

CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: www.qvsu.edu/clasadvising

Podiatry School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?

D.P.M.= Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

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)
Today's Podiatrist www.todayspodiatrist.com/students
American Podiatric Medicine Association www.apma.org/careers

What major and pre-requisites are required for optometry school?

You can major in anything as long as you fulfill the pre-requisites for podiatry school.

The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for the MCAT and Podiatry School:

BIO 120: General Biology I	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BMS 290/291: Human Physiology w/lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
PHY 220: General Physics I	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
PHY 221: General Physics II	

****Please note that pre-requisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the pre-requisites 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.**

What entrance exam is required and what GPA do I need?

MCAT	GPA
<p>You will need to take The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Traditionally, applicants plan to take the exam at least one year before starting podiatry school. The test is scored between 1-15 for Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences and the writing portion is scored between a J (lowest) and T (highest). The total maximum score is a 45T.</p> <p>The 2009 national average accepted test score is a 22.1.</p>	<p>To gain entrance to podiatry school, usually a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA above 2.5 is required. No grade below a 2.0 is allowed for pre-requisite courses. The 2009 national average for admission is 3.3.</p>

What do I need to do to be a competitive applicant to podiatry school?

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://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/podiatry--dpm-76.htm> for a list of podiatrists in the area
- ✓ Extracurricular activities www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey
- ✓ 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

* Keep a journal of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application. 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. At all times and in all ways, make sure that you are proud to be a Laker and appropriately represent GVSU for both yourself and your fellow Lakers who will follow after you.

Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- 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. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under MyOrganizations.

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/rehabilitation, infectious disease, general science, behavioral science
Post-Graduation	3 year comprehensive surgery/podiatric medicine residency

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