

Podiatry Information

CAREER DESCRIPTION

Podiatric medicine is devoted to the study of human movement, with the medical care of the foot, ankle, and lower leg as its primary focus.

A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) specializes in preventing, diagnosing, and treating foot disorders, diseases, and injuries. They perform surgery, administer medications (including DEA-restricted medications), and prescribe physical therapy regimens. Podiatric physicians are educated in state-of-the-art techniques involving surgery, orthopedics, dermatology, physical medicine, and rehabilitation.

In general, work hours are flexible and work weeks vary from 30 to 60 hours. Podiatrists in private practice can set their own hours.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Potential podiatric medical students may be evaluated on the basis of their GPA, performance on the MCAT, extracurricular activities, work or volunteering in health care settings, shadowing podiatrists, personal interview, professional potential, etc. Admission criteria may vary slightly by institution—contact schools for specific requirements.

PRE-REQUISITE CLASSES (COMMON ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY FOR EVERY SCHOOL)

To enter a college of podiatric medicine, one must first complete at least three years or 90 semester hours of college credit at an accredited institution. Almost all of the students who enter a college of podiatric medicine have a bachelor's degree.

Minimum semester credit hour requirements may include the following prerequisites: (all science courses require a lab)

- Biology: 8–12
- Chemistry (General or Inorganic): 8
- Organic Chemistry: 8
- Physics: 8
- English: 6–8

The science courses you take should be those designed for health professional students (pre-medical students), and **MUST** include laboratory experience. Courses for non-science majors are not accepted.

*Remember, this list is a sample and may not be adequate for every school. Go to the websites of your selected schools for actual requirements and better accuracy. Pay close attention to lab requirements and specific credit hours required.

ENGLISH

WRTG 150: Writing and Rhetoric	3.0 hrs
ADV WRITING: Take the class your major requires	3.0 hrs

BIOLOGY

PDBIO 120: Science of Biology	3.0 hrs
OR	
MMBIO 121 & 122: General Biology (only take MMBio 122 if need lab credit) (BIO 130, if required by your major)	3.0/1.0 hrs
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CELL 220: Human Anatomy with Lab	3.0, 1.0 hrs
CELL 305: Human Physiology with Lab	3.0 hrs
CELL 221 & 222: General Microbiology with Lab	3.0/1.0 hrs

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 105: General College Chemistry I	4.0 hrs
CHEM 106 & 107: General College Chemistry II	3.0/1.0 hrs
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CHEM 351: Organic Chemistry I	3.0 hrs
CHEM 352 & 353: Organic Chemistry II & Lab	3.0/2.0 hrs
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CHEM 481: Biochemistry	3.0 hrs

PHYSICS

PHSCS 105 & 107: General Physics I & Lab	3.0/1.0 hrs
PHSCS 106 & 108: General Physics II & Lab (PHSCS 121, 123, if required by your major)	3.0/1.0 hrs
<small>*For students taking PHSCS 121 and 123, we recommend PHSCS 220 help you prepare for the MCAT, but the material can also be studied on your own.</small>	

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

Any course form the GE electives in Arts, Letters, & Sciences (Civilization 1 & 2, Arts, Letters)
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APPLICATION PROCESS

All nine schools of podiatric medicine use the AACPMAS online application service. Dates are as follows:

- First Wednesday in August-AACPMAS begins processing admission applications
- March 1- deadline for priority consideration
- June 30- final application deadline

Most schools have rolling admissions, so the earlier you submit, the better your chances are.

Other admission requirements include letters of recommendation, transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended, as well as personal interviews.

OTHER RESOURCES

- www.apma.org – American Podiatric Medicine Association
- www.aacpm.org – American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine