

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF TEXAS CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

Introduction

Texas Chiropractic College (TCC) was founded in 1908 and is one of the oldest chiropractic colleges in the nation. TCC is recognized as a leader in the advancement of chiropractic education. The College has been accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education since 1971 and by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1984. TCC awards degrees at both the Baccalaureate and Doctorate levels and is recognized by the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards. The College offers the unique Hospital Rotations Program. This program provides interns an opportunity to gain additional valuable experience and knowledge by rotating through private clinics and hospitals throughout the greater Houston metropolitan area.

History Of TCC

TCC was organized and founded by J. N. Stone, M.D., D.C. in San Antonio, Texas in September of 1908. On April 16, 1913, the College received its charter from the State of Texas and became known as The Chiropractic College. TCC was purchased by the Alumni Association in 1948.

In 1949, the State of Texas passed the Basic Science Law. This law required two years of pre-professional college education of a liberal arts or general nature. The basic sciences included anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, pathology, chemistry and public health. Per the law, degree programs had to be of four years duration and a minimum of 120 semester hours, with each year being a minimum of eight months. In 1951, a union was formed between San Antonio Junior College and TCC, which helped students satisfy the Basic Science Law requirements.

In 1965, the College relocated to its current site in Pasadena, Texas. TCC received accreditation from The Council of Chiropractic Education in 1971. In 1974, the W. D. Harper Chiropractic Clinic and Research Center opened, providing larger facilities for patient consultation, examination and treatment. The James M. Russell Education Center was built in 1978, providing more classrooms, a library, cafeteria and auditorium. In 1979, the Turley Anatomical Building was built. The Learning Resource Center opened in 1982, adding classrooms, faculty offices, an expanded library and media center.

On May 13, 1993, Governor Ann Richards signed a law allowing state funding for chiropractic education. In January 1994, the TCC Foundation, Inc. acquired ownership of the College. The Guy and Esther Ligon Laboratory Building was completed in 1997, providing a student clinic and additional laboratory classrooms. In 1998, the William M. Harris Building opened, offering expanded administrative and student services offices.

The Moody Health Center, an 18,000-square foot, multi-disciplinary outpatient clinic was opened in June of 2000. In April 2006, the 35,000-square foot Yasunori Iwama Education Center opened, which houses a 750-seat auditorium, a science lab, faculty offices and a 4,000-square foot assessment center.

TCC was the first chiropractic institution to offer preceptorship programs, allowing interns to visit field doctors and observe treatment in private offices. Today, TCC offers both preceptorship and postceptorship programs, as well as a hospital rotation program. In January of 2006, TCC became affiliated with the Veterans Hospitals, and offers a clinical rotation with the Veterans Hospital in Temple, Texas. TCC celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008.

Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan of TCC

The mission of Texas Chiropractic College is to provide qualified students a patient-centered educational program leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic Degree. The curriculum promotes the development of the student's attitudes, knowledge, and skills required of a chiropractor serving the public as a primary care physician. Operating within the highest levels of professionalism, the College is also committed to serving the needs of the students, the profession and the public through leadership, scholarship, research, patient care and service activities in the field of chiropractic.

The mission statement of TCC is deeply rooted in its tradition of clinical excellence. TCC offers a balanced curriculum of chiropractic principles and evidence-based approaches to health care. The direction of the College is guided by its principle core values of integrity, collegiality, stewardship, diversity and quality. These values are the foundation of the College and its vision for the doctoral student. It is the vision of TCC to be recognized for its excellence in education, patient-centered chiropractic care and scholarly activity that will produce ethical and successful graduates who are prepared to improve the health of society.

Within the College's strategic plan, goal four specifically addresses providing quality academic programs. Objective 4.1 focuses on utilization of the QEP as a basis for continuous quality improvement and educational outcomes. This goal and objective tie directly back to the College's mission and vision statement.

Educational Environment

TCC presents a comprehensive course of professional instruction in basic sciences and clinical application to prepare the graduate to receive the degree of Doctor of Chiropractic. Faculty and administration strive to develop the student into a practitioner who is knowledgeable in chiropractic and prepared to deliver quality healthcare in an interdisciplinary environment.

Improving the quality of student education is a well-established goal of TCC. Through the enhancement of clinical reasoning, the College will continue to improve decision-making skills by utilizing the students' knowledge base in clinical case applications. TCC is working toward developing future clinicians who are well-read and articulate, and who possess clinical reasoning skills that will enable them to properly diagnose and to offer the best healthcare to their community.

TCC offers two degrees, a Doctor of Chiropractic degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. The College services undergraduate professional preparation by offering education appropriate to the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Human Biology. This degree provides the foundation for advanced study and research. The College also provides for the ongoing development of the chiropractic profession by offering

postgraduate and continuing education courses. TCC recognizes that research must be an integral part of its education process.

TCC Today

The TCC faculty consists of 45 instructors as of Fall 2008. Thirty-one are full-time instructors, of which seven are employed as attending clinicians. Ten are part-time instructors. Four are administrative faculty. There are 26 Doctors of Chiropractic, four Medical Doctors, six with both a Master's and a Ph.D. degree, one with a Ph.D. degree, and eight with a Master's degree. Richard G. Brassard, D.C., has been the President of the College since 2004.

As of the Fall 2008 trimester, there were 331 full-time students and nine part-time students enrolled in the Doctor of Chiropractic program. There were 199 males and 141 females. The ethnicity breakdown was 59.4 % Caucasian, 12.4 % African American, 12.1 % Hispanic, 14.7 % Asian, 0.3 % Native American, and 1.2 % of unknown ethnicity.

In 2007, the out-patient clinic, Moody Health Center (MHC), saw 1,436 new chiropractic patients and had a total of 17,600 chiropractic patient visits. MHC is a multidisciplinary clinic, offering both chiropractic and medical services. There are 32 treatment rooms dedicated to chiropractic care and four treatment rooms for medical services. The facility includes two x-ray rooms and a large rehabilitation suite. In 2007, the MHC was staffed by 86 interns, five attending clinicians and one medical doctor.