Diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the United States, affecting over 25 MILLION PEOPLE.

Pediatric physicians are licensed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The average DPM works just over 40 hours per week and treats approximately 100 patients per week.

After completing 4 years of pediatric medical studies, pediatric physicians apply for a comprehensive 3 year Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency (PMSR).

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
13850 Citadel Branch Way, Suite 320
Rockville, MD 20855
301-948-0057
podmed@aacpmp.org
www.AACPMP.org

AACPMP Application Service
PO Box 9000
Watertown, MA 02471
617-612-2900
www.portaltaacpmpas.org

Women made up 41% of matriculating students in 2015.
A podiatrist is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, known also as a podiatric physician or surgeon, qualified by their education and training to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot and ankle. A doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM) is a specialist in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of foot, ankle and related structures of the leg.

DPMs specialize in a variety of areas such as surgery, orthopedics, or public health. DPMs practice sports medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, radiology, geriatrics, or diabetic foot care. A DPM utilizes x-rays and laboratory tests for diagnostic purposes, prescribes medications, enters physical therapy, sets fractures, and performs surgery.

While some podiatric physicians will opt to compensate as the main reason they choose to pursue podiatric medicine, most will state it was the best fit when comparing the lifestyles of other medical specialties. In a recent practice survey, most podiatrists stated they enjoy a 30 to 60 hour work week, with the average DPM working just over 40 hours per week. This is well below the average work week for the most sought after MD and DO specialties like dermatology (45.5 hours/week) or ophthalmology (47.9 hours/week) (Dorsey, Jajcya, & Ruelius, 2003). There are many additional benefits however.

Most podiatric physicians enjoy the satisfaction of working one-on-one with their patients. In a 2014 practice survey conducted by the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), podiatric physicians reported treating approximately 110 patients per week. The manageable patient load allows for a DPM to provide in-office treatments and focus on patient wellness.

Frequently, podiatric physicians set their own hours, but often work evenings and weekends to accommodate their patients. Podiatrists who are affiliated with hospitals or clinics may also have an on-call schedule, where they respond to all lower extremity related emergencies during weeknights or evenings. However, most lower extremity emergencies are elective and may be scheduled during normal office hours.

The individual who is called to be come a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine joins a community of deeply committed physicians who provide care to vulnerable populations in the U.S. - those who are seeking healthcare for themselves, or seeking healthcare for a loved one. Podiatric physicians are rigorous scholars, curious researchers, and public health advocates with deep commitments to community service and volunteering. Doctors of Podiatric Medicine perform acts of humanism and outreach, globally, to pursue their passion excellence in foot and ankle medical care and surgery.

Want to learn more? Shadowing a DPM has proven to be one of the best ways for you to begin thinking about the countless positive aspects of a career in podiatric medicine. You may be allowed to watch actual patient procedures, discuss potential diagnosis with physician or permitted to review diagnostic images with the DPM. To find a DPM near you, visit newsaacpm.org/ becoming-a-podiatric-physician. While investigating careers in medicine, you may be surprised to learn the specialists of the lower extremity follow distinctive education paths, not the traditional medicine path with which you might be most familiar.

Podiatric physicians receive medical education and training comparable to medical doctors, including three to four years of undergraduate education, four years of graduate education at a college of podiatric medicine and three years of hospital-based residency training.

The first two years of study include a broadly based, basic science curriculum comprising study of Gross Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Pathology to name just a few. Students also study the anatomical, physiological and structural function of the lower extremity in detail. Didactic instruction evolves into clinical classroom study with application to the fundamentals of podiatric medicine and surgery and actual clinical exposure. Topics of study include Pharmacology, Surgery, Radiology, Biomechanics and General Medicine. At some schools, students are introduced to interdisciplinary study with students from other healthcare disciplines.

The third and fourth years include clinical rotations through podiatric medical clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and professional office settings where students are afforded the privilege of working with real patients. The goal of podiatric clinical training is to provide students with basic competencies in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the lower extremity. Students are also exposed to cutting edge research, practice management methodologies and electronic medical records as part of their hands on training.

With just nine schools and colleges of podiatric medicine in the U.S., it’s easy to discover which school is the best fit for you. Schools and colleges which offer the doctor of podiatric medicine degree are accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. Most schools and colleges of podiatric medicine also are accredited by a regional educational accreditation organization. For more information about the schools and colleges of podiatric medicine, please contact: American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine 15550 Clarks Branch Way, Suite 320 Rockville, MD 20855 301-948-0957 podinfo@aacpms.org www.AACPMA.org

Successful candidates who apply for entry into one of the nine schools and colleges of podiatric medicine display positive characteristics of mature adults, Evidence of preparation for a career in medicine, and specifically a career in podiatric medicine, should also be present in each application. Candidates with strong science preparation are preferred. Attributes of successful candidates also include: good time management; problem solving proficiency; and a strong sense of interpersonal communication skills. Successful candidates also have a demonstrable record of community service or good works; a strong academic record in the sciences, and are well-rounded individuals.

Applicants must take the MCAT no later than spring of the year of admission. MCAT exams taken more than 70 years prior to application are not acceptable. However, some colleges will accept the US Dental Admission Test (DAT). If a student has not taken the MCAT, they should check the policy of each individual college in which they are interested in ascertaining if test scores other than the MCAT acceptable for admission.

Actual minimum semester credit hour requirements for all of the colleges of podiatric medicine include the following prerequisites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMA) allows students to apply to all nine of the colleges of podiatric medicine with one online application.

Apply now! www.portal.aacpmas.org

Many forms of financial aid are available to podiatric medical students, including scholarships and loans. Some financial aid is available directly from the colleges, and many state, local and national podiatric medical organizations offer scholarships or loans to students. Financial aid officers at colleges of podiatric medicine will have more information.

Podiatric medicine embraces a multitude of diverse students, and practicing podiatric physicians. The colleges of podiatric medicine actively recruit students from all ethnic backgrounds, races and genders. The podiatric medical schools and colleges and AACPMA welcome applications from individuals traditionally under-represented in other health professions. AACPMA, its parent organization, AAPMA, and the colleges adhere to all legal requirements, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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