



TO: The Professional Practice Committee
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech
SUBJECT: Update on the Profession of Chiropractic
DATE: December 7, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

This item provides general information regarding pre-professional education requirements for the profession of chiropractic.

Reason for Consideration

Information and discussion.

Proposed Handling

This item is submitted for information and discussion at the December 2015 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee.

Background Information

Education Law §6554 authorizes the Department to establish educational requirements for the profession of chiropractic.

The Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) is the only agency, approved by the United States Department of Education to accredit Doctor of Chiropractic Programs (DCP). Effective January 2014, the (CCE) changed its requirements for student admissions to a DCP. These changes included raising the number of hours of undergraduate study to at least 90 hours (3 years) with a G.P.A. of not less than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Currently, New York requires 60 hours (2 years) of undergraduate study. The 90 hours adopted by CCE include a minimum of 24 semester hours in life and physical science courses. CCE also adopted some flexibility in specific prerequisite coursework. This particular change presents a problem for anyone educated outside this State, applying for a chiropractic license in New York, due to certain sections of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Sections 52.14 and 73.1(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, which date back to 1963, state that the pre-professional education of a person to be licensed in New York must specifically include courses in “general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology or zoology and physics”.

§52.14, Chiropractic

Admissions requirements to a college of chiropractic shall include the following preprofessional education: 60 semester hours of college study, including courses in general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology or zoology and physics.

§73.1 Professional study of chiropractic

a. To meet the professional education requirement, the applicant shall present evidence of the completion of not less than 60 semester hours of preprofessional postsecondary education, including courses in general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology or zoology, and physics...

There are concerns that an otherwise excellent candidate for chiropractic licensure in New York could be unable to receive a license because of requirements that are the strictest in the country. All other states follow the CCE national requirements. New York is the only state that has these restrictive pre-professional requirements. In recent years, New York has seen a decrease in the number of chiropractic licenses. There is concern that continuing to mandate these unique and outdated pre-professional requirements may further contribute to that decline, which could decrease New Yorkers’ access to chiropractic services.

In addition, Department staff is aware of trends in medical education that encourage candidates from liberal arts programs to seek enrollment in certain medical schools. For example, Icahn Medical School at Mount Sinai has a longstanding program in place for such students. This program targets high achieving liberal arts students, who attend an intensive boot camp to make up missed coursework in the sciences, just before starting medical school. Those students have traditionally done very well in medical school.

Currently, the National CCE Standards requires a minimum of 24 hours in life and physical science courses, at least half of which are required to have a substantive laboratory component. The pre-professional preparation also includes a well-rounded general education program in the humanities and social sciences deemed relevant by the CCE for successful completion of the DCP curriculum.

Ultimately, the question presented for discussion is whether a change in the pre-professional requirements for license qualifying programs in chiropractic is reasonable due to the changing national landscape. However, there are competing concerns that must be considered here: could changing the standards result in lesser qualified candidates verses is New York losing a significant number of well qualified candidates to other states with educational requirements that better match their pre-professional studies.