

PREPODIATRY INFORMATION SUMMARY

The **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)** is a specialist concerned with prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of foot disorders. For more information on the profession, how to apply, to find a mentor, and to research schools visit www.aacpm.org.

Academic Preparation

Academic preparation for podiatry school requires a bachelor’s degree and completion of a set of prerequisite classes, usually science, which vary from school to school. Common classes are listed on the last page of this summary. For your degree, any major is appropriate. There is no preference in this regard, so study something you love! Competitive applicants have high grades so pace yourself in order to succeed and remember that all grades will count when you apply even if you repeat classes.

Service to the Community

Because you are preparing for a humanitarian profession, it is important to have volunteer learning experiences which demonstrate a commitment to service to others. It is suggested that this be ongoing throughout your college years.

Want to find activities? Check out:

- <https://www.umsl.edu/studentinvolvement/service/index.html>

Complimentary Activities

Leadership Experience

As a podiatrist, you will be a leader and team member in many ways – with your patients, your staff, your colleagues, and your community.

Examples includes offices held in organizations, committee work; leadership in church activities; coordinating a project; managing, training, supervising at work or in other activities; teaching experience of any kind; tutoring; coaching; peer counseling or mentoring, etc. Check out:

- <https://www.umsl.edu/studentinvolvement/service/index.html>

Shadowing Podiatrists & Podiatry Experience

This should be one of your first experiences as a prepodiatry student. Observing a podiatrist in action will help you gather the information you need to fully commit to the profession, and to learn about a variety of podiatry specialties. It is also good to interview several podiatrists.

Podiatry experience is very important in your application. Most students gain this experience by shadowing a general podiatrist for more than a semester. Consider Internship to structure your experience and earn course credit.

Things to Remember

- Keep contact information for supervisors and podiatrists you shadow or work with in case you ask them to write recommendation letters. Even if you discontinue some activities, try to maintain a relationship with them.
- Record all hours of service and experiences. Writing your reflections in a journal will be helpful when you write a personal statement.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
MCAT	Register & Study				Take exam													
Recom. Letters	Request letters (Have all letters sent to the PPA office)																	
Application	Prep - Write draft of Personal Statement - Research Schools						- AACPMAS Available online in August. - Request official transcript(s) from all university & colleges you have taken courses from <u>including concurrent enrollment classes</u> . - Fill-out the form & submit as early as possible. - Once your application is submitted, it will take about 5 weeks to process it. - Application deadline (May ~ June of the following year)											
							Interviews						Acceptance Notifications					
	Financial Aid									Priority filing for federal financial aid								

❖ MCAT

The computerized MCAT is administered seven months out of each year. The exam must be taken no later than April prior to fall entrance, preferably earlier. Register here: <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>

❖ APPLICATION PROCESS

There are 9 colleges of podiatric medicine. You can find information on the schools and the application process from the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM) <http://www.aacpm.org/>.

▪ AACPMAS

You can apply to all 9 colleges of podiatric medicine with one application through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS) <https://portal.aacpmas.org/>.

AACPMAS opens in August and the final deadline for applying to the colleges through AACPMAS is June 31 of each year, for that year's entering class. However, because colleges accept students on a rolling admission basis, it is advisable to apply in the fall or winter well before the deadline. Applications received by April 1 will be given priority consideration.

Complete your AACPMAS application and have official transcripts sent from all colleges and universities attended, including concurrent enrollment classes while in high school. AACPMAS standardizes your application and forwards it to the schools of your choice. After submission of this application, supplemental material, such as letters of recommendation, will also be required. Most podiatry schools require a personal interview. Please consult the preprofessional advisors regularly as you prepare your application.

▪ Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are sent directly to each college. It is easiest to use a service like Interfolio <https://www.interfolio.com>, to collect your letters and send them to each school. Up to 4 letters of recommendation are required by most schools—2 from science professors and at least 1 from a podiatrist.

1. Science Professor
2. Science / non-Science Professor
3. Podiatrist
4. Podiatrist / Supervisor.

Asking for a Letter or Recommendation

- 1) Contact professors and podiatrist(s) and ask if they think they know you well enough to write an excellent recommendation letter for you.
- 2) If they agree, give them deadline about 3 weeks prior to when you actually need the letter, and provide them with a packet of information including information such as the following:
 - a. your updated resume with list of your activities
 - b. a personal statement draft
 - c. information about the program(s) to which you are applying

▪ PERSONAL INTERVIEW

A personal interview is required of all applicants who are seriously being considered for admission to acquaint them with the school and to aid the admissions committees in understanding the personal qualifications and interest of applicants.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Most schools require or at least encourage students to complete Bachelor's degree by the time they matriculate to podiatry school. However, some schools accept students who completed more than 90 credit hours of college credits but do not have bachelor's degree.

▪ USEFUL WEBSITES

- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (www.aacpm.org)
- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS) (<https://portal.aacpmas.org/>)
- MCAT information (<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>)

❖ PREPODIATRY CURRICULUM

Policies

CLEP Credit & Correspondence Study	Depend on Podiatry school. Check each podiatry school's website for more information.
AP Credits	Podiatry schools take AP credits, but it is recommended to take coursework beyond introductory classes waived by AP.
Repeats	All Repeats are counted in your AACPMAS GPA
2 year colleges credits	Many schools limit credits taken at 2 year colleges to 60.
Withdrawals	W's or EX's should normally be used only for emergencies.

PrePodiatry Science Course Guide

This guide is designed for applying to a *range* of podiatry schools. It is **not a comprehensive list**. Requirements may vary by school. Shading indicates the classes most commonly required by podiatry schools.

- **English 1100**: *First-Year Writing*
- **English 3100 or 3160**: *Junior-Level Writing or Writing in the Sciences*
- **Biol 1831**: *Introductory Biology: From Molecules to Organisms*
- **Biol 2012**: *Genetics*
- **Biol 2402**: *Vertebrate Anatomy*
- **Biol 2482**: *Microbiology*
- **Biol 2483**: *Microbiology Lab*
- **Biol 3622**: *Cell Biology*
- **Biol 3802**: *Vertebrate Physiology*
- **Biol 3803**: *Vertebrate Physiology Lab*
- **Biol 4712**: *Principles of Biochemistry*
- **Chem 1111**: *Introductory Chemistry I*
- **Chem 1121**: *Introductory Chemistry II*
- **Chem 2612**: *Organic Chemistry I*
- **Chem 2622**: *Organic Chemistry II*
- **Chem 2633**: *Organic Chemistry Laboratory*
- **Physics 1011&L**: *Basic Physics I and Lab*
- **Physics 1012&L**: *Basic Physics II and Lab*

The following aren't usually required, but are highly recommended for the entrance exams:

- **Psych 1003**: *General Psychology*
- **Soc 1010**: *Introduction to Sociology*
- **Econ 1001**: *Microeconomics*
- **Econ 1002**: *Macroeconomics*

The following may be required by some schools:

- **Math 1800**: *Analytic Geometry and Calculus I*
- **Math 1320**: *Introduction to Probability and Statistics*