What does a Podiatrist do?

- Podiatric medicine is devoted to the study of movement with the focus on the foot and ankle.
- DPM’s focus on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of foot and ankle disorders, diseases, and injuries.
- DPM’s are often the first to diagnose a number of systemic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease and are integral to the treatment of those diseases.
- Podiatrists use x-rays and laboratory tests to diagnose conditions, prescribe medications, order physical therapy, set fractures, and perform surgery.
- By helping patients with gait, balance and pain issues, DPM’s are often able to make walking much more efficient and comfortable for their patients.
- Podiatric physicians work in many settings including private and group practices, hospitals, extended care facilities, public health, Veterans Affairs hospitals, and the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Although most practice general care, some podiatrists specialize in sports medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, radiology, geriatrics, surgery, and diabetic foot care.
- When you consider that the 52 bones of the feet make up about one-fourth of all the bones in the human body and think about how much time we are on our feet, it is no surprise that a medical specialty has developed to treat foot and lower leg problems.

How do I become a Podiatrist?

- To become a podiatrist, you must attend one of the 7 accredited programs.
- Requirements are similar to those for medical school in terms of prerequisite courses and aptitude test.
- Most programs require the MCAT (the Medical School Aptitude Test) a few will accept the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) or the DAT (Dental Aptitude Test).
- After completing the bachelor’s degree, you would attend a podiatric medical program for 4 years followed by a 2-4 year residency.
- A board exam is required for licensure.

What prerequisite courses do I need?

- Prerequisite courses are fairly standard between programs. See chart below for information on requirements.
- All required courses must have a minimum grade of a C.

What is the job outlook?

- Employment of podiatrists is expected to increase 20% from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Due to our increasingly active society our growing elderly population, more people will be turning to podiatrists for care.
- Although most insurance plans cover acute medical and surgical foot services, some routine foot may not be covered.
- Podiatric care is often discretionary and more dependent on disposable income than some other medical services.
- Average salary for podiatrists is $134,400.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Purdue Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year* of Biology</td>
<td>BIOL 11000-11100 OR BIOL 13100, 23100/23200</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This is the minimum biology, students should take more to be well prepared for the curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of General Chemistry</td>
<td>CHM 11500-11600 OR CHM 12500-12600 OR CHM 12300-12400</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHM 25500/25501-25600/25601 OR CHM 26100/26300-26400 OR CHM 26500/26605-26600 OR MCMP 20400-20500</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of Physics</td>
<td>PHYS 22000-22100 OR PHYS 17200-27200 OR PHYS 17200-24100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of English</td>
<td>ENGL 10600 OR ENGL 10800 plus upper level writing or literature course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also plan for 2015 MCAT</td>
<td>Recommended: anatomy/physiology, biochemistry, psychology, sociology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What else do I need to do before I apply?

- Podiatry schools are competitive largely because there are so few of them.
- Generally they look for well-rounded students who are strong in science and have good communication skills.
- For admissions, programs consider GPA as well as the score on the aptitude test, the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).
- They also look for leadership, empathy, extracurricular and community activities, and shadowing experiences with podiatric physicians.

How do I apply?

- Application is made through a centralized application service sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM).
- The application service, the AACPMAS, reviews materials for completion and electronically sends them to the individual schools at which point they take over your applications.
- Letters of recommendation can be collected in the Center for Pre-Professional Advising and will be distributed for you to the programs of your choice.

Where can I get more information?

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
http://www.aacpm.org

American Podiatric Medical Association
http://www.apma.org

Programs in the Region
Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine
www.dmu.edu/cpms

Scholl/Rosalind Franklin College of Podiatric Medicine
www.rosalindfranklin.edu

Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine
http://www.kent.edu/cpm

For more information about podiatry programs or your interests in the health professions, contact the Center for Pre-Professional Advising at 765-496-2690 or preprofessional@purdue.edu.

Information for this career guide came from explorehealthcareers.org, the above websites, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos075.htm