Podiatry School

Doctor of Pediatric Medicine - DPM

Information below is for pre-health advisement only. Students are responsible for verifying admissions information for their programs of interest. All information is subject to change.

Career Description:
A podiatrist is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), known also as a podiatric physician or surgeon, qualified by their education and training to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot, ankle and related structures of the leg. When treating patients, this system is also known as the lower extremity. Podiatrists are defined as physicians by the federal government. A DPM is a specialist in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lower extremity disorders, diseases and injuries. A podiatric physician works independently, utilizes x-rays and laboratory tests for diagnostic purposes, prescribes medications, orders physical therapy, sets fractures, and performs surgery. As part of a healthcare team, the DPM works closely with other health professionals to treat and control disease. Within the profession, podiatric physicians can specialize in a variety of areas such as surgery, orthopedics, or public health. Besides these certified specialties, podiatrists may practice a subspecialty such as sports medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, radiology, geriatrics, or diabetic foot care. Podiatric physicians are the only doctors to receive specialized medical and surgical training, and board certification in the care of the lower extremity.

Basic Education Path to Career:

4 year undergraduate degree → 4 year doctorate degree → 2 year minimum residency program

Matriculant Statistics:
- Average overall GPA of matriculants in 2014: 3.3
- Average science GPA of matriculants in 2014: 3.2
- Exam Required: MCAT
- Average Exam Score of matriculants for 2014: 21.4
- To be competitive for this career, schools want to see at least 2 years of pre-health semesters, which include multiple 3000/4000 level science courses before applying.
  - Pre-health semesters are 1L Semesters consisting of minimum 14-16 credit hours, with 8-11 hours of science courses. Science courses consist of biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

Required extra-curricular activities:
1) A minimum of one shadowing experience with a DPM which will lead to a letter of recommendation.

Recommended extra-curricular activities:
1) Additional shadowing opportunities, preferably with DPM’s (3-4 experiences for extended periods of time)
2) Community Service/Humanitarian activities that demonstrates a commitment to public service - both clinical volunteering and service outside the healthcare field
3) Display of leadership in extracurricular activities

Resources:
- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine: [www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org)
- For more information please contact the USF Division of Health Professions Advising at [healthprofadvise@usf.edu](mailto:healthprofadvise@usf.edu)

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