Podiatry School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?
D.P.M. = Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
Approximately 1,000 applicants apply to Podiatric medical school each academic year, and around 500-600 matriculate.

What is the nature of this profession?
Podiatric Medicine is a medical specialty concerning the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of foot and ankle related disorders, diseases, systems and injuries. Podiatrists typically work in private practice, hospital settings, extended care facilities, education, sports medicine, dermatology, geriatrics, wound care and research. Work hours are typically set by the podiatrist, but often include working evenings and weekends to accommodate patients.

Where can I find additional information about Podiatry?
  - Like them on Facebook and Follow them on Twitter @PodMedColleges
- Today's Podiatrist [www.todayspodiatrist.com/students](http://www.todayspodiatrist.com/students)
- American Podiatric Medicine Association [www.apma.org/careers](http://www.apma.org/careers)

You can choose any major you would like as long as you fulfill the prerequisites for podiatry school.

The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for the MCAT and Podiatry School:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 120</td>
<td>General Biology I</td>
<td>CHM 115</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMS 208</td>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
<td>CHM 116</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry II</td>
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<td>BMS 309</td>
<td>Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)</td>
<td>CHM 241</td>
<td>Organic Chem for Life Sciences I</td>
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<td>BMS 212/213</td>
<td>Introductory Microbiology w/lab</td>
<td>CHM 242</td>
<td>Organic Chem for Life Sciences II</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMS 290/291</td>
<td>Human Physiology w/lab</td>
<td>CHM 461</td>
<td>Biochemistry I</td>
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<td>PHY 220</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY 221</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
<td>SOC 201</td>
<td>Intro to Sociology</td>
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**Please note that prerequisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the prerequisites for the podiatry schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.

GPA
Although it varies depending on the school, a minimum GPA of 2.50-2.75 is typically required to be considered for admission into podiatry school. A separate science GPA is calculated based on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (BCPM). All attempts of each course are counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses.

In 2013, the average overall GPA was 3.3 and the average science GPA was 3.2.

MCAT*
Applicants traditionally take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) at least one year before starting podiatry school.

Starting in April 2015, the MCAT will consist of four sections, each scored 118-132 (midpoint 125):

- Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Sciences
- Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills
- Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
- Psychological, Social, & Biological Foundations of Behavior

The average MCAT scores for Matriculants in 2013 were approximately 20-21 (7.3 VR, 7.1 PS, 7.7 BS).

*One podiatry school will accept the Dental Admission Test (DAT) or the GRE in lieu of the MCAT. Check with individual schools to see if these alternative tests are accepted.
Besides a strong GPA and MCAT score, podiatry schools look for the following:

- Podiatric related Clinical Volunteer Experience and/or Shadowing an Podiatrist
  - See [http://gvsu.edu/clasadvising/pre-professional-programs-14.htm](http://gvsu.edu/clasadvising/pre-professional-programs-14.htm) for a list of podiatrists in the area
- Extracurricular activities [www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com) — sign up and create your profile today to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - Pre-Podiatry Club and other clubs of interest
- Community service [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- Research Experience [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- Strong letters of recommendation
- Your ability to pass a criminal background check (CBC). Podiatry schools will conduct a CBC before allowing admitted students to begin podiatry school. For more information on CBCs, visit this link (the article is about dental school, but it applies to podiatry school as well): [http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/issues/news/Article/274/Criminal_Background_Check_But_Im_Not_A_Criminal](http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/issues/news/Article/274/Criminal_Background_Check_But_Im_Not_A_Criminal)

* Keep a journal* of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application (you can use the “Service Tracker” at [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) if you’d like!). Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally. At all times and in all ways, make sure that you are proud to be a Laker and appropriately represent GVSU for both yourself and your fellow Lakers who will follow after you.

**Want more information?**

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center (workshops in Writing Personal Statements, the Application Process, getting Healthcare experience, etc.) to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under My Organizations.

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<th>Sample Podiatry School Curriculum</th>
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<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Years 3-4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Post-Graduation</strong></td>
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Call us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us Online: [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)  
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