Pre-Health Information for

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)

Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) strive to improve the overall health of their patients by focusing on preventing, diagnosing, and treating conditions associated with the foot and ankle. They treat a variety of conditions and employ innovative treatments to improve the well-being of their patients.

Profession web site(s): www.aacpm.org
Application web site: www.e-aacpmas.org
Admission/Entrance exam: usually the MCAT, a few schools will take the DAT or GRE in lieu of the MCAT.
Transcripts: Official transcripts from ALL institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to the central application service, AACPMAS. If you studied abroad at a U.S. sponsored institution, a transcript from the U.S. school sponsoring the program should be sent to AACPMAS. Do not list these courses as a separate/foreign institution.
Course prerequisites: Course prerequisites may vary by program. Typical prerequisites include Biology 1001, 1002, a separate lab course such as Biology 2001, Chemistry 1001, 1002, Chemistry 2111 and 2112, Physics 1001 and 1002. Different course numbers for majors (e.g., Chemistry 1014 for Majors) will be accepted. Some schools require additional pre-requisite courses, such as an additional upper level biology course with lab. Identify your schools and required prerequisites early to ensure completion during your course of study at MU.
Observation hours/experience: Podiatry schools like to see well-rounded applications and look for quality and depth of experiences rather than requiring a specific number of hours. Direct exposure to podiatry, either volunteer or paid, shadowing, leadership, service to others, and research are all recommended experiences to become competitive for podiatry school. Podiatry schools tend to favor students with more clinical experience, service, a clear understanding of what optometry is, and a demonstrated commitment to the profession.
DPM Mentors Network: The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine has information on a DPM Mentors Network, where pre-podiatry students can search for practicing podiatrists and set up shadowing opportunities in their area. Go to www.aacpm.org for more information.
Letters of Reference (LOR): Letters of recommendation are sent directly to the podiatry schools, and are not part of the AACPMAS application. Pre-podiatry students are encouraged to use the College of Health Sciences letter of recommendation service. Requirements may vary by school, but in general, most schools require at least two letters; one for a doctor of podiatric medicine that details your exposure to podiatric medicine, and one from a science professor who has had you in class.
Personal Statement: A personal statement is a written reflection on why you want to be a podiatrist and why you think you would be a good one. Particular emphasis should be placed on why you are choosing podiatry. Character limits can be found on the AACPMAS website, but the limit is typically about one page single-spaced.
Interview: Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program, and/or physicians. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills; professional behaviors; attitude; knowledge of the profession and/or of health care overall and especially optometry; problem-solving skills; passion for pursuing podiatry, etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer.
Deadlines: Timing is important with admission to podiatric schools. Students should apply about a year in advance of when they want to attend. AACPMAS opens in August for fall admission the following year. For priority consideration, students must apply by April 1 of each year for the upcoming fall admission.
Data for Accepted Students (2012 Application Cycle):   Average UG GPA: 3.22; overall science GPA: 3.11