

Sherman College of Chiropractic Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

PI² (Professionalism = Image + Integrity) *It's Our Time: Aligning Professionalism at Sherman*

Founded in 1973, Sherman College of Chiropractic is a single-purpose, private institution offering only the doctor of chiropractic program (DCP). The college's student population of approximately 400 studies on a single 80-acre campus in beautiful Spartanburg, SC. The campus includes a publicly accessible chiropractic health center, where each student completes a six-quarter chiropractic internship, serving both student patients and outpatients, prior to his or her graduation from the program. The college is committed to its long-held tradition of educating students in the separate and distinct nature of chiropractic, which respects the innate intelligence of the human body, as well as the inseparable and synergistic nature of the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic.

Although applicants must have completed a minimum of 90 hours of undergraduate study to be considered for admission to Sherman – and most have completed a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation – qualitative and quantitative feedback over the past several years has indicated a negative trend in classroom decorum and unprofessional behavior on campus as well as in the social realm. Traditionally, students under the age of 30 have comprised well over half of Sherman's student population, and these students tend to lack extensive professional work experience.

Today's under-30 is also frequently characterized by a reluctance to accept responsibility for his or her own actions, a tendency to delay adulthood, and an inflated sense of his or her own abilities. Alternatively, students in the over-30 age group often view faculty members and administrators as peers and treat them as such, rather than with any deference. Regardless of these demographic details, however, one needs only to look to the most recent U.S. presidential election to see that professionalism is a core skill that can benefit any person of any age; health care practitioners such as chiropractors are certainly no exception.

Utilizing input and feedback from constituents campus-wide, the college has developed its QEP to encompass six student learning outcomes. These SLOs revolve around the core characteristics of image and integrity and include behaviors in the academic and professional realms as well as the potential professional ramifications of behavior in the personal or private realm – including social media.

Utilizing a combination of specific curricular (and co-curricular) interventions and faculty modeling, with its QEP Sherman College will attempt to affect the professional behaviors of Sherman matriculates first as students, then as on-campus chiropractic interns, and ultimately as entry-level doctors of chiropractic. The success of this program will be contingent upon the collaboration of rotating faculty learning communities and full buy-in and commitment from the faculty at large. Major assessments will occur at the onset of the program and at two capstone levels – before a student begins his or her internship, and before he or she graduates from the program. Indirect assessments of the program's success will also be completed, allowing students as well as college faculty and staff to assess the QEP's ongoing success.

For more information about the QEP, please contact Dr. Janice Higgins-Fordree, Director of the QEP and Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, at jfordree@sherman.edu.