

Chiropractor

■ Job Description

Doctors of Chiropractic are primary health care providers who practice their healing art through non-drug, non-surgical means. They believe that the relationship between the structure and function of the human body is significant; spinal manipulation by way of chiropractic adjustments corrects disturbances of the nervous system caused by derangement of the musculoskeletal structure. Therapies used by the chiropractor in conjunction with spinal manipulation include physiotherapy, acupuncture, and nutrition counseling. Diagnostic techniques include taking a patient history, routine exams, x-ray, and lab tests. Many chiropractors specialize in areas such as low back problems, pain control, nutrition, allergies, and industrial or athletic injuries.

■ Job Settings

Chiropractors typically work in private offices and clinics. About 67 % of chiropractors are self-employed.

■ Projected Need

Nationally, employment of chiropractors is expected to increase faster than average through the year 2010. In Illinois, average employment growth is expected. An increase in the coverage of chiropractic services by Medicare and insurance companies has increased the demand for chiropractic care. In addition, increased public awareness of alternative medical treatments has contributed to the growth in demand for these services. Graduates of training programs can expect to face keen competition for jobs, however, opportunities should be good in areas where there are few chiropractors currently in practice.

In Illinois there were 1,530 people employed in this small occupation in 2000.

■ Salaries

In chiropractic, as in other types of independent practice, earnings are low in the beginning, and increase as the practice grows. Nationally, the median wage for chiropractors is \$32.89 per hour. According to the American Chiropractic Association, average income for all chiropractors is around \$81,500 per year after expenses.

■ Related Careers

The following careers are considered alternatives because they require similar academic backgrounds for entrance into the professional programs: podiatry, optometry, allopathic medicine, veterinary medicine, osteopathy, and dentistry. Other professions that diagnose and treat injuries are occupational therapists and physical therapists.

■ Differences in Training

The only chiropractic school in Illinois is the National University of Health Sciences in Lombard. To obtain a list of other schools, write to the American Chiropractic Association or to the Council on Chiropractic Education.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/login.asp>

[Chiropractic](#)

■ Credentials

To gain licensure in Illinois, students must complete two years of pre-professional chiropractic study, graduate from an accredited chiropractic college and pass exams conducted by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

■ Advanced Training

There are postgraduate courses available in roentgenology, orthopedics, nutrition, and advanced technique. Such advanced coursework allows individuals to enter teaching or private consultation.

■ Resources

American Chiropractic Association
1701 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 800.986.4636
E-mail: memberinfo@amerchiro.org
<http://www.amerchiro.org>
Click on "Patient Information" then on "Education/Careers."

The American Chiropractic Association offers a number of scholarships to student members of the ACA who are enrolled in one of the chiropractic colleges.

International Chiropractors Association

1110 N. Glebe Road, Suite 1000

Arlington, VA 22201-5722

Phone: 800.423.4690

E-mail: chiro@chiropractic.org

<http://www.chiropractic.org>

Council on Chiropractic Education

8049 North 85th Way

Scottsdale, AZ 85258-4321

Phone: 480.443.8877

E-mail: cce@cce-usa.org

<http://www.cce-usa.org>

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Illinois Chiropractic Society

1143 S. Spring Street

P.O. Box 9448

Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 800.424.0121

E-mail: ics@ilchiro.org

<http://www.ilchiro.org>