

HEALTH PROFESSIONS OFFICE

PODIATRY

Podiatric medicine is the seventh fastest-growing occupation in the United States among those professions that require a college education. Millions of men and women from all walks of life turn to doctors of podiatric medicine for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and functional disorders affecting their feet and ankles. The doctor of podiatric medicine (D.P.M.) often detects serious health problems that may otherwise go unnoticed because of symptoms first expressed in problems of the lower extremity. These doctors are educated in state-of-the-art techniques involving surgery, orthopedics, dermatology, physical medicine and rehabilitation. Podiatrists can work in general or group practices and are free to develop a special practice focus such as pediatrics, geriatrics, or athletics. Possible career settings also include foot clinics associated with hospitals in major urban areas or small rural towns.

Doctors of podiatric medicine can perform and order all necessary diagnostic tests and treatment required, including, but not limited to, laboratory, x-ray, MRI and CAT scan tests, surgery, medications, including DEA-restricted medications, and physical therapy programs.

Doctors of podiatric medicine are licensed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to treat the foot and its related or governing structures by medical, surgical or other means. In addition to private practice, they serve on the staffs of hospitals and long-term care facilities, on the faculties of schools of medicine and nursing, as Commissioned Officers in the armed forces and in the U.S. Public Health Service and in municipal health departments.

Educational Program

All colleges of podiatric medicine require a minimum of three years of premedical education; over 95% of students matriculating with schools of Podiatry have the B.S. or B.A. degree. The degree of doctor of podiatric medicine (D.P.M.) is awarded after four years of study at one of seven accredited podiatric medical colleges. The colleges differ in size and location, although the curriculum leading to the D.P.M. degree is quite similar at each institution. The first two years concentrate on classroom instruction and laboratory work in the basic medical sciences. The third and fourth years of study focus on the clinical sciences and patient care judgment.

Requirements for Admission

Like other fields of medicine, the podiatric medical colleges accept students from any major. Candidates for admission should present evidence of a strong preparation for professional study. Undergraduate preparation for podiatric schools should include the following courses or equivalents:

General Chemistry w/ lab	Chem 1 A-B-C (with labs)
Organic Chemistry w/ lab	Chem 109A, 109B, 109C and Chem 6 A, 6B
Biology w/ lab	MCDB 1A/AL, 1B, EEMB2, MCDB 1L or EEMB 2L, EEMB 3/3L
Physics w/ lab	Physics 6 A-B-C (with labs)
English	1 year - Writing 2, 50 (or its equivalent – English 10; Writing 109), plus 1 quarter of English, Comparative Literature, or Writing

*Recommended courses: anatomy, biochemistry, embryology, microbiology, liberal arts and humanities – It is very important that you check with individual schools for any specific courses they may require above and beyond the core science classes.

Interested applicants should visit the office of a practicing podiatrist to learn more about the profession and possibly to obtain a letter of recommendation. This visit demonstrates both an applicant's seriousness in applying to a college of podiatric medicine and gives an opportunity to see first hand if the profession fits their needs and aptitude. It would be in the best interest of any prospective student to let the Admission Committee know of any experience gained by visiting a podiatric physician in person. A letter of recommendation or some statement made by the doctor can document evidence of this experience.

Required Admissions Tests

Typically the MCAT is required; however, some schools will accept the GRE or DAT score in lieu of the MCAT. Only MCAT exams taken within the last three years are acceptable.

Application Process

The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine administers the Application Service (AACPMAS) that processes all applications submitted for admission to the seven colleges of podiatric medicine. The application is submitted online at www.e-aacpmas.org.

Applicants for admission are required to complete the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) as a prerequisite. The MCAT should be taken before starting the senior year of college, in April or August. Scores on this examination must be reported to the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS). The application requests information, which is provided to the podiatric schools. The required data includes biographical information; academic records; grade point averages and hours by academic status; course record GPA and hours by subject; MCAT scores and choice of colleges for admission. In addition, the application has an essay page which the applicant can use as he/she wishes. Each college of podiatric medicine will forward supplemental materials to applicants when it learns of a student's interest in their school. These materials must be returned directly to the individual colleges. Official transcripts must be sent directly to the schools you are applying to. Processing of applications for admission to the fall entering class begins approximately September 1st of each year. After your correctly completed application has been received, AACPMAS requires approximately 24 hours to process and transmit it electronically to your designated colleges. The deadline for priority consideration for the fall Entering Class is April 1st. After that date, admissions to which you are applying are granted on a space available basis until the final deadline date of July 31st.

Letters of Recommendation

Each of the colleges and schools of podiatric medicine have requirements for letters of recommendation. Typically, letters are requested members of the science faculty at a college or university. At least one recommendation from a podiatrist is often requested. Applicants should check the AACPMAS Instruction Booklet for the supplemental materials requested by each college. Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the schools you are applying to.

Resources

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
1350 Piccard Drive, Suite 322
Rockville, Maryland 20850
American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA)
9312 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

Arizona Podiatric Medicine Program at Midwestern University – Glendale, AZ
Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences – Miami Shores, FL
California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt College – Oakland, CA
College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University – Des Moines, IA
New York College of Podiatric Medicine – New York, NY
Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine – Cleveland, Ohio
Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University – Chicago, IL
Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine – Philadelphia, PA

Each of the podiatric medical schools listed above is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM).

