



FAQs – ACA Chiropractic Council on Pediatrics 300-hour Diplomate Program

What is the 300-hour hybrid ACA Chiropractic Council on Pediatrics Diplomate program?

The program is designed to include a hybrid of online and in-person education. It consists of 4 sections, broken down into several online units, and two in-person intensives. Each unit will have a brief assessment to ensure participants are keeping up with the coursework prior to the in-person intensives. Assessments and coursework are designed to meet the meta competencies of the certified pediatric chiropractic specialist referenced in Hewitt, et al 2016*.

What are the core competencies of the certified pediatric chiropractic specialist?

Read all about it in the following scientific journal article. Hewitt E, Hestbaek L, Pohlman KA. Core competencies of the certified pediatric doctor of chiropractic: results of a Delphi consensus process. Journal of evidence-based complementary & alternative medicine. 2016 Apr;21(2):110-4. [\[1\]](#)

Why would I need pediatric-specific training?

Caring for the pediatric population requires extra training and study. The ACA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics has compiled an additional 300 hours of pediatric focused education to prepare you to better serve your pediatric communities! In this course series, Doctors of Chiropractic will become familiar with the normal developmental milestones of all systems within the pediatric population – from birth to age 16. Treatments, both chiropractic and integrative care, will be discussed to best support our youngest patients.

What are the topics of the 4 sections of coursework?

Section 1 covers growth and development (competencies 1,3,6*). Section 2 covers differential diagnosis (competencies 2, 4*). Section 3 covers evidence (competency 5*). Section 4 covers the essentials in pediatric practice (competencies 7, 8, 9*).

When can I access the coursework?

Coursework is added to the [Learn ACA platform](#) monthly. The next cohort is now open for registration. It takes an estimated 17 months, minimum, to complete the work, and up to 24 months maximum.

How long will it take me to complete the program?

Coursework is added to the [Learn ACA platform](#) monthly, and you can finish the work in as few as 17 months or take up to 24 months to complete it. Finish the coursework on your schedule, and at the pace that fits your lifestyle.



I've completed the coursework; what should I do next?

Congratulations, you deserve a huge pat on the back! Your final step towards Diplomate status is taking (and passing!) the Board Exam offered through the American Board on Chiropractic Pediatrics, (A.B.C.P.) Once credentialed, Diplomates will be required to renew their credentials every 2 years. Requirements for renewal include: 24 hours of CE's specific to pediatrics and a contribution to the advancement of the profession. This requirement includes but is not limited to contributing to research as a study participant or by submitting a case for publication; teaching continuing education; or providing community education in your area. The continuing education credits do not need to be presented by a particular organization, though an audit may be performed to ensure the hours are pediatric specific. We encourage diplomates to seek out high quality evidence based pediatric continuing education hours as well.

The cost of recertification is subject to change but is currently set at \$150 every 2 years.

CPR and First Aid are a required part of the program, and I completed this in my community. May I submit documentation of the class I took?

Yes, you are encouraged to take (or renew) CPR/First Aid class with your local Red Cross or American Heart Association chapter. During that portion of the coursework, you will be prompted to upload confirmation of your current certificate to fulfill that requirement.

When and where will the two in-person intensive sessions be held?

Your time and travel dollars are precious; and the ACA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics has created a hybrid program to honor that! Two intensive, in-person learning sessions are planned.

The 2025-26 Cohort (2nd cohort) Intensive [sessions] will be held at National University of Health Sciences in Lombard, IL on June 7-8, 2025, and October 10-11, 2025. Please note this is subject to change with advanced notice.

The 2026 Intensive [sessions] will be announced in the spring of 2025.

What should I expect at the in-person intensive sessions?

The first session is learning about adjusting the infant to the teen with different techniques demonstrated and discussed as well as how to identify any red flags. Information on biomechanics and pathobiomechanics of infants and small children will also be covered. Participants will practice kinetic and static palpation and discuss and workshop adjusting approaches to care.



The second in person session will be about adjusting the extremities as it relates to injury, genetics and conditions seen in practice. Cranial therapy will be demonstrated and instructed as it relates to conditions of the infant and children.

Testing will be done throughout or at the end of each session for proficiency.

How do I connect with my instructors and learning cohort?

We value learning and know that learning within a community is important! This hybrid program is enhanced with Virtual Grand Rounds, led by instructors and focused on the questions from your learning cohort. These sessions will be held every few months, schedule TBD.

What is synchronous versus asynchronous learning?

Synchronous learning occurs in real time, with everyone meeting at a set, scheduled time. This means students are learning simultaneously, and it can be done in a virtual setting or in-person. The key to synchronous learning is that learning is happening simultaneously for the students in the class.

Asynchronous learning allows students to access materials at their own pace and interact with each other over longer periods.

What is the tuition investment? I'm an ACA CCP member, is there a discounted rate for me?

Thanks for being an ACA Peds Council Member, you're helping to drive our profession forward! Yes, there are discounts for ACA CCP members, students, and faculty members. View the tuition investment details here.

I'm ready to register, but would like to pay in installments, can you help with that?

A four-part installment payment program is available if needed, with an additional 5% administrative fee. Registration for cohort 2 is now available. Contact education@acatoday.org with questions regarding the installment program.

I'm still a student, will I be able to take the course?

The 300-hour Diplomate program is accessible through all stages of your chiropractic journey; you're already in "school-mode", why not deepen your understanding of pediatric chiropractic and better prepare yourself for your career! Students must be in Trimester 6 and above OR those who have successfully completed all courses in anatomy, biochemistry, and hands-on technique classwork.

I'm a practicing DC; will I be able to take the course?

Yes, absolutely! The 300-hour Diplomate program is accessible through all stages of your chiropractic career. It's never too late (or too early) to widen your knowledge base and become an expert in pediatric chiropractic.



How is my attendance recorded?

During the two intensive, in-person sessions you are required to sign in and out on the course roster at the beginning and end of each day to confirm your attendance. Asynchronous attendance is confirmed by completing the course content to ensure competence in the subject matter presented.

[\[1\]](#) *Hewitt E, Hestbaek L, Pohlman KA. Core competencies of the certified pediatric doctor of chiropractic: results of a Delphi consensus process. Journal of evidence-based complementary & alternative medicine. 2016 Apr;21(2):110-4.