



**Pre-Podiatry  
Education at the  
University of Oregon  
2009-10**

**Prepared by:**

**The Office of Academic Advising  
364 Oregon Hall (346-3211)**

## **What is Podiatry?**

Podiatry is a specialized field of health care which centers upon examination, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease of the human foot through medical and surgical means. Podiatrists are often the first to diagnose diabetes, arthritis, and peripheral vascular disease because of their manifestations in the foot; heart disease, cancer, and stroke also give symptoms in the foot, and many times the podiatrist is the one who discovers the condition and refers the patient to the proper physician for further treatment.

## **Where do podiatrists practice?**

Many podiatrists have their own general practice, although more are partnering with other podiatrists or health practitioners. Others will focus their practice along an interest area in sports medicine, biomechanics, prophylactic medicine and reconstructive service, surgery, or care for foot problems in children or the elderly.

## **What is the job outlook for podiatrists?**

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook online, “Median annual earnings of salaried podiatrists were \$108,220 in 2006. Podiatrists in partnerships tended to earn higher net incomes than those in solo practice. Self-employed podiatrists must provide for their own health insurance and retirement. Need for podiatrists is expected to increase 10% to 20% through 2012. More people will turn to podiatrists for foot care as the number of injuries sustained by a more active and increasingly older population grows.

## **What are the education requirements?**

Students must earn a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree (DPM) from an accredited College of Podiatric Medicine. These programs are four years in length, and most graduates complete an additional hospital residency program for 1 to 3 years. A license is required to practice podiatric medicine, and licensing requirements are established by each individual state. There are a number of certifying boards for podiatric specialties, which requires higher standards than licensing. Most managed care organizations prefer board-certified specialists.

### **What are the admission requirements?**

Students must complete at least 3 years (135 quarter/90 semester credits) of college-level coursework prior to application; however, 95% of entering students have a bachelor's degree. Requirements may vary, so students are encouraged to verify prerequisites on individual school websites. Schools typically require one year of general chemistry, one year of organic chemistry, one year of biology, and one year of physics. All science courses must include labs.

### **Are there additional requirements?**

Traditionally the MCAT has been the only standardized test required for admission to colleges of podiatric medicine, however some schools will accept the DAT or the GRE (check with individual schools). MCAT exams taken more than three years prior to matriculation will NOT be accepted. Go to [www.aamc.org/Mcat](http://www.aamc.org/Mcat) for more information on the MCAT. Schools additionally ask for letters of recommendation, oftentimes including one from a podiatrist, and personal interviews.

### **How do I apply?**

Applications are handled through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS). Students can apply online at [www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org). Students who are residents of Alaska, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming may be eligible for reduced tuition through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). These students should go to [www.wiche.edu/SEP/PSEP](http://www.wiche.edu/SEP/PSEP) for more information. WICHE applicants must be certified by October 15 of the year preceding admission.

**American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine**

[www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org)

**American Podiatric Medical Association**

[www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org)

**Advisor:** Lori Manson, 346-3211

## The Pre-Podiatry Sample Program for Common Prerequisites:

### Freshman Year:

#### Fall Term

CH 221<sup>1</sup> + 227 lab

-or-

CH 224<sup>2</sup>+ 237 lab

MATH 111

WR 121

#### Winter Term

CH 222 + 228 lab

-or-

CH 225 + 238 lab

MATH 112

WR 122

#### Spring Term

CH 223 + 229 lab

-or-

CH 226 + 239 lab

MATH 246, 251 or 261

*(if needed for major)*

- Consider:**
- Arts & Letters<sup>3</sup>, Social Science or Multicultural classes
  - Major requirements *(if a major has been chosen)*

### Sophomore Year:

BI 251<sup>4</sup>

CH 331 + 337 lab  
(math continuation)

BI 252

CH 335 + 338 lab

BI 253

CH 336

- Consider:**
- Begin Health-Related Experience
  - Arts & Letters<sup>3</sup>, Social Science or Multicultural classes
  - Major requirements *(if a major has been chosen)*

### Junior Year:

PHYS 201 + 204

CH 360<sup>5</sup>

PHYS 202 + 205

PHYS 203 + 206

MCAT

BI 320<sup>5</sup>

- Consider:**
- Arts & Letters<sup>3</sup>, Social Science or Multicultural classes
  - Major requirements

### Senior Year:

Completion of all University and department requirements.

Apply to podiatric colleges beginning Sept. 1.

1. General Chemistry (CH221) requires prior experience in high school chemistry. MATH 111 & 112 are required as a pre- or co- requisites.
2. Honors General Chemistry (CH224-226 with 237-239 labs) requires a strong background in chemistry and math. Corequisite: calculus sequence.
3. At least one English literature course in Arts & Letters is recommended.
4. BI 251-253 requires prerequisite of CH 223
5. Courses such as biochemistry and genetics are strongly recommended and may be required for some schools. Additional recommendations include anatomy, physiology, and microbiology.