

**MEDICAL PROFESSIONS  
ADVISEMENT**



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

# **PRE-CHIROPRACTIC GUIDE**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

50,300

jobs in 2019

54,000

jobs projected in 2029

## MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE

\$70,340

in 2020

for more information, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm>

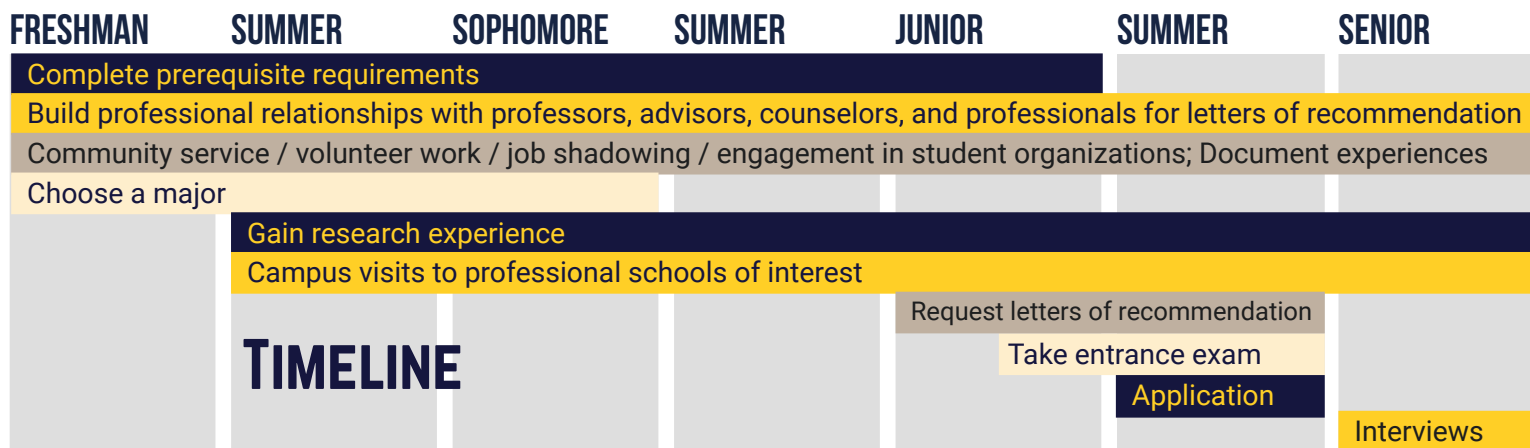
The Pre-Chiropractic track at East Tennessee State University prepares students for application to a four-year Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree program. Students may apply after the completion of at least 60-90 credit hours. The majority of states, however, require the completion of a bachelor's degree to practice chiropractic care.

## CAREERS IN CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

Chiropractors treat patients with health problems of the musculoskeletal system, which is made up of bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons. They use spinal manipulation and other techniques to treat patients' ailments, such as back or neck pain.

The aging of the large baby boomer generation will lead to new opportunities for chiropractors because older adults are more likely to experience musculoskeletal and joint problems.

In addition to operating a general chiropractic practice, some chiropractors specialize in sports injuries, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, nutrition, internal disorders, or diagnostic imaging.



## ADVISEMENT

### PRE-CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE IS NOT A MAJOR.

Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) which supports your life goals by the time you earn 60 credit hours. The major should be a subject that interests you. You do not need to major in a science as long as the required science classes have been completed prior to application for chiropractic school.

We strongly recommend you meet with your MPA counselor and major advisor each term before registering for the following semester. Students who receive scholarships or participate in specialized ETSU programs (such as athletics or Honors College programs) must also seek advisement from those departments. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors (e.g., failure to graduate on time, missing appropriate courses to prepare for the GRE, etc.).



**MPA COUNSELOR CONTACT**  
 Medical Professions Advisement Office  
 423-439-5602

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET INTO CHIROPRACTIC SCHOOL?

## MINIMUM GPA - 3.0

The Council on Chiropractic Education has initiated a requirement of a 3.0 cumulative GPA for admission.

## ENTRANCE EXAM

Many schools do not require an exam for admission, so it is the responsibility of the student to research school(s) of choice to determine application requirements.

### CORE PREPARATION COURSES

Different schools may have varying prerequisite requirements. It is up to the student to research and ensure the required courses are completed before application to the preferred school(s) of interest.

Biology	8 hours	BIOL 1110/1111, BIOL 1120/1121
General Chemistry	8 hours	CHEM 1110/1111, CHEM 1120/1121
Organic Chemistry	10 hours	CHEM 2010/2011, CHEM 2020/2021
Physics	8 hours	PHYS 2010/2011, PHYS 2020/2021
English	6 hours	ENGL 1010, 1020
Psychology	3 hours	PSYC 1310
Social Sciences/Humanities	15 hours	

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES

Human Anatomy	4 hours	HSCI 3000
Human Physiology	4 hours	HSCI 3020
Probability and Statistics	3 hours	MATH 1530
Medical Terminology	3 hours	COBH 2750
Exercise Physiology	3 hours	PEXS 3610

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to apply to chiropractic school, students must have completed 60 - 90 credit hours (determined by schools). It is strongly recommended that the student complete a bachelor's degree, as this is a requirement for an increasing number of chiropractic programs. The majority of states require the completion of a bachelor's degree to practice chiropractic care. Students must have completed all of the prerequisite classes with a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better by application.

Chiropractic schools vary on application deadlines, with many of them accepting applications year-round and matriculating two to three times per year. Students apply to the majority of chiropractic schools through the individual school websites. Generally, two to three letters of recommendation are required; some schools require a letter from a licensed chiropractor. Please check with your school of interest to determine application processes and requirements.

## PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

A student must also possess the following abilities, with or without reasonable accommodation, for completion of most programs:

- Ability to use both upper extremities in the performance of common chiropractic procedures and techniques, including but not limited to: positioning patients, palpating, feeling with hands, pushing, pulling, thrusting with hands and wrists, grasping, and lifting up to 10 pounds
- Ability to determine depth and intensity of manual pressure and force, as applied in the performance of common chiropractic and adjunctive procedures and techniques.

# SUGGESTED 2-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR PRE-CHIROPRACTIC STUDENTS

## FRESHMAN

### Fall

CHEM 1110/11  
BIOL 1110/11  
MATH 1720/1910  
ENGL 1010  
PREH 1350

### Spring

CHEM 1120/21  
BIOL 1120/21  
ENGL 1020  
ELECTIVE  
ELECTIVE

## SOPHOMORE

### Fall

CHEM 2010/11  
PHYS 2010/11  
SPCH\*  
PSYC 1310  
ELECTIVE

### Spring

CHEM 2020/21  
PHYS 2020/21  
ELECTIVE  
ELECTIVE  
ELECTIVE

Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours per semester

\* Consult your MPA counselor before choosing a speech course

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**WE HAVE 15+ PRE-HEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE 250+ AT ETSU**

### **AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (AMSA)**

AMSA is committed to involving its members in the social, moral, and ethical obligations of the profession of medicine. This group also provides opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer activities and assists students with job shadowing for graduate and professional schools.

### **ALPHA EPSILON DELTA HONOR SOCIETY (AED)**

AED functions as a health pre-professional honor society encouraging excellence in scholarship. It emphasizes the importance of health education and promotes cooperation and contact among professionals.



**Please visit Student Activities and Organizations to find an organization that best fits your goals.**

[etsucampuslabs.com/engage/organizations](https://etsucampuslabs.com/engage/organizations)

**Council on Chiropractic Education**

[www.cce-usa.org](http://www.cce-usa.org)

**The Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)**

[www.chirocolleges.org](http://www.chirocolleges.org)

**The American Chiropractic Association (ACA)**

[www.acatoday.org](http://www.acatoday.org)

## WHAT CAN I BE DOING NOW TO STRENGTHEN MY APPLICATION TO CHIROPRACTIC SCHOOL?

**RELATED EXPERIENCE** Students are encouraged to explore the chiropractic field either through employment or as a volunteer. Chiropractic schools want to know that a student has worked in the field, observed what is involved, and still has the desire to continue in that profession. Students should gain as much experience as possible without sacrificing grades.

**EXTRACURRICULARS** The admissions committees of chiropractic schools are interested in seeing a range of extracurricular activities, especially those demanding a significant leadership role. Students should demonstrate their ability to balance full academic schedules with extracurricular involvement on and off campus and/or through employment opportunities. ETSU has many organizations that students can join. Students should visit the SAO or [www.etsu.edu/students/sao/](http://www.etsu.edu/students/sao/) for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization. You must demonstrate leadership!

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE** Chiropractic schools are looking for candidates who demonstrate a commitment to service. Students should seek volunteer projects that focus on giving back to the community.

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE** Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence; therefore email addresses should be appropriate for professional communication. Messages and images sent electronically are reflections of judgment and potential suitability for professional careers. Inappropriate behaviors shared through an accessible venue can be viewed and shared by anyone and may compromise your admission to professional school.

## WATCH WHAT YOU POST!



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**