funding Opportunities
Search for funding opportunities in this field (http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

Enrichment Programs
Search for enrichment programs in this field (http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

Source
www.chirocolleges.org

Learn more about this field:

Average Salary: $90,000
Years in school: 7 - 8 *
Job outlook: Excellent
* after high school graduation