



How to Become a Chiropractor in California

1. Is Chiropractic the right career for you?

- a. Chiropractors treat patients with health problems of the neuromusculoskeletal system, which includes nerves, bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons. To learn more about the field of chiropractic click [HERE!](#)
- b. You can also learn more about similar occupations to the chiropractic field by clicking [HERE](#) and/or take a healthcare career assessment to see if there are other areas of the medical field that may also interest you by clicking [HERE](#).

2. Educational Pathways to Apply to a Doctor of Chiropractic Program:

- a. **STUDENTS WITHOUT A BACHELOR'S DEGREE:** A total of 90 semester (135 quarter) hours of undergraduate coursework with an earned cumulative grade point average of 3.0 GPA is required. It is strongly recommended that non-degree seeking students complete at least 24 semester (36 quarter) hours of life and physical sciences, with half of the science credits having corresponding labs. To meet science criteria, reference the recommended courses for each college below.
- b. **STUDENTS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE:** A degree in a pre-health discipline such as pre-med, exercise science, kinesiology, nursing, or a similar program; or a life science degree such as biology or chemistry, along with an earned cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, typically meets the primary academic criteria to apply TO a Doctor of Chiropractic program.

3. Which universities or colleges offer my major:

- a. To become a Chiropractor, you must obtain a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from a board-approved college. For a list of these colleges, go to the board's website by clicking [HERE!](#)
- b. There are only three colleges in California that are on the board-approved list (hyperlinks below will take you directly to each colleges admissions requirements):
 - [Life Chiropractic College West in Hayward, CA](#)
 - [Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, CA](#)
 - [Southern California University of Health Science in Whittier, CA](#)

4. Meet with a Counselor:

- a. It is important to meet with a counselor to ensure that you are taking the correct courses to meet the admissions criteria for the colleges that you are interested in applying to. Make sure to meet with your counselor regularly, at least once per semester.



It is highly recommended that you book an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center and attend as many workshops as possible. You can contact the Transfer & Career Center by emailing transfer@barstow.edu or click [HERE](#) to watch a short video on how to schedule an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center through College Central Network.

You should also meet with your Counselor consistently to establish career/educational goals and to stay on track with completing your certificate and/or degree. You can schedule an appointment with a counselor by logging into your Viking Portal and clicking "Schedule a Counseling Appointment"; select "Transfer" as the appointment reason or click [HERE](#) to watch a short video on How to Schedule a Counseling Appointment.

- **Attend Information Sessions** for the schools and/or programs you are interested in. You can visit the school website or email the school, department, or representative/advisor to see when there will be an information session.
- **Gather Important Information** such as cost per unit, length of program, and estimated total cost of completing the entire program. Use this information to compare universities and make your decision as to which universities you want to apply to. It is recommended that you apply to 3-4 universities.
- **Check for Application Fee Waivers** by inquiring with university advisors/representatives. Almost all universities have an application fee waiver process, especially for low-income students. In addition, the [CSU](#) and [UC](#) admissions applications has the fee waiver criteria built into the application in order to make it an automated process.
- **Stay Organized** by keeping all the information you collect in an easily accessible place such as a Word document or bookmark important websites on your computer.
- **Don't Miss a Deadline** or you might live to regret it! Keep track of the application deadlines for each school. The CSU's and UC's Fall applications are from October-November. Spring Applications are between May-August.