The Pre-Podiatry program of study at East Tennessee State University prepares students for application to a 4-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.

**Employment Opportunities**

- **10,700** jobs in 2012
- **13,100** jobs projected in 2022

**Median Annual Wage**

- **$116,440** in 2012

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

**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 set fractures.

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

Podiatrists’ offices may be open in the evenings to accommodate patients. In hospitals, podiatrists may have to work occasional nights or weekends or may be on call.

**Timeline**

**FRESHMAN**

- Complete prerequisite requirements.
- Build professional relationships with professors, advisors, and professionals for letters of recommendation.
- Community service / volunteer work / job shadowing / engagement in student organizations. Document experiences.
- Choose a major.

**SUMMER**

- Gain research experience.
- Campus visits to professional schools of interest

**SOPHOMORE**

**SUMMER**

- Collect letters of recommendation.
- Take MCAT.

**JUNIOR**

**SUMMER**

- Application
- Interviews

**SENIOR**

- Pre-podiatry is not a major. Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) 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 a Medical Professions advisor before/when declaring a major.

**Advisement**

You must meet with your advisor each semester. You are required to meet with your pre-professional and major advisors each term before registering for the next. Students who receive scholarships, 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?

Overall average GPA for 2013 entering class as reported by the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine.

GPA: 3.3
Science GPA: 3.2
MCAT Score*: 21.2

*Most podiatry schools require the MCAT prior to admission, but some will accept the GRE or DAT in lieu of this requirement. Students should check with individual schools to determine minimum requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Preparation Courses *</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy/Humanities</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Recommended Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probability and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
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<td>Calculus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Different schools may have different 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.

# PHIL 2030 is recommended to fulfill the MCAT philosophy knowledge requirement; be aware, however, that this class does not fulfill a general education requirement.

Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours per semester.

* Consult your advisor before choosing a speech course

The application process

Students may apply to podiatry school through the AACPM at www.aacpm.org. Applications are generally available in September prior to the year of entry. 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.

Many podiatry schools require students to submit a composite letter of evaluation during the application process. The Medical Professions Advisement staff is available to assist students through this process.

The new 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. Important changes are coming to the test in 2015:

- The Natural Sciences sections will reflect recent changes in medical education.
- A new social / behavioral sciences section (Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior) recognizes the importance of socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health and health outcomes.
- A new Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section reflects the fact that schools want well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds.
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 SORC located on the first floor of the Culp center or www.etsu.edu/sorc for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization; you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

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

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE** Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence and 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!**

Visit the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine at http://aacpm.org/ for more information about the profession and training.

Visit the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) at www.apma.org for more information about podiatry.

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