

# VA Chiropractic Residency Programs

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS  
REHABILITATION AND PROSTHETIC SERVICES

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducts the country's largest healthcare provider clinical training program. In July 2014, VA initiated chiropractic residency training programs at five VA medical centers. The focus of these programs is Integrated Clinical Practice, with training emphasizing the provision of chiropractic care in an integrated healthcare system, collaborating with primary care Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs), specialty care, and other medical and associated health providers and trainees.

The residencies provide advanced clinical training in complex case management, allowing recent graduates to increase their scope and depth of clinical knowledge, experience and acumen. Residents are mentored by senior VA chiropractors who are national leaders in integrated chiropractic practice. These clinicians share their expertise in patient care, academics and research to provide a robust educational experience.

These hospital-based training programs expand the residents' ability to collaborate with other healthcare professionals in team care, as trainees learn with and from other healthcare providers during interdisciplinary rotations. Residents develop their knowledge of hospital practice, policies and procedures, and are better prepared for future positions in VA, other healthcare systems, and/or academic settings.

## ***Administration***

Programs are administered nationally by VA's Office of Academic Affiliations and locally by the individual VA facility. Each VA facility partners with its affiliated Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) accredited chiropractic school in conducting the program.

## ***Location***

Training takes place at the individual VA facility, and may also include other sites such as the chiropractic school or other affiliated locations.

## ***Curricular overview***

Residents provide full diagnostic and management services of musculoskeletal and neuromuscular conditions under the mentorship of senior VA doctors of chiropractic (DCs). This includes team-based management of complex conditions in collaboration with other medical specialists and healthcare providers. Residents also engage in clinical educational rotations through services including primary care, medical or surgical specialties, mental health, and rehabilitation disciplines. Additionally, residents

participate in various scholarly activities and attend and give presentations at multiple academic/research venues of the VA facility and/or its affiliates.

All VA residencies meet the same national standards, yet each program is unique, and training experiences and opportunities differ somewhat at different sites. More specific residency program information can be obtained from each site.

### ***Eligibility requirements***

Programs are open to applicants who hold a DC degree from a CCE-accredited program. Applicants must have a current, full, active, and unrestricted chiropractic license in a State, Territory or Commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia, or be eligible for such licensure. Applicants must meet all VA employment requirements including United States citizenship, and Selective Service registration when applicable.

### ***Duration***

Programs are full-time (40 hours/week) for 12 months. Additional weekly time may be needed for scholarly or other training activities. Programs run from July 1 to June 30.

### ***Compensation***

Salary ranges from \$36,000 to \$43,000 per year based on geographic location. Residents receive paid Federal holidays, and accrue vacation and sick leave. Residents are also eligible for life and health insurance. Residents will be protected from personal liability while providing professional services at a VA health care facility under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act, 28 U.S.C. 2679 (b)-(d).

### ***Application process***

Selection is through a competitive process considering factors such as chiropractic college transcripts, additional professional experiences, letters of recommendation, telephone and/or on-site interviews.

***Detailed application information is provided on the individual program websites in January each year***

## VA Chiropractic Residency Sites

VA Facility	Academic Affiliate	Residency Director	Contact
VA Connecticut Healthcare System <i>West Haven, CT</i>	University of Bridgeport College of Chiropractic	Anthony Lisi, DC	<a href="mailto:Anthony.lisi@va.gov">Anthony.lisi@va.gov</a>
VA Western New York Healthcare System <i>Buffalo, NY</i>	New York Chiropractic College	Andrew Dunn, DC	<a href="mailto:Andrew.dunn@va.gov">Andrew.dunn@va.gov</a>
Canandaigua VA Medical Center <i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	New York Chiropractic College	Paul Dougherty, DC	<a href="mailto:Paul.dougherty@va.gov">Paul.dougherty@va.gov</a>
VA St. Louis Healthcare System <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	Logan University College of Chiropractic	Pamela Wakefield, DC	<a href="mailto:STLChiroResidency@va.gov">STLChiroResidency@va.gov</a>
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System <i>Los Angeles, CA</i>	Southern California University of Health Sciences, Los Angeles College of Chiropractic	Valerie Johnson, DC	<a href="mailto:Valerie.johnson4@va.gov">Valerie.johnson4@va.gov</a>