The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) is a specialist concerned with prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of foot disorders resulting from injury or disease. For more information on the profession, how to apply, to find a mentor, and to research schools visit www.aacpm.org.

**ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

Academic preparation for podiatry school requires or recommends a Bachelor’s degree and requires completion of a set of prerequisite classes, usually science, which vary from school to school. The most common classes are outlined on the final page of this Summary. For your degree, any major is appropriate. There is no preference in this regard, so study something you love!

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Preparation for podiatry school involves engaging in experiences that develop and demonstrate skills in communication, leadership, community service, research, and familiarity with the profession. What you do outside of class is as important as what you do in class so don’t neglect these activities. Keep in mind that activities complement your coursework, but will not compensate for low grades. Both are important!

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**Leadership Experience**

As a podiatrist, you will be a leader and team member in many ways – with your patients, your staff, your colleagues, and your community. Examples include offices held in organizations, committee work; leadership in church activities; coordinating a project; managing, training, supervising at work or in other activities; teaching experience of any kind; tutoring; coaching; peer counseling or mentoring, etc.

- Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) (http://www.asuu.utah.edu/)

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**Community Service**

Because you are preparing for a humanitarian profession, it is important to have volunteer learning experiences which demonstrate a commitment to service to others. It is suggested that this be ongoing throughout your college years.

- Lowell Bennion Community Service Center (http://www.bennioncenter.org)

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**Podiatry School**

**Shadowing Podiatrists & Podiatry Experience**

This should be one of your first experiences as a prepodiatry student. Observing a podiatrist in action will help you gather the information you need to fully commit to the profession, and to learn about a variety of podiatry specialties. It is also good to interview several podiatrists.

Podiatry experience is very important in your application. Most students gain this experience by shadowing a general podiatrist for more than a semester. Consider Internship to structure your experience and earn course credit.

Find info about the internship for academic credit at http://careers.utah.edu/find-job/internship.php.

Things to Remember

- Keep contact information for supervisors and podiatrists you shadow or work with in case you ask them to write recommendation letters. Even if you discontinue some activities, try to maintain a relationship with them.

- Record all hours of service and experiences. Writing your reflections in a journal will be helpful when you write a personal statement. You can download the PreHealth Planner Spread Sheet from our website; you will find it under Available Downloads.
### APPLICATION TIMELINE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCAT</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
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<td>- Request official transcript(s) from all university &amp; colleges you have taken courses from including concurrent enrollment classes.</td>
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<td>- Once your application is submitted, it will take about 5 weeks to process it.</td>
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### MCAT

The computerized MCAT is administered seven months out of each year. The exam must be taken no later than April prior to fall entrance, preferably earlier. Register here: [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/)

### APPLICATION PROCESS

There are 9 colleges of podiatric medicine. You can find information on the schools and the application process from the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPMA) [http://www.aacpm.org/](http://www.aacpm.org/).

#### AACPMA

You can apply to all 9 colleges of podiatric medicine with one application through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMA) [https://portal.aacpmas.org/](https://portal.aacpmas.org/).

AACPMA opens in August and the final deadline for applying to the colleges through AACPMA is June 31 of each year, for that year’s entering class. However, because colleges accept students on a rolling admission basis, it is advisable to apply in the fall or winter well before the deadline. Applications received by April 1 will be given priority consideration.

Complete your AACPMA application and have official transcripts sent from all colleges and universities attended, including concurrent enrollment classes while in high school. AACPMA standardizes your application and forwards it to the schools of your choice. After submission of this application, supplemental material, such as letters of recommendation, will also be required. Most podiatry schools require a personal interview. Please consult the preprofessional advisors regularly as you prepare your application.

#### Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are sent directly to each college. It is easiest to use a service like Interfolio [https://www.interfolio.com](https://www.interfolio.com) to collect your letters and send them to each school. Up to 4 letters of recommendation are required by most schools—2 from science professors and at least 1 from a podiatrist.

1. Science Professor
2. Science / non-Science Professor
3. Podiatrist
4. Podiatrist / Supervisor.

**Asking for a Letter or Recommendation**

1) Contact professors and podiatrist(s) and ask if they think they know you well enough to write an excellent recommendation letter for you.
2) If they agree, give them deadline about 3 weeks prior to when you actually need the letter, and provide them with a packet of information including information such as the following:
   a. your updated resume with list of your activities
   b. a personal statement draft
   c. information about the program(s) to which you are applying
• **PERSONAL INTERVIEW**
  A personal interview is required of all applicants who are seriously being considered for admission to acquaint them with the school and to aid the admissions committees in understanding the personal qualifications and interest of applicants.

• **WICHE**
  The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) is a consortium of undergraduate and graduate programs in the western states. This enables Utah residents to enroll at reduced tuition in out-of-state professional programs. For more information about the program, and to find participating western podiatry schools, visit [http://www.wiche.edu/psep/podi](http://www.wiche.edu/psep/podi). In order to qualify for WICHE, students who have been a resident of Utah for at least 5 years and **must file a WICHE application by October 15**, one year prior to the fall entrance date to podiatry school.

• **BACHELOR’S DEGREE**
  Most schools require or at least encourage students to complete Bachelor’s degree by the time they matriculate to podiatry school. However, some schools accept students who completed more than 90 credit hours of college credits but do not have bachelor’s degree.

• **PODIATRY SCHOOL VISITS**
  As part of Career Service’s “Graduate School Fair” held every fall semester, a few podiatry schools from all over the country visits the U of U campus. They meet with students individually at the event. We strongly recommend our students to visit podiatry school representatives during the fair.

• **USEFUL WEBSITES**
  - Tutoring Center ([http://tutoringcenter.utah.edu/](http://tutoringcenter.utah.edu/)) ---328 SSB, 581-5153
  - American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine ([www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org))
  - American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS) ([https://portal.aacpmas.org/](https://portal.aacpmas.org/))
  - MCAT information ([https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/))
  - WICHE Program ([http://www.wiche.edu/psep/podi](http://www.wiche.edu/psep/podi))

• **PREPODIATRY CURRICULUM**
  **Policies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CLEP Credit &amp; Correspondence Study</strong></th>
<th>Depend on Podiatry school. Check each podiatry school’s website for more information.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AP Credits</strong></td>
<td>Podiatry schools take AP credits, but it is recommended to take coursework beyond introductory classes waived by AP.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Repeats</strong></td>
<td>All Repeats are counted in your AACPMAS GPA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 year colleges credits</strong></td>
<td>Many schools limit credits taken at 2 year colleges to 60.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Withdrawals</strong></td>
<td>W’s should normally be used only for emergencies.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Optional Courses you can take as part of Prepodiatry Curriculum**

| **ED PSYCH 3861** | Career Services Internship [http://careers.utah.edu/find-job/internship.php](http://careers.utah.edu/find-job/internship.php). The Career Services Internship Program is an opportunity for you to earn upper-division academic credit while learning about a career. This is applicable whether you are shadowing podiatrist(s) or working in a field of podiatric medicine. This course is credit/no credit and is repeatable up to 6 credits. |
### PrePodiatry Science Course Guide

This guide is designed for applying to a range of podiatry schools. It is not a comprehensive list. Requirements may vary by school. Shading indicates the classes most commonly required by podiatry schools. See a PPA advisor for more information.

[Classes with * may be taken @ SLCC. However, not all Podiatry schools accept prerequisites from 2 year schools]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOLOGY / PATHOLOGY</th>
<th>CHEMISTRY</th>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>PHYSICS</th>
<th>NON-SCIENCE</th>
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</table>
| *1610 (3) Fundamentals of Bio I | OPTIONAL preparatory courses for CHEM, MATH, and PHYS:  
- MATH 10 Math Boot Camp for Intermediate Algebra  
- MATH 15 Math Boot Camp for Pre-Calculus  
- CHEM 10 Chemistry Boot Camp for General Chemistry  
- CHEM 1200 (3) Prep for College Chemistry  
- CHEM 1208 (1) Intro to Periodic Table  
- CHEM 2308 (1) Intro to O-Chem | 2 Semesters of English Composition (WRTG 2010 & CW) |
| May be waived by AP Bio  
Formerly BIOL 1210 | NOTE: In order to take the proper math class, you must have ACT, SAT or math placement test scores, or successfully pass a prerequisite math course. |
| 2325 (4)  
Human Anatomy  
(Prereq: BIOL 1610)  
Required by many podiatry Schools.  
Fulfills BIOL lab requirement for most podiatry schools | 1210 (4)  
Gen Chem 1  
1215 (1)  
Lab (Prereq: MATH 1050) | 1050 (4) & 1060 (3)  
*College Algebra & Trigonometry  
(Can be substituted with MATH 1080, 1210 or higher) |
| 2420 (4)  
Human Physiology  
(Prereq: BIOL 1610 & CHEM 1210)  
MCAT prep | The Following biology courses may be required or recommended by Podiatry Schools and any of these courses fulfill the 1 of 2 general biology requirements.  
- 1620 (3) 1625 Fund. of Bio II  
- 2020 (3) Cell Biology  
- 2030 (3) Genetics or  
2210 (3) Hum. Genetics  
- PATH 3100 (3)  
Medical Microbiology | 2010 (4)  
Gen. Physics 1  
2015 (1)  
Lab (Prereq: MATH 1060) |
| BIOL/CHEM 3510 (3)  
Biochem I  
Required by many podiatry schools. | 2210 (4)  
for Scientists & Engineers 1  
2015 (1)  
Lab (Prereq: MATH 1210) |

2 Biology LABs. Either the Anatomy OR Physiology lab will fulfill the 1st biology lab for most schools. The 2nd can be fulfilled by any biology lab such as BIOL 1615, 1625, 3115, 3205, 3235, 3515, 3525 or others.  
Please note that some of these labs require the corresponding course. Labs at SLCC may also be acceptable.