

Podiatric Medicine is a specialty of medicine and research which seeks to diagnose, treat and prevent diseases and disorders affecting the human foot. Due to increased interest in physical fitness and sports, and the growing elderly population, there is presently a growing need for qualified podiatrists. The specialties of podiatric medicine include podiatric surgery, podopediatrics, podogeriatrics, and podiatric sports medicine. Podiatrists have the option of working in a podiatric hospital/clinic, in association with a medical group, or in private practice.

The course of study leading to the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) is four years in length at all schools. The first two years are devoted to the basic sciences and the last two years concentrate on the clinical aspect of podiatry. Many states require that podiatrists complete continuing education courses throughout their career in order to maintain their licenses.

### Work Experience

Although there are no specified requirements for experience by any of the podiatric colleges, it is highly recommended that students gain exposure to the field prior to application. In this manner, the applicant can become aware of the possible opportunities and rigors of the profession. Podiatric experience may be gained through volunteer or paid work in a podiatric hospital or clinic or with a practicing podiatrist.

### Educational and Course Requirements

The applicant must have completed at least three years of undergraduate study at an accredited institution, but most applicants enter with at least a baccalaureate degree. Prior to entry, the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) must be taken and the courses below completed.

### Required courses

One Year of Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 2 – General Chemistry I (includes lab) <b>and</b> CHEM 10 – General Chemistry II (includes lab)
One Year of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 8/L – Principles of Organic Chemistry with lab <b>and</b> CHEM 100 – Organic Synthesis and Mechanism with CHEM 100L – Organic Chemistry Lab
One Year of Physics	PHYS 8 – Principles of Physics I <b>or</b> ICP 1B – Integrated Calculus and Physics: Physics <b>or</b> PHYS 18 – Principles of Physics I for Biological Sciences <b>and</b> PHYS 9 – Introductory Physics II <b>or</b> PHYS 19 – Introductory Physics II for Biological Sciences

One Year of Biology with lab	BIO 1/L – Contemporary Biology (includes lab) <b>and</b> BIO 2/L – Introduction to Molecular Biology
One Year of English	WRI 10 – College Reading and Composition <b>and</b> WRI 100 – Advanced Writing <b>or</b> WRI 116 – Science Writing in Natural Sciences
Additional Recommended Courses	BIO 101 – Biochemistry I BIO 120 & 120L – General Microbiology BIO 164 – Human Anatomy

\*Specific course prerequisites may vary somewhat for each school so please see individual school websites/catalogs for current information.

### **Application Process**

There are seven colleges of podiatric medicine in the United States and most are associated with a podiatric hospital. The applicant must apply to these schools through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS). The MCAT must be taken no later than April or August of the year prior to entry. Some schools will accept scores from the MCAT taken in April prior to entry. Alternatively, some schools have indicated their willingness to accept the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Please check with individual schools about timing requirements for the new computer-based MCAT (2007)

AACPMAS begins processing admission applications immediately after Labor Day each September, for FALL Admission the following year. Deadline Dates are as follows:

April 1st is the PRIORITY deadline for entry in the fall of the same year. The FINAL application deadline is now July 31st of each year for fall entry in the same year.

### **Schools of Podiatric Medicine**

Arizona - [Arizona Podiatric Medicine Program \(AZpod\) at Midwestern University](#)

California - [California College of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University](#)

California – [College of Podiatric Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences](#)

Florida - [Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences](#)

Illinois - [Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Finch University of Health Sciences](#)

Iowa - [College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University](#)

New York - [New York College of Podiatric Medicine](#)

Ohio - [Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine \(OCPM\)](#)

Pennsylvania - [Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine \(TUSPM\)](#)