



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES ACADEMIC
ADVISING CENTER

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Podiatry School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?

D.P.M.= Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

In 2025, 752 individuals applied to at least one of the 11 podiatric medical schools in the United States. A total of 519 first-year students entered into study in Fall 2025.

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. AACPM also offers a podiatric physician mentors program. Check out the website for more information.

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 BIO 375/376: Genetics w/lab OR BIO 355: Human Genetics 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	CHM 125/126: Principles of Chemistry I CHM 127/128: Principles of Chemistry II CHM 235/236: Organic Chem for Life Sci. I CHM 237/238: Organic Chem for Life Sci. II CHM 461: Biochemistry I PHY 220: General Physics I (PRQ: MTH 122+MTH 123) PHY 221: General Physics II PSY 101: Introductory Psychology SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
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Other suggested courses: BMS 355, BMS 375, BMS 475, COM 201, PSY 364 or SOC 386, STA 215, Business Management and Accounting courses, and additional English/Writing courses.

Prerequisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the prerequisites for the podiatry schools for which you intend to apply. See your faculty mentor 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. 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

A total score will be calculated, ranging from **472 to 528 (midpoint is between the 500-501 percentile)**. The **2025 national MCAT average** for podiatry school applicants was **490**.

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 fluctuates minimally from year to year. Recently reported for accepted applicants are:

Overall: 3.3 Science: 3.2

Besides a strong GPA and MCAT score, podiatry schools look for the following:

- **Podiatric related Clinical Volunteer Experience and/or Shadowing a Podiatrist**
 - www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional and the Healthcare Volunteering & Experience Guide for recommendations; Find a podiatric mentor at www.stepintopodiatry.com/find-a-mentor/.
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** visit www.gvsu.edu/studentorg to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
 - Find healthcare related clubs and other clubs of interest
- **Community service** www.gvsu.edu/service
- **Research Experience** www.gvsu.edu/ours; Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- **Strong letters of recommendation** typically from faculty and a podiatrist.
- 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, Intercultural Communications Certificate, and the Research Scholar Designation are great ways to attain competencies professional schools are looking for in applicants.

Track your experiences. Create a copy of our Preprofessional Action Plan document (www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/actionplan) to log information you will need for your application process. This document has tabs for many items including your academic plan, experiences and hours, GPA calculators, potential letter writers, important contact info and more!

Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty mentor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor.
- Plan to attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU.
- Visit the Preprofessional Programs website, www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional for more resources!

Also follow us on social media!  **YouTube** [GVSU Pre-Professional Programs](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional)

 | **Instagram** [@gvsupreprofessionaladvising](https://www.instagram.com/gvsupreprofessionaladvising)

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

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”