EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

PRE-PODIATRY
GUIDE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

10,500
jobs in 2019

10,500
jobs projected in 2029

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$126,240
in 2019

for more information, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics
http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/podiatrists.htm

The Pre-Podiatry track at East Tennessee State University prepares students for application to a four-year Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) program. Students may apply after completion of at least 90 credit hours, yet completion of a bachelor's degree is strongly recommended. Over 97% of applicants have a bachelor's degree by matriculation. Students should be aware there are only nine schools of podiatric medicine; therefore students should be comfortable with the possibility of relocating.
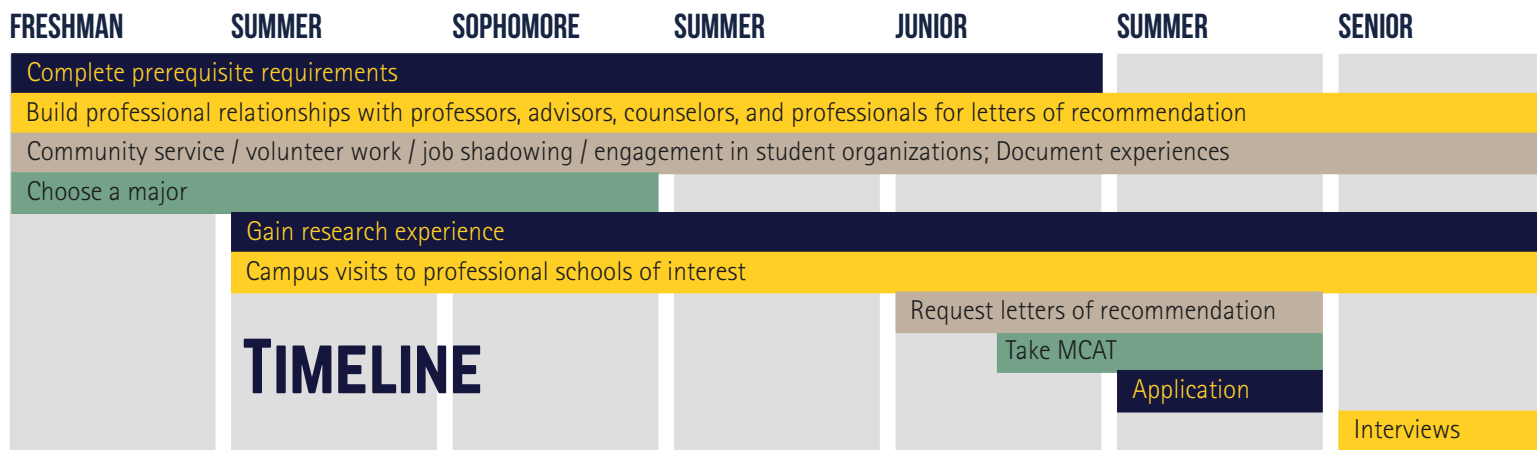
CAREERS IN PODIATRY

Podiatrists provide medical and surgical care for people suffering from foot, ankle, and lower leg problems. They diagnose illnesses, treat injuries, and perform surgery.

Podiatrists treat arch problems, heel spurs, calluses, and ingrown toenails. They also treat foot and leg problems associated with diabetes and other diseases. They may also set fractures.

Podiatrists who own their own practices may also spend time on business-related activities, such as hiring employees and managing inventory.

The curriculum for podiatric medicine includes classroom instruction and lab work followed by study of clinical science and patient care.

Timeline

FRESHMAN	SUMMER	SOPHOMORE	SUMMER	JUNIOR	SUMMER	SENIOR
Complete prerequisite requirements (Freshman → Junior)						
Build professional relationships with professors, advisors, counselors, and professionals for letters of recommendation (Freshman → Summer/Senior)						
Community service / volunteer work / job shadowing / engagement in student organizations; Document experiences (Freshman → Summer/Senior)						
Choose a major (Freshman)						
	Gain research experience (Summer → Senior)					
	Campus visits to professional schools of interest (Summer → Summer)					
				Request letters of recommendation (Junior → Summer)		
				Take MCAT (Junior → Summer)		
				Application (Junior/Summer)		
						Interviews (Senior)

ADVISEMENT

PRE-PODIATRY IS NOT A MAJOR. Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) which supports your life goals by the time you earn 60 credit hours. Podiatry schools are interested in students who have excelled in the sciences and mathematics. You do not, however, have to major in those disciplines. Students should speak with an MPA counselor before/when declaring a major.

We strongly recommend you meet with your MPA counselor and major advisor each term before registering for the following semester. Students who receive scholarships or participate in specialized ETSU programs (such as athletics or Honors College programs) must also seek advisement from those departments. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors (e.g., failure to graduate on time, missing appropriate courses to prepare for the MCAT, etc.).

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET INTO PODIATRY SCHOOL?

GPA - 3.57
Overall average GPA for 2020 entering class as reported by the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

SCIENCE GPA - 3.2
Average science GPA as reported by the AACPM for 2020

MCAT AVERAGE COMPOSITE SCORE - 494

CORE PREPARATION COURSES
Different schools may have varying prerequisite requirements. It is up to the student to research and ensure the required courses are completed before application to the preferred school(s) of interest.

Course	Hours	Course Numbers
Biology	8 hours	BIOL 1110/1111, BIOL 1120/1121
General Chemistry	8 hours	CHEM 1110/1111, CHEM 1120/1121
Organic Chemistry	10 hours	CHEM 2010/2011, CHEM 2020/2021
Physics	8 hours	PHYS 2010/2011, PHYS 2020/2021
English	6 hours	ENGL 1010, 1020
Sociology	3 hours	SOCI 1020
Psychology	3 hours	PSYC 1310
Biochemistry	5 hours	Consult with your counselor
Philosophy/Humanities	3 hours	PHIL 2640 or 2020

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES

Course	Hours	Course Numbers
Human Anatomy	4 hours	HSCI 3000
Human Physiology	4 hours	HSCI 3020
Cell Biology	5 hours	BIOL 3150/3151
Probability and Statistics	3 hours	MATH 1530
Microbiology	4 hours	HSCI 3320/3321
Genetics	3 hours	BIOL 3100
Medical Terminology	3 hours	COBH 2750
Calculus	8 hours	MATH 1910, 1920
Immunology	3 hours	HSCI 3540

SUGGESTED 2-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR PRE-PODIATRY STUDENTS

FRESHMAN

Fall
CHEM 1110/11
BIOL 1110/11
MATH 1530
ENGL 1010
PREH 1350

Spring
CHEM 1120/21
BIOL 1120/21
MATH 1720/1910
ENGL 1020
ELECTIVE

SOPHOMORE

Fall
CHEM 2010/11
PHYS 2010/11
SPCH*
PSYC 1310
ELECTIVE

Spring
CHEM 2020/21
PHYS 2020/21
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE

Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours per semester
* Consult your MPA counselor before choosing a speech course

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Students may apply to podiatry school through the AACPM Application Service (AACPMAS): **www.aacpm.org**. Applications are available in August; however application deadlines vary from April through June. Please research your school choices closely to determine when applications are due. During the application process, most schools will require three letters of recommendation to be submitted, one of which must be from a podiatrist. Therefore, it is imperative that you establish a strong relationship with the person you are shadowing.

Some podiatry schools recommend, when available, students submit a composite letter of evaluation during the application process. The Medical Professions Advisement staff are available to assist you through this process.

THE MCAT

The MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) is generally taken at the end of a student's junior year. Complete all prerequisite classes before taking the exam.

MPA COUNSELOR CONTACT
Medical Professions Advisement Office
423-439-5602

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

WE HAVE 15+ PRE-HEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE 250+ AT ETSU

AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (AMSA)

AMSA is committed to involving its members in the social, moral, and ethical obligations of the profession of medicine. This group also provides opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer activities and assists students with job shadowing.

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA HONOR SOCIETY (AED)

AED functions as a health pre-professional honor society encouraging excellence in scholarship. It emphasizes the importance of health education and promotes cooperation and contact among professionals.

Please visit Student Activities and Organizations to find an organization that best fits your goals.

etsucampuslabs.com/engage/organizations

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
http://aacpm.org/

American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA)
www.apma.org

WHAT CAN I BE DOING NOW TO STRENGTHEN MY APPLICATION TO PODIATRY SCHOOL?

RELATED EXPERIENCE Students are encouraged to explore the field of podiatry either through employment or by volunteering. Podiatry schools want to know that a student has worked in the field, observed what is involved, and still has the desire to continue in that profession. Students should gain as much experience as possible without sacrificing grades.

EXTRACURRICULARS The admissions committees of podiatry schools are interested in seeing a range of extracurricular activities, especially those demanding a significant leadership role. Students should demonstrate their ability to balance full academic schedules with extracurricular involvement on and off campus and/or through employment opportunities. ETSU has many organizations that students can join. Students should visit the SAO or www.etsu.edu/students/sao/ for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization; you must demonstrate leadership!

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE Podiatry schools are looking for candidates who express a commitment to service. Students should seek volunteer projects that focus on giving back to their community.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence; therefore email addresses should be appropriate for professional communication. Messages and images sent electronically are reflections of judgment and potential suitability for professional careers. Inappropriate behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and shared by anyone, possibly compromising your chances of admission to a professional school.

WATCH WHAT YOU POST!

EAST TENNESSEE STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y