



Podiatric Medicine

A podiatrist is a doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM), also known as a podiatric physician or surgeon, qualified by his or her education and training to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot, ankle and related structures of the leg. Podiatrists are uniquely qualified among medical professionals to treat the foot and ankle based on their education, training and experience.

Podiatrists are defined as physicians by the federal government and in most states. DPMs receive medical education and training comparable to medical doctors, including four years of undergraduate education, four years of graduate education at one of eight accredited podiatric medical colleges and two or three years of hospital residency training. Within the field of podiatry, practitioners can focus on many different specialty areas, including surgery, sports medicine, biomechanics, geriatrics, pediatrics orthopedics or primary care. Learn more at www.apma.org

Required Courses: Check individual schools

General Biology – Bio 240, 240L, 242, 242L

General Chemistry - Chem 151, 151L, 152, 152L

Organic Chemistry - Chem 301, 301L, 302, 302L

General Physics - Phys 136, 136L, 137, 137L Or Phys 270, 270L, 271, 271L

English – FYW 150 and upper division writing “W” course

Recommended:

Biochemistry – Chem 331

Psychology – Psych 101

Sociology – Soci 101

Human Anatomy & Physiology – Bio 212, 213

Microbiology – Bio 342

These courses will satisfy the requirements for most podiatric schools. Make sure that you check for additional requirements at your selected schools. Most schools want you to have completed the required courses prior to the time of application. Also, note that many schools will not accept AP credit in lieu of the required courses (even if accepted by USD). You must then substitute advanced science courses for the traditional requirements satisfied with AP credits. Take all required classes for a grade; Pass/Fail is not acceptable!

MCAT

Taken upon completion of prerequisites and before application to medical school.

Extracurricular Activities

Clinical: Experiences in podiatric settings are important ways for you to learn about the field and demonstrate a sincere interest.

Community Service/Leadership: There are many opportunities on and off campus to become involved. It's always best to find something that you're very interested in and become involved.

Podiatric School Finder -

<https://www.cpme.org/colleges/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2425&navItemNumber=2240&RDtoken=32151&userID=>

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) - <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>

Podiatric School Application (AACPMAS) - <https://aacpmas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

USD does not have a podiatric school. We share this information for students and alumni who may be interested in becoming podiatrists.