

# Doctor of Podiatric Medicine



## WHAT IS A DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE (DPM)?

A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), known also as a podiatric physician or surgeon, is qualified by their education and training to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot, ankle and related structures of the leg.

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

## IN AN AVERAGE DAY A DPM MAY

- Provide individual consultations to patients concerning continued treatment of disorders and preventive foot care.

- Diagnose foot ailments such as tumors, ulcers, fractures, skin or nail diseases, and congenital or acquired deformity such as weak feet and foot imbalance.
- Use innovative methods to treat conditions such as corns, calluses, bunions, heel spurs, ingrown toenails, arch problems, shortened tendons, cysts, bone disorders, and abscesses.
- Design corrective orthotics, plaster casts, and strappings to correct deformities.
- Design flexible casting for foot and ankle fractures, sprains, or other injuries.
- Correct walking patterns and balance, and promote the overall ability to move more efficiently and comfortably.
- Refer patients to other physicians when symptoms observed in the feet indicate disorders such as diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, or kidney disease

DPMs work in a specialty and an industry for which there is a growing demand, a declining supply, and formidable barriers to entry.

- You can't be laid off in a bad economy, and you control your work environment.
- Many DPMs claim they chose this specialty for "lifestyle" reasons such as having more time to spend with their families.
- Opportunities are increasing for DPMs... There is a growing respect and demand for their specialty.
- Every podiatric practice is unique and takes on the personality of its practitioner(s).
- Podiatric physicians not only save limbs, they keep patients walking.

# DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

## PODIATRIC MEDICAL SCHOOLS

- Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University
- Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine
- California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University
- College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University
- Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine
- New York College of Podiatric Medicine
- Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
- Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine
- Western University of Health Sciences, College of Podiatric Medicine

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM): [aacpm.org](http://aacpm.org)
- American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA): [apma.org](http://apma.org)
- American Podiatric Medical Students' Association (APMSA): [apmsa.org](http://apmsa.org)
- American Association for Women Podiatrists (AAWP): [americanwomenpodiatrists.com](http://americanwomenpodiatrists.com)
- Podiatry Today: [podiatrytoday.com](http://podiatrytoday.com)