

## **Pre-Podiatry**

### **Prerequisites**

According to the [American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine \(AACPM\)](#), "To enter a school or college of podiatric medicine, one must first complete a minimum of three years or 90 semester hours of college credit at an accredited institution. Over 97% of the students who enter a college of podiatric medicine have a bachelor's degree. Many have also completed some graduate study. Actual minimum semester credit hour requirements for all of the schools and colleges of podiatric medicine include the following prerequisites: (all science courses require a lab)."

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Required coursework and numbers of semesters can vary on a school-by-school basis. Please check the prerequisites, at [AACPM Member School Links](#).

### **Summary of Course Prerequisites for Admission to Podiatric Medical School**

Recommended coursework can also vary and can include Anatomy, Embryology, Histology, Immunology, Microbiology, Physiology, and Zoology

Any undergraduate major is appropriate for podiatry school assuming the applicant has completed the basic pre-podiatry requirements. For a competitive application, it is very important to do well in science courses.

## **Podiatry**

A podiatrist is described, by the [American Podiatric Medical Association](#), as "a doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM), also known as a podiatric physician or surgeon. Podiatrists diagnose and treat conditions of the foot, ankle, and related structures of the leg. Podiatrists complete four years of training in a podiatric medical school and three years of hospital residency training. This training is similar to that of other doctors. Podiatrists can specialize in many fields, including surgery, sports medicine, wound care, pediatrics (children), and diabetic care. Podiatrists can earn board certification with advanced training, clinical experience, and by ultimately taking an exam."

The [American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery](#) and the [American Board of Podiatric Medicine](#) are the certifying boards for the field.

### **Employment Outlook and Earnings**

According to the [United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), "Employment of podiatrists is projected to grow 23 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 2,400 new jobs over the 10-year period. As the U.S. population both ages and increases, the number of people expected to have mobility and foot-related problems will rise. Growing rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes and obesity also may limit mobility of those with these conditions, and lead to problems such as poor circulation in the feet and lower extremities. More podiatrists will be needed to provide care for these patients. In addition, podiatrists are increasingly working in group practices along with other healthcare professionals. Continued growth in the use of outpatient surgery also will create new opportunities for podiatrists. Job prospects for trained podiatrists should be good given that there are a limited number of colleges of podiatry. In addition, the retirement of currently practicing podiatrists in the coming years is expected to increase the number of job openings for podiatrists."

### **American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMCAS)**

[AACPMAS](#) is a service of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM). AACPMAS allows podiatric medical applicants to use a single web-based application and one set of transcripts to apply to all nine schools and colleges of podiatric medicine.

According to [AACPM](#), the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service "begins processing admission applications the first Wednesday in August for FALL Admission the following year. To complete the on-line web application to the colleges of podiatric medicine, visit our website at [www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org) or go directly to the application's [URL](#). Call 1-617-612-2900 if you have any questions. Deadline Dates are as follows: For priority consideration April 1st of each year for the upcoming FALL admission. The FINAL AACPMAS DEADLINE DATE is June 30th of each year for FALL admission of the same year."

Official transcripts should be sent directly to AACPMAS.

Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to colleges of podiatry or brought to interviews. All schools accept letters via confidential letter transmission services.

### **Required Admissions Tests**

According to [AACPM](#), "Traditionally the MCAT has been the only standardized test required for admissions to the colleges of podiatric medicine. However, some colleges will accept the GRE or US DAT in lieu of the MCAT. The MCAT is scored in each of the following areas: Verbal Reasoning, Physical Sciences, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences. MCAT and US DAT exams taken more than three (3) years prior to application are NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Applicants should send MCAT and DAT scores directly to AACPMAS. AAMC ID Numbers or DENTPIN Numbers are required.

Up to date information regarding the current [MCAT](#) is available online. .

The MCAT is given many times a year. Additional information regarding preparation for the MCAT can be found at American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and Khan Academy.

### **Pre-Podiatry Advising**

There is no formal pre-podiatry major or academic track at George Mason University. With careful academic planning, you can major in any field of study and still complete the pre-podiatry requirements.

Pre-Podiatry questions may be discussed with [the Health Professions Advisor](#) at small group advising sessions. The dates and times of these sessions and how to reserve a space in a session, are announced via the [HEALTHPROFESSIONSADVISOR-L listserv](#) for Mason students.

Students need to be advised in their department regarding their major.

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