University of Pittsburgh
Doctor of Chiropractic Program

Technical Standards

The University of Pittsburgh Chiropractic Program will consider for admission those applicants who have the academic, technical, and physical qualifications for successful completion of the program and the future safe and ethical practice of chiropractic medicine. Chiropractic students must possess the necessary sensory, motor, communicative, and cognitive capabilities to accomplish these requirements in a reliable manner and become competent and safe practitioners.

Graduates of the University of Pittsburgh Chiropractic program are expected to have a broad competence in the basic skills underlying the general practice of chiropractic. All graduates must be able to conduct an assessment of history, complete a physical examination, and synthesize the findings into a diagnosis and plan for evaluation and treatment. This must be accomplished independently without the aid of an intermediary.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have a personal assessment of their abilities and to realistically consider if they have the capacity to perform in this rigorous academic environment and if they meet these technical standards.

Disability identification is voluntary and confidential. The University of Pittsburgh offers academic support accommodations for qualified, eligible students with disabilities. Please contact our Office of Disability Resources and Services at 412-648-7890 for information regarding eligibility requirements and deadlines that will ensure accommodation, which may require extended preparation time for the beginning of the semester.

The University of Pittsburgh Chiropractic faculty have established the following technical and physical qualifications for admission to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program.

- **Observation:** Students in this program must have the ability to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. Vision must be sufficient to identify histology, cytology, microbiology, and pathology of structures using a microscope. The candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately and to view all forms of diagnostic imaging.

- **Communication:** Students must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communication. Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with faculty, staff, fellow students, and patients. Students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with all members of the health care team in both oral and written form.

- **MotorCoordination/Function:** Because the practice of chiropractic centers around the delivery of manual therapies, the student must possess the strength, flexibility, endurance, and ability to stand, squat, lunge, and use all limbs in a coordinated fashion. Additionally, students must possess sufficient motor function to elicit patient information through palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers.

- **Intellectual Abilities:** Chiropractors are required to think critically and solve problems. Students must be skilled in measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Students should possess the capacity to visualize and comprehend the three-dimensional and spatial relationships of structures.

- **Social and Behavioral Attributes:** Students must have the emotional health to engage in the academic and clinical program, exercise good judgment, and complete all responsibilities required for the diagnosis and care of patients, including the development of mature, effective, and sensitive relationships with patients. Students must be able to tolerate physically demanding workloads and to function effectively in stressful situations. Students must be adaptable to changing environments, and capable of functioning in the face of the uncertainties inherent in clinical decision-making and patient/client care. Students must possess empathy, integrity, concern for others, strong interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation.