

# MICHIGAN CHIROPRACTOR PROFESSIONAL LICENSING GUIDE

[1. How the Profession Is Organized in Michigan](#)

[2. Eligibility for Licensing](#)

[3. Tests](#)

[4. Time and Costs](#)

[5. Other Careers and Credentials](#)

[6. Beyond Licensing](#)

[7. Important Links](#)

## 1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

### OVERVIEW

This guide looks at things that you as a foreign-educated chiropractor must do to become eligible for chiropractor licensing in Michigan. At the same time, it includes some background and tips on the larger chiropractor profession to give you an idea of the variety of opportunities available as you work to rebuild your career.

### REGULATION OF CHIROPRACTORS IN MICHIGAN

As a chiropractor, you must be licensed to engage in the practice of chiropractic in the State of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates the profession. They give Michigan licenses to first time licensees and to chiropractors who are eligible to practice in other states (by endorsement).

The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) is the qualifying four-part examination for a Michigan chiropractor license. However, this is only one step in a longer process of education and examination that international chiropractors must complete to practice in the state.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

This section explains important steps that you need to complete before you can be licensed to practice chiropractic in Michigan. The steps to licensing are as follows:

### I. CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

Your first step towards becoming a chiropractor is to obtain a course by course evaluation of your foreign credentials by a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). You may select a member at [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org).

Fee: \$180

It is important to have all of your university educational record(s) evaluated. If you have also studied in the United States, request that your school(s) send transcripts directly to the Bureau of Professional Licensing as well.

### II. TAKE AND PASS PARTS I, II, III, AND IV OF THE NBCE EXAMINATION

- You can take Part I in your second year enrolled in an eligible chiropractic college or once you have graduated.

- You can take Part II in your third year enrolled in an eligible chiropractic college or once you have graduated.
- You can take Part III when you are within 9 months of graduation from an eligible chiropractic college. You must have also completed NBCE Part I prior to taking Part III.
- You can take Part IV when you are within 6 months of graduation from an eligible chiropractic college. You must have also passed all subjects of NBCE Part I prior to taking Part IV.

#### CONSIDERING EDUCATIONAL DEBT

The cost of the program – with tuition and fees (not including living expenses) of more than \$100,000 – may be higher than you can imagine paying. Graduate education in the U.S. tends to be very expensive. However, you must consider this debt in the context of your future earning potential. Before you make a final decision, you should get advice from a chiropractor school financial aid administrator or career counselor. Discuss the cost and map out the ways you may be able to pay back the loan.

#### III. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

Michigan has a detailed application package available online. Some of the documentation it requires includes:

- Application Form which includes information about your education, examinations taken, explanations to any “yes” answers on the application regarding criminal record, and other history
- Verification of fingerprint submission
- Final official transcripts submitted directly to the Board office from the school
- Passing results of Parts I, II, III, and IV of the NBCE examination forwarded directly to the Board office from the NBCE

You mail the completed application package to LARA for processing.

Fees: \$120 for licensure application

### 3. TESTS

#### NATIONAL BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINATION PART I

The NBCE Part I can be taken as either computer-based or a paper-and-pencil exam depending on when you schedule your exam. It is available four times throughout the year. Each NBCE Part I subject is allotted 75 minutes to complete 90 multiple choice questions. The test covers the following six content areas:

- General Anatomy
- Spinal Anatomy
- Physiology
- Chemistry
- Pathology
- Microbiology

2016 Fee: \$635

## NATIONAL BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINATION PART II

The NBCE Part II can be taken as either computer-based or a paper-and-pencil exam depending on when you schedule your exam. It is available four times throughout the year. Each NBCE Part II subject is allotted 75 minutes to complete 90 multiple choice questions. The test covers the following six content areas:

- General Diagnosis
- Neuromusculoskeletal Diagnosis
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Principles of Chiropractic
- Chiropractic Practice
- Associated Clinical Sciences

2016 Fee: \$635

## NATIONAL BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINATION PART III

The NBCE Part III consists of two sections with a total of 110 multiple choice questions and 10 case vignettes. Each section is allotted two hours of testing time. The test covers the following nine clinical areas:

- Case History
- Physical Examination
- Neuromusculoskeletal Examination
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Clinical Laboratory and Special Studies
- Diagnosis or Clinical Impression
- Chiropractic Techniques
- Supportive Interventions
- Case Management

Fee: \$635

## NATIONAL BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINATION PART IV

The NBCE Part IV consists of three sections which are each divided into stations. The three sections are:

- Diagnostic Imaging (DIM)
- Chiropractic Technique
- Case Management

Fee: \$1435

## 4. TIME AND COSTS

Successfully licensing as a Chiropractor in Michigan depends on many factors. Just some of these include:

- The completeness of your educational and professional records
- Your performance on several tests
- Your ability to attend and finance a 4-year full-time Chiropractic program

We provide two hypothetical scenarios to show some of the variety of results that immigrant professionals may find when they seek to become chiropractors in Michigan. Please consider these scenarios as two examples out of many possibilities. Your experience will vary.

**TWO HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS FOR CHIROPRACTOR LICENSING:**

<b>Step</b>	<b>More Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i></b>	<b>Less Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i></b>
1 Certification and Pass NBCE Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your degree evaluation and NBCE Part I exam go smoothly: you complete them both in 2 months</li> <li>• \$815 + 2 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems with your documents and translations take months to resolve and are expensive - you must pay others in your country to visit institutions for you</li> <li>• You miss the deadline for the next exam date and can't test until the following exam date</li> <li>• You pass the NBDE Part I</li> <li>• \$1100 + 5 months</li> </ul>
2 Pass NBCE Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You pass NBCE Part II exam on your first attempt</li> <li>• \$635 + 3 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You take the NBCE Part II and fail 2 subjects. You retake the 2 subjects at the next testing date and pass both</li> <li>• \$1245 + 5 months</li> </ul>
3 Pass NBCE Part III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You pass NBCE Part III on your first attempt</li> <li>• \$635 + 2 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You take the NBCE Part III and fail the entire exam</li> <li>• You retake the exam at the next available testing date and pass.</li> <li>• \$1270 + 5 months</li> </ul>
4 Pass NBCE Part IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You pass NBCE Part IV on your first attempt</li> <li>• \$1,435 + 4 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You take NBCE Part IV five months later, but fail</li> <li>• You return again in six months and pass.</li> <li>• \$2,870 + 1 year</li> </ul>
5 License by Acceptance of Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your license application is processed in two months by LARA</li> <li>• 2 months + \$120</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your license application is processed in four months by LARA</li> <li>• 4 months + \$120</li> </ul>
	<b>More Efficient Total</b> <i>About \$3,000 and 13 months</i>	<b>Less Efficient Total</b> <i>About \$6,600 and 2 ½ years</i>

**5. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS**

## LOWER-LEVEL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

You may want to consider whether taking a lower-level job in a chiropractic practice in the short term can help you meet longer-term goals of licensing as a chiropractor. Working in your field in a different capacity and with fewer responsibilities may offer you some advantages:

- More energy to focus on studying and saving money.
- A chance to adapt to the US healthcare system and workplace culture in a lower-pressure environment

If you choose any of these positions as a step towards licensing, be sure to explain your long-term plans to your employer. You may find that some employers offer benefits such as tuition reimbursement or schedule flexibility that can support your goals.

## UNREGULATED CHIROPRACTOR ASSISTANT

A chiropractor assistant usually works in a private chiropractic office assisting with checking patients in and out, medical billing and coding, answering phones, and assisting with various tasks to keep the chiropractic office running smoothly. Chiropractor assistants are not licensed by the Department.

## 6. BEYOND LICENSING

### MAINTAINING LICENSURE

Your Michigan Chiropractor License must be renewed every two years through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing on behalf of the Michigan Board of Chiropractic. Your license will expire on November 30. You are responsible for renewing your license even if you do not receive a notice from the Department on behalf of the Michigan Board of Chiropractic. You must renew online. The cost to renew on time is \$190 for the chiropractor license. You will have sixty days after the expiration date in which you may continue to practice without a lapse in your license as long as you renew within that sixty day grace period. If you do not renew during that grace period, the expiration date of your license will revert to November 30. Be careful: if you continue to practice after your license has expired (lapsed), you could have disciplinary action taken against you. If your license does expire, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactivate your license.

Every time you renew your license you must state that you have met a 30-hour Continuing Education requirement or CE. You need to keep the information on file in case you are audited. There are many opportunities to earn these hours, but special rules apply. You should check the Chiropractic Board website for details, or consider joining a professional association that offers CE opportunities to members.

### LICENSING MOBILITY (RECIPROCITY)

The state of Michigan grants licensing to chiropractors through Examination (the process described in this topic), or by Endorsement. A chiropractor licensed in another state, who wants to practice in Michigan, must independently meet all Michigan requirements for licensing. If you become licensed in Michigan and want to practice chiropractic in another state, you will need to research the legal requirements for that state.

## 7. IMPORTANT LINKS

#### LICENSING AND REGULATION:

- The [Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs \(LARA\)](#) issues licenses for chiropractors. Application packets (both by Examination and by Endorsement) can be downloaded on the homepage.
- The main page for the licensing of any health profession is [www.michigan.gov/healthlicense](http://www.michigan.gov/healthlicense). The page that specifically concerns chiropractic is [http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-27417\\_27529\\_27531---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-27417_27529_27531---,00.html) and it includes information regarding the boards, applications and frequently asked questions.
- Contact information: Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing MI 48909
- Telephone Number 517-373-8068; Fax: 517-335-2044 Email: [BPLHelp@michigan.gov](mailto:BPLHelp@michigan.gov)
- The law that regulates licensing for all health professions can be read at <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-368-1978-15>;

#### CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATIONS:

- [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#);

#### TESTING:

- [National Board of Chiropractic Examiners \(NBCE\)](#); Telephone Number 800-964-6223