



In Canada, chiropractors require a minimum of seven years post-secondary education. Following the completion of the prerequisite post-secondary education specified by each chiropractic educational institution, chiropractic students complete a four to five year (4,500 hour) classroom and clinical program from an accredited chiropractic college.

Doctors of Chiropractic, like physicians, are educated and trained to diagnose, as well as treat disorders and conditions. Chiropractors focus on neuromusculoskeletal diagnosis and treatment. They are trained to diagnose, provide chiropractic care and consult with or refer to other health care providers when necessary.

Specific education and training in accredited chiropractic colleges varies slightly from school to school, but it typically includes courses in:

- anatomy,
- physiology,
- disease pathology,
- biochemistry,
- neurology,
- histology,
- radiology,
- immunology,
- microbiology,
- clinical sciences,
- body mechanics and
- nutrition.

These courses provide students with a firm understanding of body processes in good health and when disease is present.



Clinical training includes a lengthy internship program and provides knowledge in areas such as

- systems diagnosis and treatment protocols
- specialized training in chiropractic, including theoretical studies, practice, diagnosis and application
- education in therapeutic techniques including palpation and instruction on how to adjust the spine and body joints.

The two-year clinical internship conducting treatments on patients are completed during the last two years of study and make up more than 600 course hours. The majority of the internship period is focused on spinal adjustments.

Following successful completion of the education component, chiropractors who want to work in Alberta must complete the registration requirements.

ACAC registration requirements include passing national board exams. Once registered, chiropractors must remain an active ACAC member (by completing a certain number of hours in practice) and maintain professional competency by attending seminars and courses to keep up-to-date with new treatment options, research and patient care.

When you see a chiropractor, you can be confident that you are in the hands of a well-qualified health care professional.