

Chiropractors

SOC: 29-1011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$79,000

Median Salary

57,200

Employment

+10.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Doctoral

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.5/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Decision- making skills, Detail oriented, Dexterity, Empathy, Interpersonal skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Chiropractors are healthcare professionals who diagnose and treat **musculoskeletal and neuromuscular conditions, with a primary focus on the spine and nervous system**. They use hands-on, noninvasive techniques—especially spinal adjustments—to help reduce pain, improve mobility, and support overall physical function. Their approach emphasizes holistic care, prevention, and the body's natural ability to heal.

This career is well suited for individuals who are interested in health sciences, hands-on patient care, and non-surgical treatment methods.

What Do Chiropractors Do?

Chiropractors evaluate patients' physical conditions and provide treatment plans aimed at relieving pain and improving function.

Common responsibilities include:

- Examining patients' posture, spine, and range of motion
- Diagnosing back, neck, joint, and musculoskeletal disorders
- Performing spinal adjustments and manual manipulations
- Developing individualized treatment and wellness plans
- Using therapeutic techniques such as stretching, exercise, or soft-tissue therapy
- Educating patients on posture, ergonomics, and injury prevention
- Maintaining detailed patient records and treatment notes

Conditions Commonly Treated

Chiropractors often help patients manage:

- Back and Neck Pain
- Headaches and Migraines
- Joint and Muscle Pain
- Sports and Work-Related Injuries
- Postural and Alignment Issues
- Chronic Musculoskeletal Conditions

Skills and Abilities Needed

Chiropractors combine medical knowledge with precise manual skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Licensing Pathway

Becoming a chiropractor requires extensive education and licensure:

- Bachelor's Degree (required): Typically with science prerequisites
- Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) Degree: Four-year professional program
- Clinical Training and Internships: Supervised patient care during education
- State Licensure: Required to practice legally
- Continuing Education: Ongoing training to maintain licensure

Where Do Chiropractors Work?

Chiropractors practice in a variety of healthcare settings:

- Private Chiropractic Clinics
- Group Medical or Multidisciplinary Practices

- Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Centers
- Hospitals or Integrative Healthcare Facilities
- Self-Employed or Practice Owners

Most work in outpatient settings with regular patient appointments.

How Much Do Chiropractors Earn?

Earnings vary based on experience, location, and practice ownership:

- Early-Career Chiropractors: Typically earn professional healthcare salaries
- Experienced Chiropractors: Often earn higher income with established patient bases
- Practice Owners: May earn more depending on business success

Income can also be influenced by patient volume and services offered.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is academically rigorous and physically demanding. Chiropractors must master complex anatomy, maintain precision during treatments, and manage patient expectations. The challenge lies in balancing clinical expertise, physical workload, and business or practice management responsibilities.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Chiropractor?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are interested in healthcare and anatomy
- Enjoy hands-on patient care
- Prefer non-surgical, holistic treatment approaches
- Have strong interpersonal skills
- Want to help patients improve mobility and quality of life

How to Prepare Early

- Take biology, chemistry, and anatomy courses
- Develop interest in health sciences and physical wellness
- Gain exposure through healthcare shadowing or internships
- Build physical strength and coordination
- Research accredited chiropractic education programs

Chiropractors help patients move, heal, and function better by combining hands-on care with clinical knowledge—providing noninvasive solutions that support pain relief, mobility, and long-term musculoskeletal health.