



Podiatry School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?

D.P.M.= Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

In 2020, 1,006 individuals applied to at least one of the nine podiatric medical schools in the United States. A total of 679 first-year students entered into study in Fall 2020.

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?

-The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine www.aacpm.org (mentors network: www.aacpm.org/contactpod/default.asp)

Like them on Facebook and Follow them on Twitter @PodMedColleges

-Today's Podiatrist www.todayspodiatrist.com/students

-American Podiatric Medicine Association 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:

BIO 120: General Biology I Or CMB 155+156 Intro to Cell & Molecular Biology with a research-based lab	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I (PRQ: MTH 110) CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II (PRQ: MTH 122) CHM 241: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences I CHM 242: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences II CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BIO 375/376: Genetics w/lab Or BIO 355: Human Genetics	PHY 220: General Physics I (PRQ: MTH 122+MTH 123) PHY 221: General Physics II
BMS 208: Human Anatomy BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver) BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab BMS 290/391: Human Physiology w/lab	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology

Other suggested courses: BIO 355 or 375/376, COM 201, PSY 364 or SOC 386, STA 215, Business Management and Accounting courses

***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.*

No grade below a C is allowed for prerequisite courses.

MCAT

Applicants traditionally take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) at least one year before starting podiatry school. A total score will be calculated, ranging from **472 to 528 (midpoint 500-50th percentile)**. The **2018 national MCAT average** for podiatry school applicants was **494**.

The MCAT consists of four sections, each scored 118-132 (midpoint/50th percentile is 125):

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

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.

The national GPA averages for applicants accepted to podiatry school fluctuate minimally from year to year. Recently reported are:

Overall GPA: 3.3
Science GPA: 3.2.

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/preprofessional> for a list of podiatrists in the area
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** visit www.gvsu.edu/studentorg to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
 - Pre-Podiatry Club and other clubs of interest
- Community service www.gvsu.edu/service (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- **Research Experience** 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.

The Medical and Health Humanities Certificate, Certificate in Intercultural Training, and the Research Scholar Designation are great ways to attain competencies professional schools are looking for in applicants.

* **Keep a journal** of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application; you can track service hours on “Laker Link” (<https://gvsu.campuslabs.com/engage>) if you would 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.

Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor. To schedule an appointment with a Pre-Podiatry Advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center, visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising and click on “Schedule Appointment.”
- 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.

Sample Podiatry School Curriculum	
Year 1	Basic science foundation/key principles of practice; specialty courses and clinical
Year 2	Incorporating basic and clinical sciences, study of human organ systems; specialty courses and clinical
Years 3-4	Rotations: orthopedics, anesthesiology, medical imaging/radiology, pathology, podiatry surgery, podiatric medicine, orthopedic surgery, dermatology, internal medicine, emergency medicine, sports medicine/rehab, infectious disease, general science, behavioral science.
Post-Graduation	Mandatory 3 year comprehensive surgery/podiatric medicine residency