

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.

Podiatrists make an average of \$175,000/year. In general, the 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.

Prerequisite Classes (*common prerequisites, 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. Over 95 percent of the students who enter a college of podiatric medicine have a bachelor's degree.

Minimum semester credit hour requirements 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**
- *Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine requires 12 semester hours of biological science. **California School of Podiatric Medicine requires 8 semester hours of English/Communication studies.*

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

English

WRTG 150 Freshmen Writing
ADV WRITING Take the class your major requires (ENGL 315, 316, etc)
Other English electives

Social Sciences/Humanities

Any course form the GE electives in Arts, Letters, and Sciences (Civilization 1 and 2, arts, letters)

Biology

PDBIO 120	Science of Biology
PDBIO 220	Human Anatomy with Lab
PDBIO 305	Human Physiology with Lab <i>or any science class relevant to medicine</i>

Microbiology (some schools)

MMBIO 221/222	General Microbiology with Lab
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Physics

PHSCS 105/107	Introduction to Physics and Lab
PHSCS 106/108	Introduction to Physics and Lab
<i>or PHSCS 121/123</i>	<i>(calculus-based)</i>

General or Inorganic Chemistry (may require labs)

CHEM 105	General College Chemistry
CHEM 106/107	General College Chemistry and Lab

Biochemistry (often recommended)

CHEM 351	Organic Chemistry
CHEM 352/353	Organic Chemistry and Lab
CHEM 481	Biochemistry

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.

Class Profiles

Approximately 1,000 applicants apply to podiatric medical school each academic year; first-year enrollment totals range from 500–600 per year. For the 2015-16 academic year, 1,194 individuals applied to at least one of the nine podiatric medical schools. A total of 674 first year students entered into study in the fall of 2015. Women made up 467 (39%) of the applicants and 275 (41%) of matriculating students in 2015. Underrepresented minority student populations should increase in the future.

In 2014, the overall GPA was 3.3 and the average science GPA was 3.2. The average MCAT score for matriculants was 495: Verbal Reasoning was 6.7; Physical Science was 6.8; and Biological Sciences 7.2.

Other Resources

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