

MChiro (Hons) Course Specification

Version 2.3

**Academic year from which this specification applies:
September 2024**

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Record of Modifications

Description of Modification	Date approved	Cohort(s) to which modification applies
Addition of confirmation of GCC/Privy Council recognition	N/A	all
Addition of confirmation of ECCE accreditation	N/A. Added Dec. 2021 - accreditation granted 28.09.21	all
Modification to indicative content of all L6 units- updates in evidence base and/or assessment practice	CSC- 19.07.2023	Sept 2023 and all future
Amendment to assessments to reflect changes in GCC standards	ASQC- 14.02.2024	Current and all future
Minor amendment to indicative content of unit MCH7003 Professionalism and Social Responsibility in Healthcare	Course Steering Committee- September 2024	Current and all future

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Courses, major changes to courses and modifications to courses are approved following consideration through the University College's Course Approval and Review processes or Course and Unit Modification policy, as appropriate. It is, however, expected that courses change over time, for example as a result of changes to professional accreditation requirements, in response to feedback from academic staff and students, and through annual review processes. Any such changes will be discussed with and communicated to students in an appropriate and timely manner.

Basic Course Information

Awarding Institution	AECC University College				
Final award, title and credits	MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic 120 Level 7 CATS, 120 Level 6 CATS, 120 Level 5 CATS and 120 Level 4 CATS, and successful completion of the Clinical Placement Unit				
Course Code(s)	100241 - Chiropractic				
Interim exit awards, titles and credits (non-registerable)	CertHE Human Sciences 120 Level 4 CATS DipHE Human Sciences 120 Level 5 CATS and 120 Level 4 CATS BSc Human Sciences 80 Level 6 CATS, 120 Level 5 CATS and 120 Level 4 CATS BSc (Hons) Human Sciences 120 Level 6 CATS, 120 Level 5 CATS and 120 Level 4 CATS MSci (Hons) Human Sciences 120 Level 7 CATS, 120 Level 6 CATS, 120 Level 5 CATS and 120 Level 4 CATS				
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7				
Mode of study	Full-time				
Accreditation details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Chiropractic Council accreditation GCC recognition granted 20 May 2021 (Privy Council approval 15 June 2021) European Council on Chiropractic Council accreditation (approved 28 September 2021) 				
Standard length of course	4 years				
Minimum and maximum periods of study	Exit Award	Minimum period of study	Maximum period of study (with year 1 entry)	Maximum period of study (with Gateway Entry/ Foundation Year)	
	CertHE Human Sciences	1 year	2 years	3 years	
	DipHE Human Sciences	2 years	4 years	4 years	
	BSc Human Sciences & BSc (Hons) Human	3 years	5 years	6 years	
	MSci (Hons) Human Sciences	4 years	6 years	7 years	

	MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic	4 years	6 years	7 years
	Maximum periods of study may be extended by the Assessment Board			
Language of delivery	English			
Place of delivery	AECC University College			
UCAS code (where applicable)	B320			
HECOS Code(s) per course/pathway	100241 - Chiropractic			
Date Course initially validated	Initially validated as an award of Bournemouth University July 2015; approved as an award of AECC University College July 2017			
Date of first intake	September 2015			
Version number of this Course Specification	Version 2.3			
Date this version approved/intake to which this applies	26 February 2025/ applies to all cohorts from September 2024			

Course Overview

1. Admissions regulations and entry requirements

The regulations for this Course are the University College's Standard Admission Regulations which may be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#). These regulations include the general entry requirements and specific requirements regarding English language. The detailed entry requirements for the course may be found from the relevant course page on the University College website.

Students who have satisfactorily completed Gateway Entry (Level 3 units) including unit 007 Foundations in Chiropractic will progress automatically to Level 4 of the MChiro

Students who successfully complete the Chiropractic Pathway of the Foundation Year (Level 3) will be eligible to progress to Level 4 of the MChiro.

Admission is also subject to the receipt of a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate, or National Police Certificate for those living outside of the UK.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

AECC University College has a Recognition of Prior Learning Policy which can be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#)

AECC University College will consider through this policy, qualifications for admission with advanced standing and for exemption from elements of the taught course. For Integrated Masters provision credit based on RPL shall not exceed 240 CATS.

2 Aims of the course

The MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic course aims to prepare students to be safe and competent independent clinicians able to join the chiropractic profession by being eligible to register with an appropriate Professional, Statutory, Regulatory Body (PSRB) either in the UK or overseas.

To do this, the course will provide students with a thorough knowledge of human science as well as well-developed diagnostic and therapeutic skills. The course will develop students to be evidence based and patient centred clinicians with strong communication and people skills. In addition, students will develop an understanding of the scientific method and will understand how to design, undertake, analyse and present research data in the context of modern

2 Aims of the course

healthcare. The course will provide students with the skills of lifelong learning and continuing professional development to enable them to achieve the highest professional standards of clinical care.

Throughout the course students will develop clinical skills and other transferable skills through workshops and supervised interactions with patients during placement. The course also aims to develop a holistic view of healthcare so that students will be able to advise patients on a variety of public health related matters.

Those who successfully complete the MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic will be eligible to apply for GCC registration and practice in the UK. Graduates wishing to work in other countries are advised to check the requirements for their country. Only the qualification MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic will be recognised by PSRBs for professional registration. Other interim exit awards are non-registerable.

The aims of the course are to:

- prepare graduates to act as safe and competent primary contact clinicians
- produce graduates who can deliver the highest standards of care in the context of, and responding to, their community needs and the wider healthcare environment
- produce graduates capable of practicing within a patient-centered model with the skills and approach that enable the integration of critically evaluated research evidence, clinical expertise and patient choice
- produce graduates with attitudes and skills that engender lifelong learning and continuing professional development with a view to achieving the highest professional standards
- provide graduates with an understanding of the scientific method in the context of modern healthcare and the knowledge and skills that underpin this
- produce graduates with effective skills of listening, interpreting and communicating within the healthcare arena with emphasis on the psychosocial issues inherent with this activity

3 Intended Learning Outcomes

Level 7 (Course Learning Outcomes)

Subject Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1** The basis and principles of chiropractic in a contemporary context.
- A2** The differentiation between normal and abnormal structure and function relating to the human body and what constitutes “health” in the context of society and populations, how health and disease outcomes are measured
- A3** The place of evidence informed practice in contemporary health care.
- A4** The range of conditions that present to chiropractors as independent primary contact practitioners, the scientific basis for their presentations and the nature and impact of their physical, psychological and social aspects.
- A5** Selected drug actions appropriate to the management or co-management of musculoskeletal conditions and patients who present to chiropractors.
- A6** The context and nature of chiropractic as a regulated profession in the UK, and the duties of chiropractors as registered primary healthcare professionals.
- A7** The legal, moral and ethical responsibilities involved in protecting and promoting the health of individual patients, their dependents and the public, including vulnerable groups.
- A8** The different methods of research, data collection & analysis available to clinical researchers, related ethical and governance issues and the ways in which the

3 Intended Learning Outcomes

outcomes of research are transferred to practice.

Intellectual Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- B1** Identify their own learning needs, plan their own learning and development and evaluate its effectiveness, required for continuing professional development.
- B2** Critically appraise relevant studies as reported in the chiropractic, medical and scientific literature and appropriately apply findings from the literature to answer questions raised by specific clinical problems.
- B3** Formulate a plan for the appropriate assessment, treatment and management of patients, according to established principles and best evidence, in partnership with the patient and other health professionals as appropriate.
- B4** Make sound clinical judgments in the absence of complete data, assess and recognise the severity of a clinical presentation and the need for immediate emergency care and appraise and recommend appropriate strategies for a range of ethical dilemmas that might affect chiropractors.
- B5** Acquire, assess and integrate new knowledge, demonstrating originality in the application of knowledge.
- B6** Learn to adapt to changing circumstances and demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems to ensure that patients receive the highest level of professional care.
- B7** Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge with critical evaluation and insight of emerging contemporaneous knowledge.
- B8** Undertake data collection, analysis & presentation in a way contiguous with the wider scientific community.

Practical Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- C1** Competently and confidently take and record a patient's medical history using appropriate methods to draw out the necessary information.
- C2** Perform and interpret a range of diagnostic procedures, appropriate to the conditions that commonly present to chiropractors as well as those that may mimic musculoskeletal complaints, and measure and record the findings.
- C3** Perform a wide range of therapeutic psychomotor and condition management skills, selecting and applying each of them to meet the needs of individual patients, utilising the best available evidence and/or patient preferences, and managing patients in a manner that is in consonance with ethical professional practice.
- C4** Communicate competently and confidently with patients, their relatives or other carers, and colleagues from the medical and other professions and keep accurate, attributable, legible and complete clinical records, which are representative of the interaction with the patient.
- C5** Use tools such as clinical audit and adverse incident reporting as a means of quality improvement in their practice.
- C6** Provide basic first aid and life support including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and/or directing other team members to carry out resuscitation.

Transferable skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- D1** Communicate clearly, sensitively and effectively with patients and others, by listening,

3 Intended Learning Outcomes

sharing and responding, regardless of individual differences and provide explanation, advice, reassurance and support.

- D2** Manage time, prioritise tasks, exercise initiative and work autonomously when necessary and appropriate.
- D3** Make effective use of computers and other information systems, including storing and retrieving information and access these sources to use the information in relation to patient care, health promotion, giving advice and information to patients and for research and education.
- D4** Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of lifelong and independent learning required for continuing professional development, including the demonstration of intellectual progression with a professional development portfolio containing reflections, achievements and learning needs.
- D5** Function effectively as a mentor and teacher including contributing to the appraisal, assessment and review of colleagues and giving effective, constructive feedback to junior colleagues.
- D6** Demonstrate an understanding, and respect the roles and expertise, of other healthcare professionals in the context of working and learning in a multi-disciplinary approach, seeking their advice when necessary.
- D7** Work with colleagues, and not in isolation from them, in ways that best serve the interests of patients, passing on information and handing over care, demonstrating flexibility, adaptability and a problem-solving approach.
- D8** Continually and systematically reflect on practice and, whenever necessary, translate that reflection into action, using improvement techniques and audit appropriately, especially in complex and unpredictable situations.
- D9** Recognise and work within the limits of their own personal and professional knowledge, skills and experience and seek help from colleagues and others when necessary.

Interim Intended Learning Outcomes for Level 6

Level 6 provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills as follows:

Subject knowledge and understanding

- A1** The diagnosis and evidence-informed management for various clinical manifestations of disease and dysfunction pertinent to the topics of dermatology, fatigue, arthritides, special populations, motor and movement disorders, disorders of the central and peripheral nervous system, disorders of skeletal muscle, disorders of sensation, balance, dizziness, headache, head pain and disorders of the spine and extremities
- A2** The principles of patient management as they pertain to the clinical placement and the GCC's Code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for chiropractors (effective from 30 June 2016).
- A3** The principles of medical imaging, the risks and benefits of common imaging modalities used in musculoskeletal disorders and the clinical and professional responsibilities associated with each.
- A4** The interpretation of medical images to arrive at a working diagnosis, or differential diagnosis list, and understand how this informs patient management.

Intellectual skills

- B1** Demonstrate an ability to formulate a clinical research question based upon a clinical encounter and answer this question in an evidence-based manner through searching and critically appraising relevant literature.

3 Intended Learning Outcomes

- B2** Demonstrate a systematic, critical approach to clinical reasoning and decision making, often in the absence of complete data, and identify appropriate solutions or questions that may reasonably achieve solutions to clinical problems.
- B3** Generate a justifiable differential diagnosis based on relevant, available data (which may be incomplete) and modify, reject or prioritise the differential in light of new or further information.
- B4** Critically challenge beliefs, preconceptions or established theories and propose alternative conclusions and solutions to a range of clinical and ethical dilemmas.

Practical skills

- C1** Demonstrate clinical competence in the systematic, critical application and performance of the skills of history taking and physical examination and interpret, appropriately, the information gathered pertinent to the topics of dermatology, fatigue, arthritides, special populations, motor and movement disorders, disorders of the central and peripheral nervous system, disorders of skeletal muscle, disorders of sensation, balance, dizziness, headache, head pain and disorders of the spine and extremities.
- C2** Demonstrate clinical competence in the performance, selection and justification of a variety of manipulative, mobilisation, myofascial and manual muscle testing procedures for the joints of the spine and extremities under indirect supervision.
- C3** Demonstrate clinical competence in the performance, selection and justification of assessment and management procedures employed in functional management under indirect supervision.
- C4** Demonstrate clinical competence in the performance, selection and justification of assessment and therapeutic approaches to the management of the psychosocial aspects of musculoskeletal pain under indirect supervision.
- C5** Demonstrate competence in the performance, selection and justification of emergency first aid including basic life support.

Transferable skills

- D1** Appropriately apply the principles of professional behaviour, conduct and practice expected of registered chiropractors.
- D2** Demonstrate methods of good communication in order to better identify patients' problems, provide greater patient satisfaction and reduce patient distress and anxiety.
- D3** Demonstrate proficiency in the communication of information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences in a variety of different formats.
- D4** Make effective use of computers and other information systems in relation to patient care.
- D5** Understand the importance of lifelong and independent learning required for continuing professional development.
- D6** Demonstrate the ability to interpret and critically evaluate primary and secondary research sources in the context of clinical scenarios.
- D6** Demonstrate the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility and show a reflective approach to learning and clinical practice.
- D7** Recognise and work within the limits of their own personal and professional knowledge, skills and experience and seek help from colleagues and others when necessary

Interim Intended Learning Outcomes for Level 5

Level 5 provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills as follows:

Subject knowledge and understanding

- A1** The personal and co-operative attributes of healthcare professionals and the philosophical ideas pertinent to the comprehension of professional practice in chiropractic.
- A2** The rationale for manual therapy and the local and peripheral effects of mechanical stimuli.
- A3** The diagnosis and management of various clinical manifestations of disease and dysfunction pertinent to the topics of visceral and neurological pain and disorders
- A4** The gross anatomy and functional relationships of the head, neck, nervous system (central and peripheral) and surrounding tissues.
- A5** The pathology, abnormal physiology, basic pharmacology and endocrinology associated with tumour formation and spread, disorders of the skin, and disorders of the gastrointestinal, respiratory, cardiovascular, renal, reproductive, endocrine, musculoskeletal and central nervous systems.
- A6** Clinical research methods, including critical appraisal skills and an evidence informed approach to clinical practice.

Intellectual skills

- B1** Evaluate the appropriateness of a range of commonly used research designs with respect to musculoskeletal medicine.
- B2** Demonstrate a systematic, critical approach to the assessment of quality in appraisal of relevant research studies.
- B3** Demonstrate a systematic, critical approach to clinical reasoning and decision making.
- B4** Generate and justify a differential diagnosis based on relevant initial data and modify, reject or prioritise the differential in light of new or further information.

Practical skills

- C1** Demonstrate technical competence in the systematic, critical application and performance of the skills of history taking and physical examination and interpret, appropriately, the information gathered pertinent to the topics of visceral and neurological pain and disorders
- C2** Demonstrate technical competence in a variety of manipulative, mobilisation, myofascial and manual muscle testing procedures for the tissues of the spine and extremities.
- C3** Demonstrate technical competence in the assessment and management procedures employed in functional rehabilitation.
- C4** Demonstrate technical competence in the assessment and management of the psychosocial dimensions of musculoskeletal pain.

Transferable skills

- D1** Recognise and understand the fundamental benchmarks in conduct and practice that patients can expect from chiropractors and the key elements of professional behaviour.
- D2** Demonstrate an essential understanding of the benefits and methods of effective communication in chiropractic practice and the role it plays in patient management.
- D3** Effectively gather and appraise evidence/information from a variety of sources.
- D4** Apply learned concepts and principles to novel situations outside of the context in

3 Intended Learning Outcomes

which they were first studied.

- D5** Demonstrate a willingness to learn from experience and the knowledge of others.

Interim Intended Learning Outcomes for Level 4

Level 4 provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills as follows:

Subject knowledge and understanding

- A1** The requirements of student fitness to practice, the fundamental responsibilities of chiropractors and the duty of care associated with the practice of chiropractic in today's healthcare environment and an understanding of the nature of chiropractic in a contemporary and historical context.
- A2** The basic theory behind manual therapies and their safe use, and an understanding of basic physical examination skills.
- A3** The determinants of health and the fundamental principles of public health and health promotion.
- A4** The anatomy, normal appearance, imaging characteristics functional anatomy and biomechanical properties of the tissues of the human spine, head, upper and lower limbs.
- A5** Basic structural anatomy of the visceral organs, tissues and innervations of the thorax, thoracic, abdomen and pelvic cavities.
- A6** Basic physiology and biochemistry relating to the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, gastrointestinal and lymphatic systems.

Intellectual skills

- B1** Assess the role of the scientific method in the development of modern healthcare and, in particular, its impact on the evolution and future of the chiropractic profession.
- B2** Present arguments on the nature of health and disease from biological, psychosocial and cultural perspectives and debate the role and limitations of chiropractic care.
- B3** Create a clinical research question and undertake a basic literature search aimed at answering that question.
- B4** Select quantitative and qualitative data pertaining to public health and discuss its value in the context of levels of evidence.
- B4** Recognise the functional relationships and clinical significance of a variety of anatomical structures and physiological processes in terms of their evolutionary advantage to human development.

Practical skills

- C1** Demonstrate a basic level of competence in history taking and physical examination.
- C2** Demonstrate a basic level of competence in musculoskeletal observation skills, palpatory skills and some basic orthopaedic tests.
- C3** Demonstrate a basic level of competence in manual muscle testing.
- C4** Demonstrate a basic level of competence in biomechanical functional assessment.

Transferable skills

- D1** Develop basic competence in communicating effectively with patients and others.
- D2** Take personal responsibility for identifying and managing their own learning needs.
- D3** Recognise and respect the views and opinions of others.

3 Intended Learning Outcomes

D4 Perform effectively on collaborative tasks with others.

D5 Demonstrate the ability to reflect on actions in order to improve performance.

Interim learning outcomes for level 3 (Gateway Entry/Foundation Year) are set out in the respective Gateway/Foundation Year Course Specification.

4 Outline of course content

The MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic course is designed to meet the standards required for accreditation with the GCC and European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE). The level of intended learning outcomes for this course, conform to the standards set out in the QAA document 'The Frameworks for HE Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies'.

During this 4-year, full-time course, students will develop the knowledge and skills required to enter the chiropractic profession. The course incorporates and integrates knowledge from the informing science disciplines with the knowledge and skills of diagnostic and therapeutic disciplines, as is necessary for the safe and competent practice of chiropractic. Students will be exposed to normal and abnormal states of health, diagnosis and management through a blended-learning approach, whilst clinical skills will be developed and refined primarily through practical workshops. Students will learn to view patients through the biopsychosocial model utilising evidence-based methods of care, developing as reflective and critical independent practitioners. Students will develop key knowledge and skills in clinical research, clinical audit, public health, and professional and ethical practice. Self-directed learning and reflective practice are increasingly emphasised as students' progress through the course to enable their continuing professional development after graduation. At the point of graduation students will be equipped for, and capable of, independent practice and the evidence-informed management of individual patients within the framework of a modern, regulated healthcare profession.

In this curriculum, during the foundation years the students are equipped with skills needed for chiropractors as consumers of research. The ability to find, evaluate and clinically apply the research in an evidence-based manner for evidence based clinical practice.

In year 1 and 2 the Evidence based clinical reasoning I and II units provide training in the skills that underpin the scientific method, research enquiry, evidence-based practice, analytical and critical thinking. Skills such as, but not limited to, data collection, deductive-inductive theories, interpreting statistics, using Excel and literature searching are taught during these units. These units aim develop an ability to interpret and critically appraise published clinical research evidence with a view toward evidence-informed healthcare practice. They focus on the understanding, and critical appraisal, of different clinical research methods, and how to use this in the design of research as well as in evidence-based practice.

The knowledge gained in the lower years will be used in Clinical Management I and II in year 3 to demonstrate and apply these skills, utilising an evidence-based approach, clinical guidelines and protocols and applying this knowledge in a clinical case-based setting. Using the best evidence to formulate treatment plans that will include a variety of treatment methods that have sound outcomes that will benefit their future patients.

In year 4 students will be provided with the opportunity to understand qualitative & quantitative research paradigms, designs & methodology. The students will be expected to develop an appropriate original clinical research questions & hypotheses and to systematically plan a research investigation (clinical audit). The Clinical research unit will enhance a student's understanding of the ethical considerations of clinical research and how to apply these in the context of study design & implementation. At the same time developing and enhance the skills & insight necessary to become an effective clinical researcher.

In year 4 there is also an optional Research placement unit. This unit has been designed for those students that would be interested in perusing a research pathway for the future. Students

4 Outline of course content

will be provided with an opportunity to participate in primary research under supervision of a research mentor, within the established research centres of AECC University College. This unit will enhance their skills in a chosen area of research, thereby developing their experience and confidence in research skills through a variety of activities.

The programme embeds the thinking and practice underpinning the use of evidence-informed practice. Students are exposed to evidence-informed practice by appreciating the role of clinical and research evidence not only in informing practice but also in the development and integration of the profession in the wider healthcare community.

Students who successfully complete the MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic course will be eligible to apply for registration with the General Chiropractic Council.

5 Placements, work-based learning or other special features of the course

Throughout the course students will engage in directed clinical encounters, observing other students and clinicians in the clinical environment and starting to apply the knowledge and skills learnt in the classroom to patients in the clinical setting.

In Levels 4-5 the clinical encounters form part of the requirement for the Clinical chiropractic units MCH4001, and MCH5001 with an associated pass/fail logbook assessment. These units are core units and therefore mandatory for completion of the levels and associated interim exit awards.

In Level 6 the clinical encounters and placement opportunities form part of the MCH6006 Interprofessional and collaborative practice unit and contribute to the coursework for that unit. This unit is a core unit and therefore mandatory for completion of the level and the associated interim exit award.

After successful completion of Level 6 students will enter the clinical placement programme where they will take on the role of a chiropractic student clinician, managing patients under the supervision of qualified chiropractors. This compulsory clinical placement normally lasts for 46 weeks and students will be on placement in the region of 15-20 hours per week. During the clinical placement students will be expected to undertake the appropriate management of patients under their care utilising the facilities and resources available to them, and through effective communication with other healthcare professionals. Clinical mentors will oversee students' learning and feedback on key areas of their development during the placement. Students may also be required to undertake additional duties during their placement. This may include but are not limited to community engagement activities, observing chiropractors and other healthcare professionals, undertaking administrative duties and acting as teaching assistants within the School of Chiropractic.

6 Course structure, levels, units credit and award

The level of study, units and credits required for the course and for final and exit awards are set out in the **course diagram** provided as [Appendix 1](#).

The **learning outcomes mapping document** at [Appendix 2](#) shows the relationship between ILOs for units and the overarching ILOs of the course.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

7 Learning and teaching strategies and methods

In a modern healthcare profession, it is vital that clinicians have not only technical knowledge, but also a wide range of transferable skills including critical thinking, research skills, IT skills, communication skills and the ability to undertake continuing professional development including reflective practice. Therefore, the teaching and learning strategies for this course provide a blended learning approach that encourages students to develop as independent learners and to

7 Learning and teaching strategies and methods

contextualise their knowledge within clinical scenarios. A mix of learning and teaching methods, such as lectures, workshops, practical skills classes, e-learning, interactive presentations with audience responses devices, videos, quizzes directed and self-directed study, are blended to provide the best learning experience as is suited to each subject being studied.

The course utilises spiral learning, where earlier learning is revisited and contextualized in increasingly complex clinical scenarios and developed throughout the course. In Level 4 of the course, learning will be more heavily weighted towards the acquisition of technical and factual knowledge in the informing disciplines. Levels 5 and 6 are more focused on the development of clinical diagnostic and management skills, as well as preparation for the clinical placement.

Learning during Level 7 is centered around the experiential learning of the clinical placement through the evidence-based management, and where necessary co-management, of patients under the supervision, guidance and support of clinical staff. Further units at Level 7 will help students to develop as an autonomous and reflective clinician, able to meet the standards of clinical competency and professional practice expected of a chiropractor.

8 Assessment strategies and methods

The assessment strategies and methods used throughout this course have been chosen to reflect those most appropriate to the knowledge, understanding or skill under assessment as well as the level of study. They reflect the development of scientific and clinical knowledge as well as research and clinical skills. A variety of formative and summative assessments will be used throughout to help guide students' development and self-reflection as well as ensuring they have met the standards required for clinical practice. Written assessments focus on the acquisition of knowledge and clinical experience whilst practical assessments focus on the development of clinical skills.

The assessment methods used on this course may include:

- Written examinations
- Computer based assessments (CBA)
- Individual and group coursework
- Presentations
- Logbooks
- Portfolios
- Evidence-based case reports
- Practical skills assessments (which may be in person or through the use of video)
- Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)
- Direct observation of procedural skills (DOPs)
- Assessment of clinical competences (ACCs)

Some examples of the progression of assessment and rationale are as follows:

- Written examinations may include Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ), Extended Matching Questions (EMQ), script concordance questions, key feature problems and narrative style questions, with a mix appropriate to the subject matter being assessed and the level of study. As an example, MCQs will be used more often in the early levels of the course, whilst script concordance questions, which are designed to test whether examinees can interpret clinical data and make clinical decisions, are most suited to level 7 of the course.
- Coursework will include both individual and group work, and a range of different assessment types. Although reflection is encouraged early within the course, its use in assessment is weighted towards the latter part of the course where it is combined with professional development portfolios to demonstrate reflective clinical practice.
- Competence in the performance of practical skills will be assessed in levels 3-6. However, at level 7, direct observation of procedural skills (DOPs), and assessment of clinical competence (ACCs) will be used to assess clinical skills in practice.

9. Learning hours

AECC University College courses are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, but half-units are permitted. 20 credits are the equivalent of 200 student study hours, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

In addition to this the MChiro employs a 60-credit weighted unit for time spent in the clinical placement where students will apply the knowledge and skills acquired through their studies. The clinical placement normally lasts for 46 weeks and students will be on placement for in the region of 15 - 20 hours per week. The placement is a compulsory unit (MCH7001) which must be completed in order to exit with the qualification of MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic and be eligible to apply for registration with the GCC.

10. Staff delivering the course

Students will be taught by AECC University College academic staff and qualified professional practitioners with relevant expertise. All chiropractic teaching staff will be registered with the GCC. External lecturers may be used to deliver specific topics in the curriculum. Where this is the case their background and expertise will always be appropriate to the topics delivered.

11. Progression and assessment regulations

The regulations for this course are the University College's Standard Assessment Regulations which may be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#).

12 Additional costs

Additional costs are mandatory or optional costs which students will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete their course. Students will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Tuition Fee they are charged. Information about additional costs applying to students on this course can be found in the document **Important information to take into account when choosing your course** available from the [Latest Policies webpage](#)

Indicative anticipated additional costs include:

- Purchase of a diagnostic kit (approximate cost £300 - £550 depending on the kit option which is chosen). These are not required to be purchased before joining the course.
- Purchase of clinic jacket (approximate cost £30) (usually a minimum of two is advised). These are not required to be purchased before joining the course.
- There are no photocopying or printing credits provided apart from in the clinic if copying or printing for patient records is required.
- Should a student fail any units and be offered an opportunity to repeat a unit or units there will be a fee payable as set out below (fees quoted at 2018-19 prices):
 - Home / EU students: £1,540 per unit (20 credits)
 - Overseas students / self-funded students: £2,350 per unit (20 credits)
- UK-domiciled applicants are required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (once a student has applied the University College will guide them through the process). Applicants must meet the costs of this check (£49 in 2019).
- Non-UK domiciled applicants are required to provide a satisfactory National Police check. Applicants must meet the costs of this check, which will vary from country to country.

13 Methods for evaluating the quality of learning and teaching

Students have the opportunity to engage in the quality assurance and enhancement of their courses in a number of ways, which may include:

- Completing student surveys during and at the completion of each academic year to give

13 Methods for evaluating the quality of learning and teaching

feedback on individual units and on the course as a whole

- Completing the National Student Survey in the final year of the course
- Taking part in focus groups as arranged
- Seeking nomination as a Student Union representative OR engaging with these elected student representatives
- Serving as a student representative on Course Consideration panels for course approval/review
- Taking part in course consideration or professional body meetings by joining a group of students to meet with the panel
- Taking part in meetings with the external examiner(s) for the course (such meetings may take place virtually where courses are part-time)

The ways in which the quality of the University College's courses are monitored and assured checked, both inside and outside the institution, are:

- Annual monitoring of units and courses
- Periodic Course review, at least every six years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- Oversight by Academic Standards and Quality Committee (which includes student representation), reporting to Academic Board
- Professional body accreditation and annual reports to these bodies
- External Quality Assurance Reviews and annual monitoring

14. Inclusivity statement

AECC University College is committed to being an institution where students and staff from all backgrounds can flourish. AECC University College recognises the importance of equality of opportunity and promoting diversity, in accordance with our Dignity Diversity and Equality Policy. We are committed to a working and learning environment that is free from physical, verbal and non-verbal harassment and bullying of individuals on any grounds, and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, within a positive and satisfying learning and working environment.

AECC University College seeks to ensure that all students admitted to our courses have the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The interests of students with protected characteristics will be taken into consideration and reasonable adjustments will be made provided that these do not compromise academic or professional standards as expressed through the learning outcomes.

15. Reference points including QAA Benchmark statements

The following reference points were used to inform the development of this course:

- UK Quality Code for Higher Education: The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (October 2014)
- QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (February 2020).
- General Chiropractic Council (GCC) Education Standards (September 2017)
- European Council on Chiropractic Education' (ECCE) Accreditation Procedures and Standards in First Qualification Chiropractic Education and Training (November 2019)
- International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) Inc: Educational Standards in Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy (July 2016)
- Council of Deans of Health: Becoming research confident (May 2019)

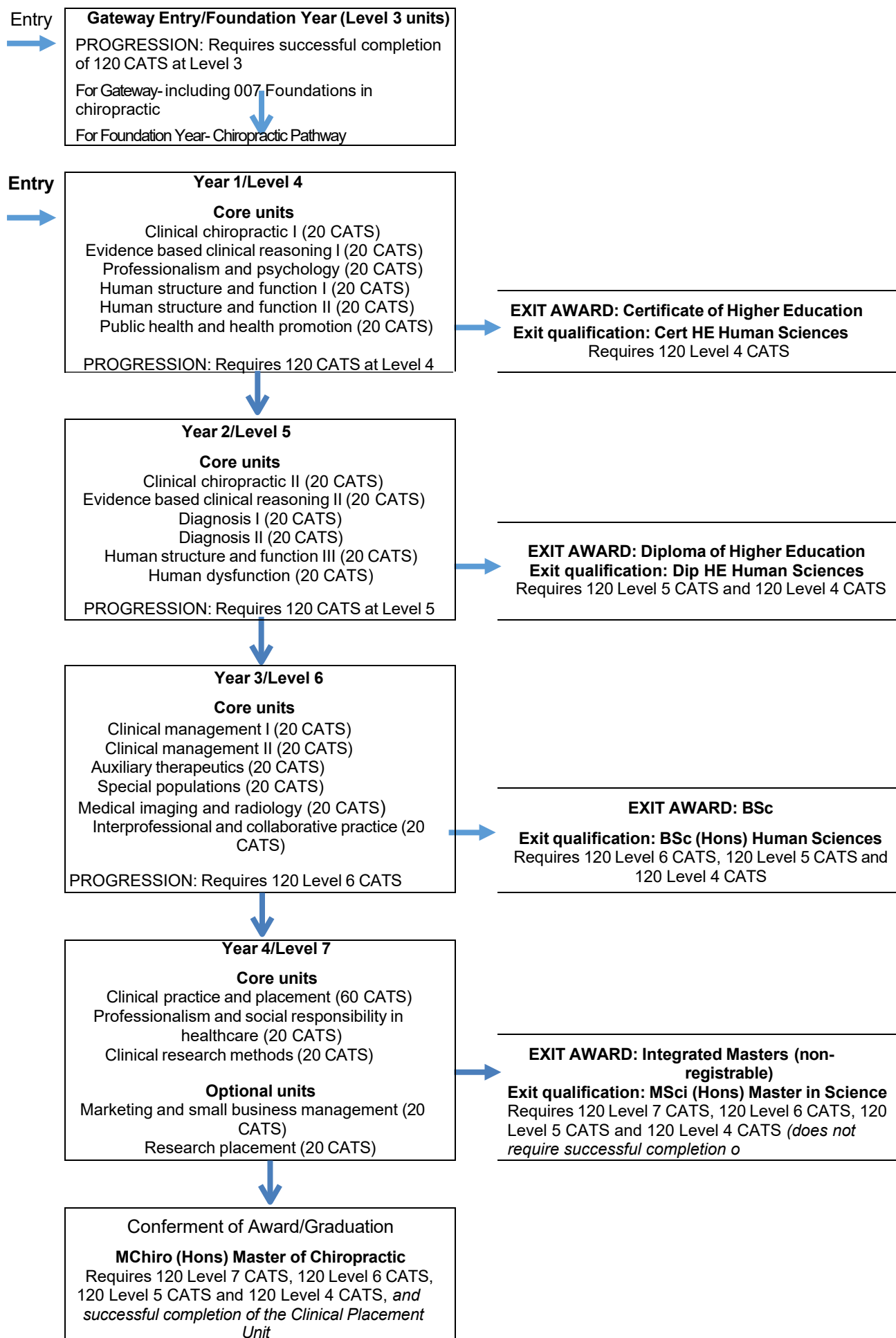
15. Reference points including QAA Benchmark statements

- QAA subject benchmark statements for comparable professions (Osteopathy, Biomedical Science and Medicine). There are no QAA subject specific benchmark statements for chiropractic education.

16. Regulatory & policy framework

The course conforms fully with the University College's Academic Regulations and Policies for Taught Courses.

Appendix 1: Course Diagram MChiro (Hons)



Appendix 2: Learning outcomes mapping document template

This table shows where a learning outcome referenced in the course specification may be demonstrated by successful completion of a unit. The numbers A1 A2 B1 B2 etc refer back to the learning outcomes listed under Subject Knowledge and Understanding, Intellectual Skills, Practical Skills and Transferable skills in this course specification template ([Intended Learning Outcomes](#)). Optional units are not mapped as course learning outcomes are met by completion of the core units. Level 3 is not mapped as not all students complete this level.

	Subject Knowledge & Understanding								Intellectual Skills								Practical Skills						Transferrable Skills								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9
MCH7001 Clinical practice and placement	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
MCH7003 Professionalism and social responsibility in healthcare	*		*			*	*		*			*		*					*	*			*	*			*	*		*	
MCH7004 Clinical research methods			*					*		*			*	*	*	*					*			*	*		*		*		
MCH6001 Clinical management I		*	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			*	*	*			*	*	*	*
MCH6002 Clinical management II		*	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			*	*	*			*	*	*	*
MCH6003 Auxiliary therapeutics	*			*						*		*		*	*		*	*	*	*			*	*			*	*	*	*	
MCH6004 Special populations							*			*	*			*			*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*			*	*	*	
MCH6005 Medical imaging and radiology		*	*	*							*	*						*		*			*	*	*			*	*		*
MCH6006 Interprofessional and collaborative practice	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
MCH5001 Clinical chiropractic II	*		*		*	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*			*	*	*			*	*	*		*				
MCH5002 Evidence based clinical reasoning II		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*						*	*		*	*		*	
MCH5003 Diagnosis I		*	*	*	*			*			*	*		*			*	*		*			*	*	*		*	*	*		*
MCH5004 Diagnosis II		*	*	*	*			*			*	*		*			*	*		*			*	*	*		*	*	*		*

	Subject Knowledge & Understanding								Intellectual Skills								Practical Skills						Transferrable Skills								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9
MCH5005 Human structure and function III		*		*	*																			*	*						
MCH5006 Human dysfunction		*		*	*																			*	*						
MCH4001 Clinical chiropractic I	*			*		*	*				*	*					*	*	*	*			*	*	*						
MCH4002 Evidence based clinical reasoning I		*	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*		*				*						*	*						
MCH4003 Professionalism and psychology	*		*	*		*	*					*	*							*			*	*				*			*
MCH4004 Human structure and function I		*		*	*																			*							
MCH4005 Human structure and function II		*		*	*																			*							
MCH4006 Public health and health promotion	*	*	*			*	*													*			*	*	*			*			

Course summary

Course title: MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic

Unit details			Core/ Option	Pre/ co requisite units	No of credits (level in brackets)	Assessment Element Weightings (%) [*]						Estimated learning hours		
Number	Title	Version no.				Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	Prac 1	Prac 2	Scheduled contact	Directed non- contact	Self- directed
MCH4001	Clinical chiropractic I	1.0	Core	N/A	20 (4)					P/F		96	48	56
MCH4002	Evidence based clinical reasoning I	1.0	Core	N/A	20 (4)			100				72	72	56
MCH4003	Professionalism and psychology	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (4)	60		40				36	60	104
MCH4004	Human structure and function I	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (4)	100						36	60	104
MCH4005	Human structure and function II	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (4)	100						36	60	104
MCH4006	Public health and health promotion	1.0	Core	N/A	20 (4)	60		40				36	60	104
Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 4														
Exit qualification: Cert HE Human Sciences requires 120 credits at Level 4														

Unit details			Core/ Option	Pre/ co requisite units	No of credits (level in brackets)	Assessment Element Weightings (%) [*]						Estimated learning hours		
Number	Title	Version no.				Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	Prac 1	Prac 2	Scheduled contact	Directed non- contact	Self- directed
MCH5001	Clinical chiropractic II	2.1	Core	N/A	20 (5)			100		P/F		96	48	56
MCH5002	Evidence based clinical reasoning II	1.3	Core	N/A	20 (5)	60		40				72	72	56
MCH5003	Diagnosis I	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (5)	100				P/F		60	48	92
MCH5004	Diagnosis II	1.2	Core	N/A	20 (5)	100				P/F		60	48	92
MCH5005	Human structure and function III	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (5)	100						36	48	116
MCH5006	Human dysfunction	1.0	Core	N/A	20 (5)	100						36	48	116

Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 5

Exit qualification: Dip HE Human Sciences requires 120 credits at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 4

Unit details			Core/ Option	Pre/ co requisite units	No of credits (level in brackets)	Assessment Element Weightings (%)*						Estimated learning hours		
Number	Title	Version no.				Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	Prac 1	Prac 2	Scheduled contact	Directed non- contact	Self- directed
MCH6001	Clinical management I	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (6)			100		P/F		72	60	68
MCH6002	Clinical management II	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (6)			100		P/F		72	60	68
MCH6003	Auxiliary therapeutics	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (6)	100				P/F		60	48	92
MCH6004	Special populations	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (6)	100				P/F	P/F	60	48	92
MCH6005	Medical imaging and radiology	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (6)	100				P/F		72	72	56
MCH6006	Interprofessional and collaborative practice	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (6)			100				48	72	80

Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 6

Exit qualifications:

BSc Human Sciences requires 80 credits at Level 6, 120 credits at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 4

BSc (Hons) Human Sciences requires 120 credits at Level 6, 120 credits at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 4

Unit details			Core/ Option	Pre/ co requisite units	No of credits (level in brackets)	Assessment Element Weightings (%)*						Estimated learning hours		
Number	Title	Version no.				Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	Prac 1	Prac 2	Scheduled contact	Directed non- contact	Self- directed
MCH7001	Clinical practice and placement	1.0	Core	N/A	60 (7)			100				48	48	504
MCH7002	Marketing and small business management	1.1	Optional	N/A	20 (7)			100				24	6	170
MCH7003	Professionalism and social responsibility in healthcare	1.1	Core	N/A	20 (7)	60		40				24	10	166
MCH7004	Clinical research methods	1.0	Core	N/A	20 (7)			100				24	48	128
MCH7005	Research placement	1.0	Optional	N/A	20 (7)			100				24	24	152

Exit qualifications:

MChiro (Hons) Master of Chiropractic requires 120 credits at Level 7, 120 credits at Level 6, 120 credits at Level 5, 120 credits at Level 4 and successful completion of the Clinical Placement unit.

MSci (Hons) Master in Science (non-registerable) requires 120 credits at Level 7, 120 credits at Level 6, 120 credits at Level 5, 120 credits at Level 4.

***This must be consistent with information provided in each unit specification**

For classifying assessment elements please use the following categorisations: **Exam** – written exam. **Coursework** - Written assignment, including essay, Report, Dissertation, Portfolio, Project. **Practical** - Oral assessment and presentation, Practical skills assessment. The total must add up to 100%. Please add additional columns if required

Scheduled Contact hours can include any elements listed below but it must be possible to show an audit trail to demonstrate that this is a scheduled activity (for example, session should be on a student or faculty timetable): Lecture, Seminar, Tutorial, Project supervision, Demonstration, Practical classes, Supervised time in studio/workshop, Fieldwork, External visits Total must add up to 200 hours for a 20 credit unit