



# Prehealth Programs: Podiatric Medicine

CU-BOULDER ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER, PREPROFESSIONAL OFFICE

<http://advising.colorado.edu> (click on prehealth, at left)

## THE PROFESSION

Podiatric physicians are licensed physicians with a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree. Podiatric physicians diagnose and treat disorders of the foot, ankle and lower leg. Nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all the bones in the body are found in the foot, and our feet get a great deal of use, so adequate foot care is essential. Most podiatric physicians work in solo practices and have staff privileges in hospitals and nursing homes. Some practice in subspecialties such as surgery, sports medicine, pediatrics and dermatology.

## UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

It is not necessary to major in biology or a related science to go to podiatric medical school. You should choose a major that you find interesting, and one in which you will succeed. You may also want to consider a major that will provide a good alternative if you decide not to attend a school of podiatric medicine. In addition to the courses in your major, you will need to take the necessary prerequisite courses for podiatry school.

## PREREQUISITES FOR PODIATRIC MEDICINE

The basic requirements for podiatric medicine are very similar, but you should research information for the specific schools you are interested in to be sure you meet the expectations. The basic prerequisites are:

**Biological Sciences (two sems. w/labs)**  
EBIO 1210-1230 and 1220-1240 or  
MCDB 1150-1151 and MCDB 2150-2151. Some schools require a third course, and we recommend taking genetics if you have taken the EBIO sequence, or taking physiology if you have taken the MCDB sequence. In addition, biochemistry is required by a few schools and is useful for the MCAT.

**General Chemistry (two sems. w/labs)**

CHEM 1111 and CHEM 1131

**Organic Chemistry (two sems. w/labs):**

CHEM 3311-3321 and 3331-3341

**Physics (2 sems. w/labs)**

PHYS 2010 and 2020 (algebra based) or  
PHYS 1110, 1120, 1140 (calculus based; requires calculus 2)

**English (9 semester hours)**

6 semester hours (one school requires 8 hours).

## EXTRACURRICULAR AND PODIATRIC MEDICINE-RELATED EXPERIENCES

Schools of Podiatric Medicine are looking for well rounded individuals who can be involved in a range of activities while still doing well academically. Students should choose extracurricular activities that are of interest and are a good fit for their personality. In addition to general extracurricular activities, schools of podiatric medicine also want students who have a strong knowledge of podiatric medicine and interest in the field. We recommend participating in job shadowing programs for podiatric physicians, and volunteering in an office of podiatric medicine. This will enable you to learn about the field and determine your own level of interest in, and suitability for, podiatric medicine. A list of podiatric physician mentors can be found at [www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org).

## MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST (MCAT)

All schools of podiatric medicine require the MCAT, and a few will also accept the GRE or the DAT, but the MCAT is preferred. This exam consists of four sections: physical sciences (physics and general chemistry), verbal reasoning, writing sample (two timed essays), and biological sciences (biology and organic chemistry). This is now a computer-based test and is offered multiple times each year. Taking a summer test is recommended for many schools because it facilitates an early interview, and is an advantage at schools that do rolling admissions. It also allows you to repeat the test if there are any problems. MCAT registration can be filled out at [www.aamc.org/students](http://www.aamc.org/students). Most schools have a priority period for accepting applications between September and April, but some begin interviewing as early as October and November.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Throughout your undergraduate years, you should be taking the necessary prerequisites for the schools of podiatric medicine where you will apply. The podiatric medical schools use one application service, the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS). Once you submit your applications through this web-based service, AACPMAS will forward your information to the schools you have selected. You can log on to <http://www.e-aacpmas.org/> to gain more information. The newest version comes online in the spring and AACPMAS will begin processing applications September 1 for the upcoming fall entering class.

## PREHEALTH PROGRAMS:

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All schools require letters of recommendation. Usually you arrange to have these sent with your application. We offer a Committee Letter to CU students and alumni. To be eligible, you must attend a Committee Letter workshop, establish a Preprofessional Credentials File, and meet other requirements and deadlines (see Committee Letter Procedures for the current year on the Pre-Health Advising web site). You will need a minimum of two letters from CU Boulder faculty, one of which must be science. For the committee letter process, the second can be science or non-science. Most podiatry schools request a letter of recommendation from a practicing podiatric physician, which can be your third, open, letter of recommendation. Our credential service will retain your letters, assemble them into packets, and transmit them to the podiatric medical schools that you request. There is a website for tracking receipt and transmission of your letters. There is a fee associated with this service. See Credentials File Service on the Pre-health Advising website.

### PREHEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**The Student Association for Pre-health Professionals (SAPP)** represents a community of students at CU-Boulder whose goal is to provide an organization in which students interested in all areas of medicine can come together and learn more about the many professions, receive academic or personal guidance, and get detailed advice on applying to health professions programs. Within SAPP there are specialized subgroups for areas such as medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc., and new subgroups are always welcome. Membership is open to all CU students. SAPP website: [www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/prehealth](http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/prehealth).

**Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED)** is a pre-health honor society for those interested in health careers. AED website: [www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/aed](http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/aed)

## PODIATRIC MEDICINE

### PODIATRIC MEDICAL SCHOOLS

There are eight accredited schools and colleges of podiatric medicine in the U.S. They are:

- Arizona Podiatric Medicine Program at Midwestern University
- Barry University Podiatric Medicine Program
- California College of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University
- College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University
- New York College of Podiatric Medicine
- Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine
- Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine
- Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University
- Barry University Podiatric Medicine Program
- Arizona Podiatric Medicine Program at Midwestern University

### VITAL STATISTICS

2006 Class Profile for all Podiatric Medical Schools:

Average cum GPA: 3.2

Average MCAT: 21

Class size range: 30-300

Annual Tuition range: \$22,000 to \$26,778.

Median yearly income in 2006: \$108,220

**All information in this publication is subject to change. Please check with the prehealth advisor, or with the appropriate school for up-to-date information.**

The University of Colorado at Boulder is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

Updated 7/08. Produced by the Academic Advising Center.