

Podiatry

What is podiatry? A podiatrist is a health care professional who works with patients to examine, diagnose and treat the foot, ankle, and lower leg. These doctors use a variety of treatment techniques (medical, physical, surgical) to restore function, decrease pain, and help recovery after an injury or surgery.

More details? For more detailed information, including salaries and job prospects, visit the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/Healthcare

Can UWW help me prepare for an accredited podiatry school? Definitely. UWW offers all the courses required for entry into an accredited podiatry program. These requirements fit well with a major in biology or other natural science, including the courses required as part of General Education (Gen Ed).

- 1. Undergraduate degree (BS or BA):** Most applicants will have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university before entering into podiatry training. Many of the schools do mention the possibility of applying after completion of 90 credits (including required courses), but all schools state that with the competition for seats, most of the successful applicants have completed an undergraduate degree.
- 2. Major and minor:** An outstanding applicant, who has completed the required courses and experiences, has potential for entry. Many applicants major in biology or other natural sciences because the required and recommended courses fit well with the requirements for a degree in those areas.
- 3. Coursework:** Podiatry schools require applicants to complete several courses before entry into their programs; these courses provide elementary training for the more advanced work in their podiatric training:

Requirement	Length/Credits (minimum)	UWW courses which meet the requirements
General biology	1 year / 8-10 credits	BIO 141 AND BIO 142
General chemistry	1 year / 8-10 credits	CHEM 102 AND CHEM 104
General physics	1 year / 8-10 credits	PHYSICS 140 AND PHYSICS 141
<i>Calculus-based physics (PHYSICS 180 AND PHYSICS 181) is acceptable but not required</i>		
English	1 year / 6 credits	ENGL 101 & ENGL 102

- 4. Other coursework:** All podiatry schools expect students to have completed the humanities, social science, and communication courses that are part of a liberal arts education. These courses will also count toward a student's General Education requirements. Suggested electives vary by school but include courses in psychology, economics or business.
Podiatry schools also recommend additional courses in the natural sciences, including some combination of cell biology, genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, anatomy and physiology, evolution, or medical terminology. Schools have a page with these requirements clearly listed.
- 5. Overall academic record:** An applicant needs to have a good GPA overall and in science courses. Different schools have different GPA requirements, so it is important to check on these requirements early to be able to meet each school's expectations.

6. **Entrance exam:** Most podiatry schools ask students to take the MCAT (Medical College Aptitude Test).
7. **Extracurricular activities:** Applicants are expected to have participated in extracurricular activities. This is one indicator that you are able to work with other people, are service-oriented, and can demonstrate leadership experience.
8. **'Experience of the field':** Podiatry schools expect applicants to have some exposure to the actual work done by professionals. Thus, if you are considering podiatry, you should visit and job shadow a podiatrist before applying to any of the programs.
9. **Other jobs and experiences:** Health care professional schools look for applicants who have a depth of life experience. Many applicants have already spent time in another career, in the military, participating in organized athletics, etc. These other experiences contribute to who you are, and they also show something of your ability to persevere and succeed.

What happens then? After your professional education, you would receive a doctoral (DPM) degree from an accredited school (visit the American Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, www.aacpm.org). You would then complete a residency and pass the licensure exam. The school you attend will help you prepare. Some states have an additional board exam.

Professional organization: Most podiatrists belong to the American Podiatric Medicine Association; this organization is an excellent source of information for everyone with questions about podiatry (www.apma.org).

UWW Advisor: There is no designated advisor for this area.

Training in this area: There are only 9 colleges of podiatric medicine in the US and Canada.

Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University (AZPod) (Glendale, AZ)
DPM program <http://www.midwestern.edu/programs-and-admission/az-podiatric-medicine.html>

Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine (Miami Shores, FL)
DPM program <http://www.barry.edu/podiatry>

California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University (Oakland, CA)
DPM program http://www.samuelmerritt.edu/podiatric_medicine

College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University (Des Moines, IA)
DPM program <http://www.dmu.edu/cpms>

Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine (Independence, OH)
DPM program <http://www.kent.edu/cpm>

New York College of Podiatric Medicine (New York, NY)
DPM program <http://www.nycpm.edu>

Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (North Chicago, IL)
DPM program <http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/scholl/Home.aspx>

Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine (Philadelphia, PA)
DPM program <http://podiatry.temple.edu>

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Podiatric Medicine (Pomona, CA)
DPM program <http://prospective.westernu.edu/podiatry/welcome-15>