



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES ACADEMIC
ADVISING CENTER

616.331.8585 | www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising | C-1-120 MAK

Podiatry School Application Process

Podiatry School Admission Requirements <https://explorepodmed.org/>

Admissions Test: MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) (mcat@aamc.org, 202-828-0600)

MCAT Essentials: www.aamc.org/mcat → read the MCAT Essentials document thoroughly.

Registration Timeline: The MCAT is administered between January and September each year. Registration begins in October of the previous year. It is recommended to register at least 60 days prior to your desired test date.

Before Registration: You will need an AAMC ID and an associated username and password to register for the MCAT.

Fee Assistance Program (FAP): See www.aamc.org/fap for details and eligibility requirements. FAP application processing takes up to 10 business days. Benefits are NOT retroactive. FAP benefits are good for 2 calendar years. -FAP reduces the MCAT fee, up to \$1,000 for accommodations evaluation, and free test prep materials.

Fee: The cost of the exam is **\$355** (\$145 with FAP) See the *MCAT Essentials* for canceling/rescheduling fees.

Testing with Accommodations: If you receive accommodations in classes at GVSU through Student Accessibility Resources, you may qualify to take the MCAT with accommodations. Podiatry schools are not notified if a student tests with accommodations. For more information, visit the [MCAT Accommodations](http://www.aamc.org/mcat/accommodations) website.

Release Scores: When signing up for the test, you have the option of releasing your scores to your pre-health advisor. If you miss this step, please send an official score report to your preprofessional advisor at GVSU.

Applicants must send their scores to AACPMAS via the MCAT Score Reporting System. Scores are viewable online 30-35 days after your test date

Testing Limit: Up to 3 tests per calendar year, 4 times across 2 years, 7 lifetime max. A voided exam or no-show DOES count as an attempt but is not reported to medical schools.

Test Section	# of Questions	Time
Examinee Agreement & Optional Tutorial	--	4 min, 10 min (total 14)
Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Sciences**	59	95 minutes
Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills	53	90 minutes
Mid-exam Break (optional—cannot leave the testing center)	--	30 minutes
Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems**	59	95 minutes
Psychological, Social, & Biological Foundations of Behavior	59	95 minutes
Void Question (not optional) & End-of-Day Survey (optional)	--	3 min, 5 min (total 8)
Total content time: 6 hours 15 minutes		Total "Seat" Time: 7 hours, 30 minutes
**an optional 10-minute break is available after these sections (we recommend you take these breaks)		

Scoring: Each of the four sections is scored from a low of 118 to a high of 132, with a midpoint of 125. Scores for the four sections are combined to create a total score. **The total score ranges from 472 to 528. The midpoint (50th percentile) is 500.** Percentile ranks will be reported for the total & section scores. There is no penalty for guessing.

How to Prepare: There is a MCAT Sample Test, and 4 full length scored Practice Exams available that simulate the exam. There are many other prep resources, which can be found at www.aamc.org/mcatprep. You can order many of the MCAT prep resources at a discounted rate through www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment. Visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/testprep for other resources.

Application Service: AACPMAS – Follow on [Instagram \(@PodMedColleges\)](#). For questions, contact AACPMAS Customer Service at 617-612-2900 or support@aacpmas.myliaison.com See [AACPMAS Quick Start Guide](#) for an overview of the process.

Fee: \$205 for one school; \$70 for each additional school. Limited fee waivers are available at the beginning of the cycle and MUST be filled out and processed BEFORE you submit. If you receive a fee waiver, you may apply to a maximum of one school for free.

Transcripts: Transcripts must be sent from EACH school you have attended. GVSU transcripts can be sent electronically (see [Registrar's Office](#) for info). If sending through mail, a Transcript Request Form (download from AACPMAS) MUST accompany official transcripts by application deadline—can be submitted in August.

Re-applicants: Information such as coursework, official test scores, attached transcripts, etc. can be copied into the new application. Evaluations, essays, payments, and program-specific information cannot be copied into the new application.

Repeat Grades: Enter ALL attempts at courses, regardless of repeats or grades of W, both the original and repeated grade will be included in GPA calculation.

Personal Statement: Write a brief statement expressing your motivation or desire to become a podiatrist. Up to 4500 characters, including spaces. One statement for all schools; cannot be edited after submission.

Related Work & Activities: Enter podiatric experience, other health care experience, employment, extracurricular activities, and honors and awards; each experience has room for a brief description (allowed 600 characters with spaces for each description).

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs): See the next page.

Supplemental Applications: Some programs may have additional supplemental fees; contact programs directly for more information.

Verification: Takes up to 10 business days once ALL required materials are received.

Acceptances: Make sure you meet any school deadlines; admissions offers can be made according to the following schedule:

- Through January 31st, 30 days are allowed for candidates to respond to offers of admission; and
- Between February 1st and May 31st, allow 14 days for candidates to respond to admission offers
- After June 1, candidates may be asked for an immediate deposit

Schools conduct a criminal background check and undergraduate disciplinary checks prior to final matriculation.

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs) and the GVSU Letter Packet:

GVSU offers a letter packet for medical, dental, and podiatric applicants. The letter packet will include a cover sheet with the applicant's name and some helpful information about GVSU (i.e., institutional information, SWS, honors, etc.). Individual letters are then ranked in order of strength, attached to the cover sheet in one PDF, then submitted to AACPMAS for schools to download (Elizabeth Clark submits). Students must request a letter packet through the below application. In AACPMAS, check "Yes" for Committee Letter and list ***Elizabeth Clark as the Letter Writer***.

**Complete the Letter Packet Application between
March 1st - July 31st at:
www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/apply**

A complete Letter Packet Application involves:

1. Waiving your rights to view your letters of evaluation
2. Completing the Self-Assessment and meeting with a preprofessional advisor to determine your readiness to apply
3. Requesting a minimum of three letters of evaluation (all letters must be received prior to submission of the letter packet)
4. Complete a short questionnaire
5. Upload a photo/headshot of yourself (optional)
6. Upload a copy of your submitted AACPMAS application (optional) → your application can be submitted without your letter packet

Benefits of getting a GVSU Letter Packet

1. Ability to request individual letters before faculty leave for the summer.
 - a. The letter packet allows you to request (and faculty to submit) letters starting March 1st
2. Expedite the completion of your podiatric school application
 - a. When applications open, you can have all of your letters in and the letter packet can be ready to submit, rather than waiting for your individual letters to be submitted.
3. Letter Packets will include helpful information about GVSU
 - a. GVSU-specific policies and classes like SWS and Honors are explained along with a synopsis of GVSU as an institution, which is helpful for out-of-state schools
4. Strongest letters will be highlighted by being placed at the top of the letter packet
 - a. Your letters will be ranked in order of strength and placed in that order in the letter packet
5. Connects you to advisors for a high level of support through the process

Application Process Timeline

This process begins 2 years before you plan to start podiatry school.

Fall

- Begin MCAT study plan – visit the [Test Prep Resources](#) site to get started
- Register for MCAT (registration opens in late October)
- Take a practice MCAT exam and write the 1st draft of your personal statement over winter break**

January -
March

- Complete **Self-Assessment**, and meet with a preprofessional advisor to review
- Continue drafting Personal Statement and experiences
- Start the Letter Packet Application (LPA)** at www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/apply (opens March 1st)

March -
May

- Begin asking for letters of evaluation (submitted through the LPA)
- Review Letter Packet Application Videos
- Have your personal statement/experiences reviewed by the GVSU Writing Center

May-
July

- Take MCAT**
- Send all official transcripts to AACPMAS via Parchment (or with Transcript Request Forms)
- Submit LPA

August

- AACPMAS cycle opens early August**
- Work on any Secondary Applications, submit within 2 weeks of receiving them
- Complete any situational judgement tests (SJT's) as directed by individual schools

July &
Later

- JULY 31:** GVSU Letter Packet Deadline
- Schedule a simulated interview with the GVSU Career Center
- Attend Interviews with podiatric schools
- July 1st of the next year is when AACPMAS closes for fall admission of that same year**