

WESTERN STATES CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

INSTITUTIONAL MISSION POLICY

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Western States Chiropractic College  
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## WESTERN STATES CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICY

A DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC is a physician concerned with the health needs of the public as a member of the healing arts. He/she gives particular attention to the relationship of the structural and neurological aspects of the body in health and disease. Chiropractic science concerns itself with the relationship between structure, primarily the spine, and function, primarily coordinated by the nervous system, of the human body as that relationship may affect the restoration and preservation of health. He/she is educated in the basic and clinical sciences as well as in related health subjects.

The purpose of his/her professional education is to prepare the doctor of chiropractic as a primary health care provider. As a portal of entry to the health delivery system, the chiropractic physician must be well educated to diagnose, including, but not limited to, spinal analysis, to care for the human body in health and disease, to consult with, or refer to, other health care providers.

Chiropractic education should produce people capable of maintaining and improving upon the quality of practice. This implies an open mind and a spirit of inquiry, but also an accompanying careful and scientific discrimination between effective methods and practices and those for which no sound and reproducible evidence of success exists.

The purpose of the curriculum is to give the student a thorough understanding of the structure and function of the human organism in health and disease, providing the basis for the diagnosis of disease and its treatment within the parameters of chiropractic science.

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION

Western States Chiropractic College has long maintained a commitment to broad scope chiropractic practice. The institution provides instruction in chiropractic services allowed by statute in most states and provinces, and attempts, through its course of study, to qualify its graduates for licensure in all jurisdictions in which chiropractic is recognized.

The scope of practice for chiropractic education at Western States includes core chiropractic, physiological therapies, nutrition, and other procedures provided by statute, including minor surgery. Core chiropractic in this context means "any professional service usually performed by a chiropractor, the aim of which is to restore and maintain health, and includes: the diagnostics, treatment, and prophylaxis of functional disturbances, pathomechanical states, pain syndromes, and neurophysiological effects related to the statics and dynamics of the locomotor system" [European Chiropractic Union, 1974]; the treatment thereof by adjustment and/or manipulations; counseling, with the realization that emotional, sociological, and environmental stresses are a significant cause of nerve interference; and the use of x-ray for diagnostic purposes.

## PHILOSOPHY OF CHIROPRACTIC

The philosophy of chiropractic is that the human body is endowed with certain inherent qualities which provide for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of health, of which the nervous system is a major integrating force. It is reasoned that when the normal nervous system function is altered, disease processes may develop.

## CHIROPRACTIC DOMAIN

There are disorders of a neuromusculoskeletal nature in which chiropractic care has shown outstanding results. There are functional disorders such as certain types of headaches, asthma, allergies, neuralgias, digestive disturbances, and other dysfunctions where clinical results are most encouraging, but further research is needed to define more accurately the scientific principles involved. And there are those pathological states for which chiropractic therapy has been rarely involved, yet remain open to research and clinical study by all the healing arts until an adequate solution is found.

Chiropractic is a science. As a science it must be left open-ended with discretion. As any science, chiropractic can only say in relation to the above three categories of clinical concern that 1] this we know to be fact; 2] this we believe and must prove to be fact; and 3] this is the unknown, which must be made known. (Shafer, R.C., 1976]

## GENERAL PURPOSES

Western States Chiropractic College exists to:

- 1] Provide a quality education in chiropractic for an undergraduate student to secure a fundamental knowledge of the basic, chiropractic, behavioral, and clinical sciences and their application to health problems.
- 2] Provide opportunities for selected graduate students to pursue studies in particular specialized fields concerned with support roles in the practice of chiropractic.
- 3] Provide means by which extensive education can be made available to the profession of chiropractic to aid its members in maintaining competency and quality of practice.
- 4] Provide facilities, funds, and encouragement for research in those areas which relate to the art, science, and practice of chiropractic.
- 5] Provide opportunities for motivated graduates to pursue studies in the teacher-scientist role in an effort to perpetuate the system.

## INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Western States Chiropractic College endeavors to fashion a climate for learning which will:

- 1] Endow the student with knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and professional and ethical principles basic to a career in chiropractic;
- 2] Instill a desire and capacity for continuing self-education;
- 3] Make the student constructively critical of all s/he sees, hears, or reads, so that s/he may adopt the valid;
- 4] Instill in the student a determination to provide conscientious care with scientific and clinical excellence without losing a sense of compassion and sympathetic understanding;
- 5] Make the student aware of the function and the need for cooperation with other health, welfare, and educational agencies in the community available to assist her/him in caring for her/his patients;
- 6] Make the student aware of her/his responsibilities, not only to the individual patient but also to the community at large, in terms of the socioeconomic and cultural setting in which chiropractic practice is carried on;
- 7] Urge the student to develop a personal lifestyle consistent with the principles leading to health of the whole person.

Western States Chiropractic College continually monitors its curriculum to ensure that it:

- 1] Presents an orderly integrated progression of relevant information, knowledge, and skills.
- 2] Emphasizes the interdependence of the biological, behavioral, chiropractic, and clinical sciences.
- 3] Recognizes the variations of prechiropractic backgrounds, individual interest of students and choices of future careers in chiropractic.
- 4] Produces a doctor effectively educated in terms of the professed philosophy and objectives of the faculty.
- 5] Presents the teaching function in such a way that the teaching faculty are able to continue effectively their scholarly pursuits and research.
- 6] Is organized so that changes in faculty or curricular policy are addressed in such a manner as to ensure stability.

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course leading to the doctor of chiropractic degree, the student should demonstrate the following:

- 1] An understanding and relating of fundamental scientific information to the pathophysiology of the spine and related anatomical structures.
- 2] An understanding of how normal and abnormal spinal mechanics relate to the rest of the body.
- 3] A willingness to accept responsibility for the patient's welfare.
- 4] Ability to establish satisfactory relationships with patients.
- 5] Skill in gathering and recording clinical information.
- 6] Competence in using laboratory and x-ray in diagnosis and management of disorders of spinal origin.
- 7] Competence in establishing a diagnosis.
- 8] Competence in treatment.
- 9] Judgment in deciding on appropriate care, be it his/her own, in consultation with other professionals, or by referral to other professionals.
- 10] Competence in providing continuing care.

- 11] Understanding of the importance of and the techniques in preventative chiropractic.
- 12] Acceptance of the responsibilities of a chiropractor.
- 13] Acquisition and development of communicative skills.

### SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Each course carries specific instructional objectives, developed by faculty and contained within course syllabi and/or course outlines distributed to students.

In addition, Western States Chiropractic College has instituted both junior and senior clinic exit examinations which require that the intern show certain specific competencies deemed essential to the science, art, and practice of chiropractic by the College faculty and the Clinical Quality Assurance Committee of the Council on Chiropractic Education.

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