

TROY UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Chiropractic Program

ACADEMIC CATALOG

College of Health Sciences

Troy University
Troy, Alabama 36082
www.troy.edu/dcp

Purpose

The Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program (Troy DCP) prepares graduates to serve as competent, ethical, and evidence-informed doctors of chiropractic who are equipped to meet the healthcare needs of diverse patient populations — with particular clinical education emphasis on rural communities, veterans and tactical service personnel, individuals with chronic musculoskeletal conditions, and patients with human performance considerations.

The Troy DCP is housed within the College of Health Sciences and is designed to be fully compliant with the Accreditation Standards of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) and the academic policies of Troy University. The program leads to the Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree.

Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Mission

The mission of the Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program is to educate, train, and graduate highly competent doctors of chiropractic who provide evidence-informed, patient-centered care through a curriculum grounded in clinical excellence, professional ethics, and service. The Troy DCP is committed to advancing chiropractic care within interprofessional health systems, with particular dedication to the underserved, veterans, and those pursuing optimal health and performance.

Vision

The Troy DCP aspires to be a nationally recognized leader in chiropractic education — distinguished by exceptional board examination performance, a veteran- and community-focused integrated health clinic, innovative integration of human performance science, and a commitment to producing practitioners who are as comfortable serving rural Alabama communities as they are collaborating within interprofessional health systems.

Core Values

- Clinical Excellence — We hold graduates to the highest standards of diagnostic and clinical performance, preparing students who consistently exceed national NBCE benchmarks.
- Evidence-Informed Practice — We ground clinical instruction in peer-reviewed science and outcome data, preparing students to reason from evidence rather than convention.
- Service and Access — We are committed to advancing healthcare access for our wiregrass community including our rural communities, veterans, active military, and tactical service personnel.
- Integrity and Professionalism — We cultivate ethical, principled practice through deliberate instruction in professionalism, jurisprudence, informed consent, and patient-centered care values.
- Holistic and Integrative Care — We prepare practitioners who see the whole person — integrating chiropractic care with rehabilitation, nutrition, human performance, and interprofessional collaboration.
- Continuous Improvement — We engage in systematic outcomes assessment and quality improvement to ensure the program grows in alignment with the best available evidence and the evolving needs of communities we serve.

Expected Program Outcomes

Graduates of the Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program will demonstrate competency in the following program-level outcomes, aligned with the CCE Clinical Education Meta-Competencies and the NBCE examination test plans:

Outcome 1 — Biomedical Knowledge

Graduates will demonstrate comprehensive understanding of human structure and function, including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathophysiology, and microbiology, as the scientific foundation for clinical decision-making.

Outcome 2 — Patient Assessment and Diagnosis

Graduates will demonstrate competency in patient history-taking, physical and orthopedic examination, diagnostic imaging interpretation, laboratory correlation, and evidence-informed differential diagnosis across general systemic and specific musculoskeletal health conditions.

Outcome 3 — Clinical Performance Care

Graduates will demonstrate competency leveraging our broad scope of interventional care including chiropractic adjustment and manipulation technique, physiotherapeutic modalities, therapeutic exercise, and evidence-informed rehabilitation programming.

Outcome 4 — Clinical Decision-Making and Case Management

Graduates will demonstrate competency in developing evidence-informed treatment plans, monitoring patient outcomes, managing the continuum of chiropractic care, and making appropriate referral and co-management decisions.

Outcome 5 — Professional Practice and Ethics

Graduates will demonstrate ethical professional behavior, knowledge of chiropractic law and regulatory standards across jurisdictions, and readiness for practice within contemporary healthcare environments.

Outcome 6 — Communication and Interprofessional Collaboration

Graduates will demonstrate effective therapeutic communication with patients and families, accurate clinical documentation, and the ability to collaborate within interprofessional healthcare teams including medical physicians, nurses, physical therapists, athletic trainers, and other allied health professionals.

Outcome 7 — Evidence-Based and Scholarly Practice

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate scientific literature, apply research evidence to clinical decision-making, and contribute to the scholarly knowledge base of the chiropractic profession.

Outcome 8 — Holistic, Integrative, and Performance-Oriented Care

Graduates will demonstrate competency in applying human performance science, nutrition, lifestyle medicine, and integrative health principles to chiropractic patient care — particularly for veteran, tactical service, athletic, and rural health patient populations.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Troy DCP, graduates will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations, basic sciences, clinical sciences, and professional practice inherent to chiropractic care.
- Apply effective communication and professional management skills at the individual, interprofessional, and community levels.
- Critically address clinical and psychosocial challenges and make optimal, evidence-informed patient care decisions.
- Apply ethical principles in healthcare and business settings.

- Provide patient-centered, holistic chiropractic care integrating clinical performance science, rehabilitation, nutrition, and general wellness.
- Demonstrate clinical competency in the care of veterans, tactical service personnel, rural health patients, individuals with chronic musculoskeletal conditions, and performance-focused populations.
- Critically evaluate scientific literature and apply evidence-based practice principles to patient care and professional development.

Admissions

Requirements

All applicants to the Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program must satisfy the following minimum requirements for consideration for admission:

Minimum Baccalaureate Degree

Troy University requires a minimum of a baccalaureate degree for admission to the Troy DCP. This requirement, combined with the minimum GPA threshold below, is directly supported by published research identifying pre-chiropractic academic achievement as the most significant predictor of in-program performance and NBCE success. Enrollment in an undergraduate program at the time of application is permissible; however, the degree must be formally conferred before the applicant's program start date. No specific major is required.

Minimum Grade Point Average

Applicants must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, based on all coursework as reflected on official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. Strong candidates will typically demonstrate a competitive GPA above this threshold.

Science Prerequisite Coursework

Because the science preparation of applicants varies significantly based on undergraduate major, the Troy DCP requires confirmation of completed science prerequisites prior to matriculation. All prerequisite courses must have been completed at an accredited institution with a grade of 3.0/4.0 or higher and must appear on an official transcript submitted to Troy Admissions.

Coursework completed more than seven (7) years prior to the intended date of matriculation may be subject to review by the Admissions Committee, which may require evidence of currency or recommend remediation before enrollment.

Required Course	Troy University Equivalent	Notes
3 credits — Finite, Pre-Calculus Algebra, Calculus, or Trigonometry	MTH 1110 or 1112 (3cr)	Or equivalent from any accredited institution
4 credits — General Chemistry I with Laboratory	CHM 1142 (3cr) / CHM L142 (1cr)	Or equivalent from any accredited institution
4 credits — Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Laboratory	BIO 3347 (3cr) / BIO L347 (1cr) —or— BIO 2230 (3cr) / BIO L230 (1cr)	Or equivalent from any accredited institution
4 credits — Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Laboratory	BIO 2240 (3cr) / BIO L240 (1cr)	Or equivalent from any accredited institution
4 credits — Additional Life Sciences (kinesiology, biomechanics, exercise physiology, nutrition, physics, biology, genetics, immunology, etc.)	KIN 4429 (3cr) or EXP 4430 (3cr) + EXP L430 (1cr)	Or equivalent from any accredited institution

CLEP examinations do not satisfy prerequisite requirements. Total Required Science Prerequisites: 19 credit hours minimum

Applicants who have not completed one or more prerequisite courses at the time of application may be considered for conditional admission, provided all prerequisites are completed and official transcripts are received no later than 60 days prior to matriculation. Conditionally admitted students who fail to satisfy prerequisite requirements by the established deadline will have their admission offer rescinded.

Test Requirements

No Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or standardized admissions test is required for admission to the Troy DCP.

Application Deadlines

The Troy DCP operates on a rolling admissions basis, consistent with Troy University's other doctoral programs. The application deadline for our Fall start is May 1. The application deadline for our Spring start is September 1. Applicants are encouraged to apply early, as seats are limited and offered on a rolling basis.

Application Materials

All applicants must submit a complete application through Troy Admissions comprising the following materials:

- Completed Troy Admissions application form.
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended, submitted directly to Troy Admissions.
- Personal statement (maximum 500 words) addressing the applicant's motivation for pursuing chiropractic, relevant life and professional experiences, and personal qualities that support success in a clinical doctoral program.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from a Doctor of Chiropractic or licensed healthcare professional who can attest to the applicant's aptitude and preparation for clinical training.
- OPTIONAL — Documentation of healthcare or chiropractic observation experience (encouraged to support your application, but not required as a hard threshold; self-reported on the application form).

Doctoral Admissions Committee

Admissions decisions are made through a holistic review process by the Troy DCP Doctoral Admissions Committee. Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. The Committee considers the totality of each applicant's record, including academic achievement, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and (optional) evidence of healthcare experience. The Committee may request an interview at its discretion.

Additional Admissions Conditions

In addition to the requirements above, admitted students must satisfy the following conditions prior to or upon matriculation:

- Submission of a completed criminal background check as directed by the Troy DCP upon acceptance. A criminal record does not automatically disqualify an applicant; records are reviewed individually in accordance with Troy University policy. This background check is also required by the Alabama State Board of Chiropractic Examiners to perform Extern duties.
- Compliance with Troy University's clinical participation health and immunization requirements, as established by the Troy DCP Clinical Education Office. Specific immunizations may be necessary pending selection and approval of clerkship/internship with off-campus clinical environments such as the VA centers, hospitals, etc.

- For international applicants whose native language is not English and who have not completed a degree program at an English-language institution: submission of acceptable English language proficiency scores (TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo English Test) meeting minimum thresholds established by Troy University.

Appeal of Admissions Decisions

Applicants who wish to appeal a denial decision must submit a written appeal to the Director/Coordinator of the Doctor of Chiropractic Program within 30 calendar days of the denial notification. Appeals must present new or previously unconsidered information; requests for reconsideration without new information will not be considered. The Program Director/Coordinator's decision on appeal is final.

Transfer of Credit & Advanced Standing

The Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program may accept transfer credit from CCE-accredited Doctor of Chiropractic programs in accordance with Troy University policy and CCE accreditation standards. Transfer credit is evaluated on a course-by-course basis by the DCP Admissions Committee in consultation with the Program Director/Coordinator.

Eligibility Requirements

- Transfer credit will only be considered from accredited institutions.
- A minimum grade of B (3.0/4.0) or higher is required for any course to be considered for transfer credit.
- Transfer credit will not be awarded for courses in which the student received a grade below B.
- Each case will be considered uniquely, with prior coursework mapped to the Troy DCP curriculum by the Program Director/Coordinator and relevant faculty.
- Coursework completed more than seven (7) years prior to matriculation may not be eligible for transfer credit and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- No more than 30 semester hours of coursework will be eligible for transfer. Transfer credits must be evaluated by the program director and a Transfer of Credit form must be completed. Students who have earned an MD, DO, DPT or other doctoral-level health professional degree may be eligible to transfer additional credits pending a more extensive review."

Time to Complete Degree

The Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program is designed as a nine-trimester (3-year), full-time program of professional doctoral study totaling 190 semester credit hours.

Standard Program Duration

Students enrolled on the standard full-time track are expected to complete all degree requirements within nine (9) consecutive trimesters. The program does not offer a part-time enrollment option.

Maximum Time to Completion

In accordance with CCE Accreditation Standards, students must complete all degree requirements within six (6) years (72 months) of initial enrollment in the Troy DCP. Students who do not complete all requirements within this timeframe may be dismissed from the program in accordance with the Troy DCP academic standing policies.

Student Evaluations and Comprehensive Examinations

Clinical Competency Assessment

Clinical competence is evaluated through multiple mechanisms across all phases of the clinical curriculum:

- Clinical faculty structured evaluations — faculty directly observe and evaluate student clinical performance.
- Patient encounter documentation review — clinical faculty review student SOAP(s) notes and patient records for accuracy, completeness, and clinical reasoning quality.
- Case presentation evaluations — students present patient cases demonstrating integration of diagnostic reasoning and management planning.
- OSCE-style clinical examinations — structured, criterion-referenced examinations simulating patient encounters.
- Patient satisfaction surveys — aggregate data used for program quality improvement.

Students must demonstrate competency across all CCE meta-competency domains prior to graduation. Students who fail to demonstrate required competencies will be placed on a remediation plan. Failure to achieve required competencies following remediation may result in dismissal from the program.

NBCE Examination Requirements

Students are required to sit for and pass the following National Board of Chiropractic Examiner (NBCE) examinations as a condition of graduation and licensure:

- NBCE Part I — Basic Sciences (typically completed after Trimester 5)
- NBCE Part II — Clinical Sciences (typically completed after Trimester 5)
- NBCE Physiotherapy Examination (typically completed after Trimester 5)
- NBCE Part III — Clinical Competency Examination (typically completed after Trimester 8)
- NBCE Part IV — Practical Examination (typically completed in Trimester 9)

The program monitors first-time pass rates on all NBCE examinations and publishes outcome data in compliance with CCE Policy 56.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale to remain in good academic standing. Students who fall below this threshold will be placed on academic probation and required to meet with the Program Director to develop a remediation plan. Academic performance is reviewed at the end of each trimester.

Students failing to achieve satisfactory academic progress following remediation may be dismissed from the program

Clinical Education Requirements

The clinical education component of the Troy DCP provides progressive experiential learning across three phases, preparing students to competently deliver patient-centered neuromusculoskeletal healthcare. Clinical education begins in the first trimester and advances to full near-independent patient care responsibility in the final trimester.

Total Clinical Education Hours

Students must complete a minimum of 1,700 clinical education hours across all phases, exceeding the CCE minimum requirement of 1,000 patient care hours:

Phase	Experience Type	Trimesters	Min. Hours
Phase One	Clinical Observation	Trimesters 1–3	150–200

Phase	Experience Type	Trimesters	Min. Hours
Phase Two	Clinical Case Survey	Trimesters 4–6	400–500
Phase Three	Clinical Clerkship / Internship	Trimesters 7–9	1,000–1,100

Primary Clinical Facility

The primary clinical training environment is the TU Integrated Performance Health Clinic (Veteran & Tactical Care Center), located on the Troy University Dothan Campus. The clinic provides care to Troy University students, faculty, staff, community members, military veterans, active military personnel, law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS personnel. Clinical services include general practice, neuromusculoskeletal diagnosis, chiropractic intervention, rehabilitation and performance care, physiotherapeutic modalities, functional and performance assessments, and injury prevention and recovery programs.

Phase One Clinical Education — Observation

During Trimesters 1–3, students complete structured clinical observation experiences. Activities include observing patient interviews, physical examinations, diagnostic imaging procedures, chiropractic treatment procedures, and clinical documentation. Students complete structured observation reports and participate in faculty-guided debriefing sessions. Minimum hours: 150–200.

Phase Two Clinical Education — Case Survey

During Trimesters 4–6, students transition from observation to active clinical reasoning development. Students conduct structured case interviews, assist in physical examination procedures, analyze diagnostic procedures, develop differential diagnoses, propose treatment plans, and participate in case review conferences. Clinical experiences occur at the TU Integrated Performance Health Clinic, community healthcare partners, Troy Athletics sports medicine department, and potential VA outpatient clinic sites. Minimum hours: 400–500.

Phase Three Clinical Education — Clerkship and Internship

During Trimesters 7–9, students assume progressive responsibility for patient care under faculty supervision. Clinical responsibilities include performing patient histories, conducting physical examinations, developing differential diagnoses, interpreting imaging studies, developing treatment plans, delivering chiropractic adjustments, administering physiotherapy, and prescribing rehabilitation programs. Students in the final trimester (DCP 8890) serve as in/externs managing comprehensive patient caseloads with progressively reduced faculty oversight. Minimum hours: 1,000–1,100.

Graduating GPA Requirements

To be eligible for graduation from the Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale across all Troy DCP coursework,
- Complete all 190 required credit hours of the Troy DCP curriculum with passing grades (minimum 3.0/4.0 in each course).
- Successfully pass NBCE Parts I, II, Physiotherapy, III, and IV examinations, or demonstrate eligibility for licensure as determined by the state chiropractic licensing board.

Students who do not meet the minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA requirement at the end of any trimester will be placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation must meet with the Program Director/Coordinator to establish a remediation plan. Failure to achieve a 3.0 cumulative GPA within one trimester following probation may result in dismissal from the program.

Program Requirements

The Troy University Doctor of Chiropractic Program is a nine-trimester, 190-credit professional doctoral curriculum organized across three phases of learning. All courses must be completed with a minimum cumulative grade of 3.0/4.0.

Curriculum Overview

- Total Credit Hours: 190 semester credit hours
- Program Duration: Nine (9) trimesters (approximately 3 years, full-time)
- Total Instructional Hours: Minimum 4,200+ (exceeds CCE Standard H. minimum)
- Total Clinical Hours: Minimum 1,700 (exceeds CCE Standard H. minimum of 1,000)
- CCE Alignment: All courses aligned with 2026 CCE Accreditation Standards and eight CCE Clinical Education Meta-Competencies
- NBCE Alignment: Curriculum prepares students for all five NBCE examinations (Parts I, II, III, IV, and Physiotherapy)

Course	Title	Credits	CCE Competency
DCP 8811	Human Structure & Function I	7	MC 1, 7
DCP 8812	Human Function & Biochemistry I	4	MC 1
DCP 8813	Clinical Foundations I	4	MC 1, 7
DCP 8814	Professional Foundations of Chiropractic	3	MC 5, 6
DCP 8810	Clinical Experience I – Observation	2	MC 1–8

DCP 8821	Human Structure & Function II	7	MC 1, 7
DCP 8822	Human Function & Biochemistry II	4	MC 1, 3
DCP 8823	Clinical Foundations II	4	MC 1, 7
PSY 6614	Abnormal Psychology	3	MC 4, 6
DCP 8820	Clinical Experience II – Observation	2	MC 1–8

DCP 8831	Human Structure & Function III	5	MC 1
DCP 8832	Diagnostic Foundations I	4	MC 1, 2
DCP 8833	Clinical Performance Care I	4	MC 2, 7
NSG 8805	Principles of Epidemiology	3	MC 3
AT 6655	Research & Analysis in Sports Medicine	3	MC 2
DCP 8830	Clinical Experience III – Observation Practicum	2	MC 1–8

DCP 8841	Clinical Pathophysiology	4	MC 1, 2
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DCP 8842	Clinical Diagnosis & Imaging I	6	MC 1, 2
DCP 8843	Clinical Performance Care II	4	MC 2, 7
PA 6678	Introduction to Public Health	3	MC 3, 6
DCP	Clinical Experience IV – Case Survey I	3	MC 1, 2
DCP 8845	Chiropractic Clinical Reasoning Seminar	3	MC 1, 2

DCP 8851	Internal Disorders & Special Populations	4	MC 1, 3
DCP 8852	Clinical Diagnosis & Imaging II	6	MC 1, 2
DCP 8853	Clinical Performance Care III	4	MC 2, 7
PA 6677	Public Health Preparedness	3	MC 3
DCP 8854	Advanced Pathophysiology	3	MC 1, 2
DCP 8850	Clinical Experience V – Case Survey II	3	MC 1–8

DCP 8861	Diagnosis & Management I	4	MC 1, 2
DCP 8863	Clinical Performance Care IV	4	MC 2, 7
DCP 8864	Healthcare Economics	2	MC 5, 8
DCP 8865	Healthcare Systems	3	MC 8
DCP	Clinical Experience VI – Early Clerkship	6	MC 1–8
DCP 8862	Scholarly Integration I	2	MC 2

DCP 8871	Diagnosis & Management II	4	MC 1, 2
DCP 8873	Movement Analysis and Clinical Biomechanics	3	MC 3
DCP 8874	Advanced Health Assessment	3	MC 1
KHP 6650	Sport Nutrition & Exercise Metabolism	3	MC 3
DCP	Clinical Clerkship I	6	MC 1–8
DCP 8872	Scholarly Integration II	2	MC 2

DCP 8881	Advanced Clinical Imaging	3	MC 1
DCP 8882	Complex Clinical Performance Care	3	MC 2, 7
KHP 6602	Motor Skills & Human Performance	3	MC 3
DCP 8883	Clinical Outcomes Improvement	3	MC 1, 2
DCP	Clinical Clerkship II	6	MC 1–8
DCP 8886	Board Preparation Seminar	2	MC 1–8

DCP 8891	Ethics & Jurisprudence	3	MC 5
DCP 8892	Practice Operations & Reimbursement	3	MC 5, 8
DCP 8893	Integrated Clinical Capstone	3	MC 1–8
DCP 8890	Clinical In/externship	10	MC 1–8
DCP 8895	NBCE Part IV Preparation	2	MC 7

Trimester 9 Total Credit Hours: 21

Total Program Summary

Phase	Trimesters	Credit Hours
Phase One – Principles	1–2	40
Phase Two – Clinical Science	3–5	67
Phase Three – Clinical Practice	6–9	83
TOTAL		190

Course descriptions for all required courses are provided in the Troy DCP Course Catalog Descriptions document, available from the Office of the Program Director.

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