Podiatry (D.P.M.)

Career Description
• Podiatric medicine prevents, diagnoses, and treats foot and ankle disorders, diseases, and injuries.
• Podiatrists 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, DPMs 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 26 bones make up the foot 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.

Becoming a Podiatrist
• Requirements are the same as those medical school and preparation for the MCAT is necessary.
• After completing the bachelor’s degree, students attend a podiatric medical program for 4 years followed by a comprehensive 3 year Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency.
• A board exam is required for licensure.

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

Job Outlook
• According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment of podiatrists is expected to increase 14% through 2024.
• Due to our increasingly active society and our growing elderly population, more people will be turning to podiatrists for care.
• Average salary for Podiatrists in 2015 was $181,000.

Common Prerequisite Courses (pre-reqs determined by each podiatric school but similar to this list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Purdue Equivalents (specific courses may vary by major)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Biology with lab</td>
<td>BIOL 11000-11100 or BIOL 13100 &amp; 23100 &amp; 23200 (lab) or BIOL 23000 &amp; upper level biology (including 2 hours of lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (recommended for the MCAT)</td>
<td>BIOL 20300-20400 or BIOL 30100-30200</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry with lab</td>
<td>CHM 11500-11600 or 12500-12600 or 12300-12400 or 13600 or 12901 (CHM 11500 credit exam recommended along with CHM 12901)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry with lab</td>
<td>CHM 25500-25600 or 26100-26200 or 26505-26605 or MCMP 20400-20500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>CHM 33300 or 33900 or 53300 or BCHM 30700 or 56100 or MCMP 20800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics with lab</td>
<td>PHYS 22000-22100 or PHYS 23300-23400 or PHYS 21800-21900 or PHYS 17200-27200 or PHYS 17200 &amp; 24100* (may need 1 hr lab such as PHYS 25200)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English (if required usually need 2 semesters)</td>
<td>ENGL 10600 or ENGL 10800 and another English course with strong writing component (either writing or literature)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology (1 semester)</td>
<td>PSY 12000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology (1 semester)</td>
<td>SOC 10000 or higher level sociology course (Anthropology is also acceptable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics (recommended)</td>
<td>A course in statistics is recommended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Med Planning Seminar (optional)</td>
<td>BIOL 39600 is a 0 credit 10 week class covering how to apply to medical school and other health professions programs</td>
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Preparation

- Shadowing experiences with Podiatric Physicians is strongly encouraged to ensure this is the right field and you truly understand what a Podiatrist does.
- 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.
- Take an aptitude test. The MCAT (the Medical School Aptitude Test) is the most commonly required. A few will accept the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) or the DAT (Dental Aptitude Test). Research schools to know in advance which one is required.
- For admission, programs consider grade point average (GPA) as well as the score on the aptitude test.
- Leadership, empathy, extra-curricular and community activities are also needed.

Applying

- Application is made through a centralized application service, the AACPMAS.
- Letters of recommendation can be collected in the Pre-Professional Advising Office for distribution.
- Apply early.

Fee Assistance

- Visit specific school websites to learn if fee assistance is offered.
- **MCAT Fee Assistance** through the AAMC https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/fee-assistance-program/
- **GRE Fee Reduction Program** https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/fees/reductions/
- **Partial Fee Waiver for the DAT** see the DAT Examinee Guide 2017 (page 22) http://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_examinee_guide.pdf?la=en

More Information

- **American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine** http://www.aacpm.org
- **American Podiatric Medical Association** http://www.apma.org
- **AACPMAS** (Application service) https://aacpmas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login

Programs in the Region

- **Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine** Des Moines, IA https://www.dmu.edu/cpms
- **Scholl/Rosalind Franklin College of Podiatric Medicine** North Chicago, IL https://rosalindfranklin.edu/academics/dr-william-m-scholl-college-of-podiatric-medicine/
- **Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine** Independence, OH http://www.kent.edu/cpm

Information for this career guide came from the above websites, [Explore Health Careers](www.explorehealthcareers.org), and the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/podiatrists.htm).