



Released for: **Logan College of Chiropractic**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Thomas F. Keller, Logan College
Associate VP of Public Relations,
636-227-2100 or 314-680-2600
Thomas.Keller@Logan.edu

Backgrounder

THE CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSION

- After medicine and dentistry, chiropractic has become the third-largest, doctoral-level health care profession in the United States.
- According to the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB), there are more than 65,000 active chiropractic licenses in the United States and 90,000 internationally.
- Doctors of chiropractic are licensed in all 50 states and in every province in Canada.
- Chiropractic is recognized and licensed in 67 countries around the world.
- In national surveys, patients favor chiropractic over medical care for back or neck pain.
- Over the past 40 years, the chiropractic profession has significantly increased its standards for accreditation and review of curricula at chiropractic colleges and universities around the nation.
- Doctors of chiropractic undergo at least four (4) years of professional study. *The Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE)*, an agency certified by the U.S. Department of Education, currently recognizes 15 chiropractic programs at 18 different locations.

Doctors of chiropractic must pass national board examinations and become licensed by the state(s) in which they practice.

- The minimum number of hours required for CCE accreditation is 4,200. (Individual chiropractic educational institutions range from 4,400 to 5,200 hours.)
- Medicare, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Veterans Administration and most private health insurance plans now include chiropractic care under their health care coverage.

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- In 2002, approximately 7.4 percent of the U.S. population used chiropractic care – a higher percentage than yoga, massage, acupuncture or other diet-based therapies.
- Conditions commonly treated by doctors of chiropractic include, but are not limited to, back pain, neck pain, headaches, sports injuries, motor vehicle accidents and repetitive strains. Patients also seek treatment of pain associated with other conditions, such as arthritis.
- Some 70 to 85 percent of Americans report back pain at some time in their lives.
- Back pain is the most frequent cause of activity limitation in people younger than 45 years of age.
- Back pain is the fifth most common reason for all physician visits in the U.S.
- One-half of all working Americans admit to having back pain syndromes each year.
- According to the *American Chiropractic Association*, more than 35 percent of patients receiving chiropractic care were being treated for mid- or low-back pain, and almost 20 percent were being treated for neck pain. More than have those surveyed reported that their symptoms were chronic.

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rev. 7/11