

A Curricular Definitional Framework Within Chiropractic Education:

The Concept of The Academic Plan.

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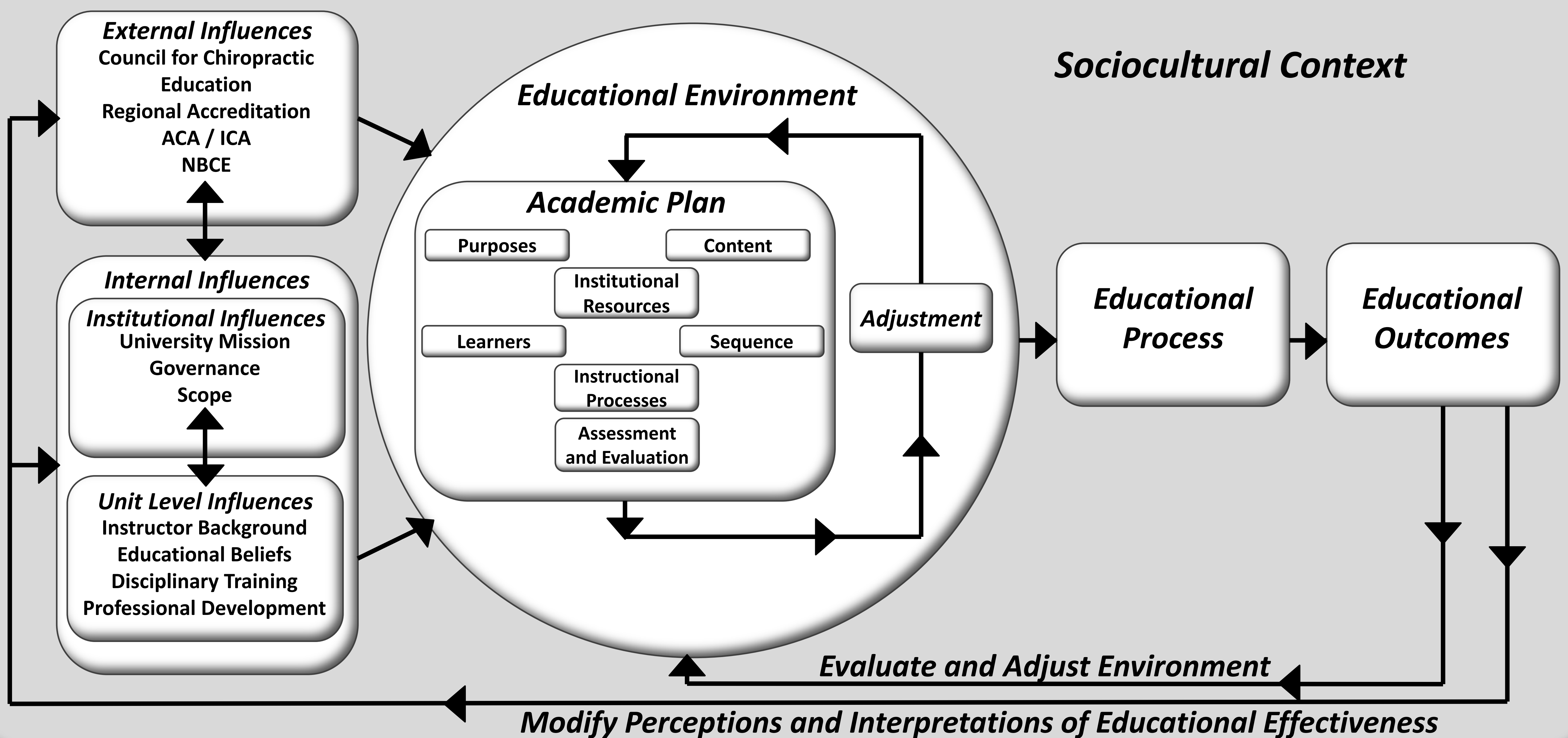
Introduction

The term "curriculum" has many meanings and significances depending on the participant within higher education. A stable definition of curriculum would assist active players within a higher education institution in forming the structural dimensions of the program, policy making, and legislation. Conceptualizing curriculum as an academic plan identifies critical decision points that will enhance the academic experience of students. Academic plans involve the elements: purpose, content, sequence, learners, instructional processes, instructional resources, evaluation, and adjustment, in addition to emphasizing the sociocultural context and influences of the educational environment. This study offers a deeper understanding of the concept of the academic plan and how it may benefit chiropractic medicine programs.

Methods

The following keywords were searched on PubMed, Index to Chiropractic Literature, and Google Scholar: "chiropractic curriculum", "chiropractic education influences", "chiropractic educational environment", "educational process", and "educational outcomes". These were used as singular terms and in combination for the years 2000 through 2016. For this constructive literature review, care was taken to focus on articles that made general curriculum design, progression, and maintenance one of their main objectives. This study also limited the parameters to chiropractic education within the United States. Literature specifically concerning academic plans and their background were also used.

Results



Adapted from Lattuca and Stark, 2011.

Discussion and Conclusions

- The goal of an academic plan within chiropractic education is to identify the critical decision points that will enhance student success.
- Academic plans imply a deliberate planning process that focuses attention on important educational considerations and opportunities with chiropractic medicine.
- Academic plans promote clarity and awareness about influences within the sociocultural context of chiropractic education curriculum and the chiropractic medicine profession. This awareness could have effect in ways regarding policy and legislation.
- Academic plans may help separate facilitators and constraints in chiropractic education on an institutional and professional level from educational assumptions.
- Utilizing academic plans within chiropractic medicine education offers a dynamic view of curriculum development. This process assumes that chiropractic education is not stagnant, but progressive and growth-oriented, subject to evaluation and adjustment.

References

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Acknowledgements

