



Background

Doctors of Chiropractic receive 3.5 to 4 years (4,500 hours) of post bachelor degree education. They attend more than 4,500 hours of intensive classes and clinical training. For most programs, the first two years are lab- and classroom-based. The last two years are spent in clinics. Many chiropractic colleges require that the student “intern” in the final 13th or 14th term of their education. This is similar to internships completed by doctors of medicine, dentists, etc. This is vital to a doctor's completion and full implementation of education.

Currently, due to the way the law is written, a student of chiropractic, under direct supervision of a licensed chiropractor, can not examine or treat a patient in North Carolina. Thus preventing some chiropractic students from completing their preceptorship in our state. A chiropractic student preceptor can practice chiropractic under a licensed chiropractor in all but 9 states, North Carolina being one of those nine.

Talking Points

- Students have completed at least 12 of the 14 terms of education and clinicals prior to internship. A licensed NC Doctor of Chiropractic will act as a mentor to the intern by helping bridge the gap between the classroom, the college clinic and private practice.
- Since students can not complete their internship in North Carolina, our state loses the opportunity to showcase what a great place we have to live and practice. This also puts NC at a competitive disadvantage to create new business and jobs for the state.
- Increase the number of Doctors of Chiropractic in our state to serve the ever increasing population.
- Increase access to drug-free pain options.