The Pre-Chiropractic Medicine program of study 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 90 credit hours. The majority of states, however, require the completion of a bachelor’s degree to practice chiropractic medicine.

**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.

**Pre-chiropractic medicine is not a major.** Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) 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 chiropractic school. Students should speak with an MPA advisor before/when declaring a major.

You must meet with your advisor each semester. You are required to meet with your pre-professional and major advisors each term before registering for the next. Students who receive scholarships, 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.).
What does it take to get into chiropractic school?

Minimum GPA

In order to apply to chiropractic school, students must have completed 90 credit hours. 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 medicine. Students must have completed all of the prerequisite classes with a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better.

Chiropractic schools vary on application deadlines, with many of them accepting applications year-round. Students will apply to the majority of chiropractic schools through the individual school websites. Sixteen chiropractic schools currently participate in ChiroCAS, the Chiropractic Centralized Application Service. The website is http://portal.chirocas.org. Generally, two to three letters of recommendation are required. One must be from a licensed chiropractor. Please check with your school of interest to determine application processes and 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

Entrance Exam

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

### Core Preparation Courses *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>BIOL 1110/1111, BIOL 1120/1121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>CHEM 1110/1111, CHEM 1120/1121</td>
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<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CHEM 2010/2011, CHEM 2020/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>PHYS 2010/2011, PHYS 2020/2021</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PSYC 1310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences/Humanities</td>
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### Additional Recommended Courses #

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HSCI 3020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probability and Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COBH 2750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PEXS 3610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Different schools may have different 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.

#Students are also encouraged to take courses in Business Administration, Marketing, and Management.

### Suggested two-year schedule for pre-chiropractic students

**Freshman**

- **Fall**
  - CHEM 1110/11
  - BIOL 1110/11
  - MATH Gen Ed
  - 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 advisor before choosing a speech course

The Council on Chiropractic Education has initiated a requirement of a 3.0 cumulative GPA for admission.
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 SORC located on the first floor of the Culp center or www.etsu.edu/sorc for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization; you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

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

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE** Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence and 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!**

Cover illustration by William Cheselden. First published in Osteographia, or The anatomy of the bones, 1733.