Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

DPM
Enjoy a profession that does a world of good

Your podiatric medical education will shape your career – so choose a university with an exceptional program and outstanding reputation. Des Moines University’s College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery is America’s center of excellence for innovative education, scholarly activity and community service.

Our students lead the nation in board exam pass rates. Preceptors seek our students for competitive residencies. Graduates hold leadership positions across the profession. And faculty members are renowned for their clinical skills and scholarly contributions.

The college was the first school of podiatric medicine to be affiliated with an academic health science center, an alliance that offers you many educational and resource advantages as well as opportunities to interact with other future health care providers.

THE PROFESSION

Opportunities and diversity in practice abound in podiatric medicine. Using a wide variety of medical skills, from surgery to orthopedics to physical therapy, podiatric physicians make real differences in their patients’ mobility, wellness and quality of life.

Pediatric physicians:
- prevent, diagnose and treat disorders and diseases of the foot and ankle for patients of all ages
- surgically and orthopedically correct foot and ankle problems
- care for patients with diabetes, who are vulnerable to limb-threatening complications
- treat patients with medical conditions such as poor circulation, gout, neurological disorders and arthritis

These doctors benefit their patients with the knowledge of how conditions and function of the foot, ankle and leg affect the rest of the body and overall health. For more information about the podiatry profession, visit www.apma.org.

Qualifying for admission
To be admitted to DMU’s College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, you need:
- A bachelor’s degree in any field, or 90 semester hours
- Biology: 8 semester hours with labs
- General Chemistry: 8 semester hours with labs
- Organic Chemistry: 8 semester hours with labs
- Physics: 8 semester hours with labs
- English or Language Arts: 6 semester hours
- MCAT score

See more detailed information on pages 10-11.
Podiatric students at DMU are trained as physicians first and specialists second, an approach that creates the greatest competence, ability and career opportunities. Taught and mentored by caring, expert faculty, DMU students benefit from a curriculum that integrates the basic sciences, body systems and problem-based learning and facilities that offer real-world experiences. That combination fosters exceptional placement rates among students in residency programs at many of the top-recognized medical centers in the country. It’s the best preparation for clinical training, board exams and patient care in a wide range of settings.

**AN EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

The summer after their second year, CPMS students experience rotations with physicians of Des Moines University Clinic’s Foot and Ankle Institute, the largest group of podiatric physicians in Iowa. More than 7,000 patients are seen at the institute annually, exposing students to a variety of pathologies.

DMU’s Iowa Simulation Center for Patient Safety and Clinical Skills offers exceptional opportunities to practice and improve clinical skills on highly lifelike medical mannequins. Students can draw “blood” from these simulators, start IVs, catheterize, defibrillate, intubate and perform chest compressions. Students encounter a variety of cases, learn from their mistakes and gain knowledge, skills and confidence before they treat real patients.

In the Standardized Performance Assessment Laboratory, students participate in medical scenarios, interacting with standardized patients who are trained to play the role of actual patients. Students then review video of their patient encounters and learn from faculty evaluations. This training enhances students’ interpersonal and physical exam skills.

The Surgery Skills Center includes simulation model labs, a computer technology lab and a simulation operating room lab with a digital overhead camera, laparoscopic equipment and station monitors for viewing and recording procedures. Students integrate medical knowledge and critical thinking, learn and practice fundamental and advanced technical skills, and use and explore advances in technology.

The Gross Anatomy Laboratory features computer-aided instruction with 32-inch flat screen monitors at 43 dissection stations. Each offers dissection instructions linked to images from Netter’s Atlas of Human Anatomy online. Video files of laboratory orientations and reviews are available to students, as are CT/MRI images, plain film radiographs and three-dimensional images converted from CT/MRI scans.

The Human Performance laboratory uses computerized motion analysis equipment to assess and evaluate muscle, joint and nerve problems that contribute to movement disorders. Test results give staff and students a better understanding of the disorders to improve patient care. The laboratory also enhances DMU’s rich research environment.

Pediatric medicine is a profession on the rise: Increases in foot and ankle disorders among diabetic and aging populations and those engaged in exercise and sports create a growing demand for podiatric medical services. Podiatric physicians also enjoy diverse daily activities in a collegial, family-friendly profession and wide variety of settings.

**Real-world preparation, real-life advantages**

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Learning for a lifetime

At DMU, you are connected

Technology is incorporated throughout the curriculum to support your education. This "connected learning" is an ongoing process of discovery and innovation that blends the Internet, hardware and software in ways that benefit you on campus and during off-campus clinical training. Here are some of its components:

• You receive a laptop computer and an eTouch for use on campus, at home and during clinical rotations. Upon graduation, you own both.

• Wireless access connects you to the University’s computer network and Internet anywhere on campus without cables or data ports.

• The student portal is your gateway to web-based services. You can view your grades, class schedule and e-mail, and you can access other services and information through customizable pages.

• A web-based learning management system gives you access to course material, quizzes, discussion lists and other services.

• Most lectures are recorded and made available online in MP4 format.

CURRICULUM

The College of Pediatric Medicine and Surgery offers a four-year program that leads to the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) degree.

Year 1 – Basic Sciences

The first year provides core instruction in the basic sciences. Podiatric medical students share these courses with students in the University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. As the course of study progresses, they focus more on the foot and ankle. Students complete a comprehensive course in physical diagnosis using DMU’s nationally recognized Standardized Performance Assessment Lab.

Year 2 – Basic and Clinical Sciences

The second year integrates basic sciences and clinical medicine with an emphasis on the lower extremity. Students learn to identify the interrelationship and interdependence of body systems. After completing the lower limb anatomy course, they study podiatric medicine, diagnostic procedures, biomechanics and foot and ankle surgery.

Year 3 – Evidence-Based Medicine

The keynote to the curriculum is small-group problem-based learning through which students apply principles of evidence-based medicine to solve clinical cases. Students are introduced to the concepts of evidence-based medicine during the first two years and become fully immersed in case discussions and research of learning issues during the third year. Problem-based learning complements clinical rotations and prepares you for clinical training.

Years 2, 3, 4 – Clinical Training

Students practice physical diagnosis skills on a voluntary basis during the second year. Formal clinical rotations begin in the summer between the second and third years and continue until graduation. Offered in a variety of settings, clinical experiences focus on the interaction of podiatric medical physicians with other members of the health care team, fostering understanding about the role of podiatric medicine.

Year 3 clinical rotations occur in Des Moines and surrounding areas. Students have 10 months of required rotations in podiatric medicine, general medicine, vascular medicine, orthopedic medicine and wound care.

Year 4 rotations span 11 months. Available nationwide, they include a podiatric medical/surgical rotation, core hospital rotation, podiatric medical private practice and an elective rotation.

Residency Training

After graduating, students enter residency programs across the nation. DMU students often receive residencies at prestigious and well-known teaching hospitals.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

• DMU’s Global Health Program offers students in all programs invaluable cultural, social and clinical experiences beyond the United States. Students hone their clinical skills and gain global perspectives while serving people and communities in need. Opportunities range from short service trips to extended rotations at sites including Belize, El Salvador, Mali, St. Lucia, South Africa and Uganda.

• Research at Des Moines University offers students invaluable opportunities to learn and discover. It involves collaborations across campus and with health care professionals and organizations in the community, the region, the state, across the country and internationally.

• Students in DMU’s Doctor of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery program can pursue a dual degree leading to master’s or doctoral degrees in health administration, public health, anatomy or biomedical sciences.

In its survey of 2008 newly graduated doctors of podiatric medicine, the Council of Teaching Hospitals found that graduates of DMU’s College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery scored higher than the national average in all so evaluation categories. This survey is completed by podiatric residency directors from across the U.S. and reflects the performance of residents from the nation’s colleges of podiatric medicine.

Laura Heath, DPM’12, West Des Moines, Iowa

“The faculty are very accessible and passionate about the profession. Everyone here wants you to succeed and will do everything in their power to help make that happen.”
CAMPUS LIFE

Work hard/play hard

Students at DMU work hard, but they also know how to play. It’s all about balance… getting an excellent education in a place that feels like home. Here are some of the distinctions that students say drew them to Des Moines University.

Get physical.
The wellness center has everything you need to stay (or get) in shape. Treadmills, elliptical machines, free weights, basketball court, exercise classes, healthful cooking—there’s something going on all the time, and something for everyone.

Find your place.
Finding a club or interest group to join on campus won’t be a problem. Students participate in more than 50 clubs and professional organizations that provide opportunity for community service, interaction with professional associations, fund-raising opportunities, social gatherings, and forming lifelong friendships.

Play a game.
Join a club or intergroup to get on campus won’t be a problem. Participate in more than 50 clubs and organizations, and you’re sure to find one that’s perfect for you.

Stick around.
It’s 5 p.m. Classes and labs are over. Time to head home? Not necessarily. The Student Entrance Center offers plenty of reasons to stay.

A fun, affordable place to call home

THE DMU NEIGHBORHOOD is known for its historic homes, shaded lawns, and stately surroundings. The governor’s residence of Terrace Hill Mansion is just a few blocks east. If you’re wondering where you’ll live, choosing suitable housing rarely is a problem. Many reason to live in Des Moines or in one of the suburbs. Wherever you live, the campus is within a 30-minute drive. And that’s during rush hour.

THE DOWNTOWN is a contemporary urban center with something for everyone. Revitalization during the past decade has paved the way for an exciting yet accessible metropolitan lifestyle. The downtown features a new outdoor sculpture park, the Science Center of Iowa and IMAX Theater, Wells Fargo Arena, Broadway shows, baseball and hockey games, and an abundance of lifestyle housing. The historic Court Avenue District offers a variety of restaurants and music, and East Village offers distinctively different art, shopping, and cuisine. During warmer weather, the Downtown Farmers Market on Saturday mornings draws thousands who buy fresh produce and products from Iowa’s agricultural bounty. Annual events like the Des Moines Arts Festival and 80/35 Music Festival make downtown even more exciting.

THE SURROUNDING AREA is large enough to have great places to go and things to do, but small enough that it doesn’t take hours to get there and back. The Greater Des Moines area offers variety in dining, upscale shopping, specialty shops, movie complexes, and more. Go dancing at one of the clubs. Enjoy an evening of live blues. And be sure to take in the sights, sounds, and aromas of the world-renowned Iowa State Fair. Just outside the city you can enjoy a wide range of parks, lakes, and recreational areas, all of which are connected to the city through bike paths. As the city motto says, “Do More.”

You can get there from here

Des Moines is located in the center of America’s Heartland, right at the junction of Interstates 80 and 35. That makes it easy to get to and from several large metro areas.

LIFE AS YOU’LL KNOW IT AT DMU...

DMU is the nation’s first university or college to earn platinum status for its wellness programs, the highest recognition granted by the Wellness Councils of America. You don’t like ice and snow? Not to worry. The temperature is always 72 degrees on campus. Underground tunnels connect all four of the main buildings on campus so you can bypass Iowa’s cold winter.

You’ll get to know new people from day one as you share classes and labs. You’ll also discover that cooperation prevails instead of competition—a characteristic of students throughout DMU.

CPMS students are always quick to identify needs and step up to serve others. Among other activities, students sponsor a winter shoe drive and foot screenings at community events.

The student commons is a welcoming place to call home while on campus. So go ahead, get comfortable. Meet your friends there. Eat lunch. Or grab a latte, pull up a comfy chair, and study by the fireplace.

Student government is a great way to develop or sharpen leadership skills. Many students choose to become involved with student government or with the podiatric medical association at the state and national level.

Feeling unplugged? It’s OK. You won’t need to hunt for a data port. The entire campus, and even some apartments across the street, have a wireless Internet connection.

Start the academic year off right with a “Welcome Back” picnic for new and returning students. There’s plenty of good food and music.

NOTHING TO DO?

• Pigs and corn—Iowa has plenty of both, but not in Des Moines! Contrary to what you may have envisioned, Des Moines is a real city with a relaxed metropolitan atmosphere supported by its population of 534,230.

• Education and cultural diversity abound in Des Moines. The metro area has 12 colleges and universities, and nearly 100 houses of worship that represent 79 different denominations or faiths.

• Des Moines has safe neighborhoods, great public and private schools, and many kid-focused events, attractions, and programs.

• With miles of bike paths, at least 5 lakes and more than 130 parks in the Greater Des Moines area, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

• Third largest insurance center in the world. Major employers include EMC Insurance, Nationwide/Allied Insurance, Principal Financial, Wells Fargo, and Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa.

• Explore Iowa. Take a day trip to the German Amana Colonies or the historic Dutch town of Pella. Take in the national car racing at the nearby Iowa Speedway. Spend a day knocking around the historic French town of Dubuque on the Mississippi River or the unique prairie- and forest-covered Loess Hills in western Iowa.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT DES MOINES, CHECK OUT: www.desmoinesmetro.com
Have you taken what it takes?

Most applicants have completed an undergraduate degree by the time of registration. You may, however, be admitted after completing three years (90 semester hours) of undergraduate work.

To qualify for admission we require a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and require that you complete each of the following prerequisites:

✓ REQUIRED COURSES

Biology – 8 semester hours, with lab
General Chemistry – 8 semester hours, with lab
Organic Chemistry – 8 semester hours, with lab (may substitute biochemistry for up to a hour of organic chemistry)
Physics – 8 semester hours, with lab
English or Language Arts – 6 semester hours

Additional highly recommended courses
Suggested undergraduate courses include biochemistry, genetics, comparative anatomy, mathematics, psychology and medical terminology. All work must be from a regionally accredited institution.

✓ TAKE THE MCAT

You must complete the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) to be considered for admission.

Dual Degree Option
As a student in the College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery you can apply for a dual degree option that leads to a Master of Health Care Administration degree (M.H.A.) or a Master of Public Health degree (M.P.H.). You also can apply for enrollment in the Master of Science in Anatomical or Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences degree program. If you are interested in these options, contact the CPMS Admission Office for more information.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Apply online through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM) application service. Here’s the procedure:

1. Download and submit an application through the application service at www.aacpm.org. Applications are available through AACPM starting in August for admission in the following year.
2. Submit your application to AACPM no later than May of the year you anticipate entering the program. We have a rolling admission process* and recommend that you submit your application early in the cycle. This will increase your likelihood of being selected for an interview. Be the early bird; it’s to your advantage.

*WHAT IS ROLLING ADMISSION?

Here’s how it works. We evaluate applications throughout the year as they are completed. By the nature of this process, the entering class could be filled early during the admission cycle. By applying early, you have a greater likelihood of being interviewed and accepted into the program.

✓ LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Along with your application, we require letters of recommendation that attest to your academic performance and prior exposure to podiatric medicine with a D.P.M. To provide this information, you need to submit:

A. One letter from a science professor, academic advisor or preprofessional advisory committee, and
B. One letter from a doctor of podiatric medicine

These letters should be on the letterhead of the writers and sent by them directly to:
CPMS Admission Office
Des Moines University
3200 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-4198
Letters are also accepted electronically through Interfolio and Virtual Evals.

 ✓ COME PREPARED

All completed applications are reviewed for a possible interview. An on-campus interview is required for admission. Only those applicants being strongly considered for admission will be invited for an interview. Candidates not offered an interview are notified that they are no longer being considered for admission.

✓ GET IT IN WRITING

Admission decisions are made within two weeks of your interview, so you’ll know right away whether you’re accepted. Then you can start packing your bags to begin the first steps in your DPM education.

✓ THE INTERVIEW

The interview

All completed applications are reviewed for a possible interview. An on-campus interview is required for admission. Only those applicants being strongly considered for admission will be invited for an interview. Candidates not offered an interview are notified that they are no longer being considered for admission.

✓ WELCOME TO DMU!

Admission decisions are made within two weeks of your interview, so you’ll know right away whether you’re accepted. Then you can start packing your bags to begin the first steps in your DPM education.

“IT’S IN THE AIR. You can feel it as you walk on campus—a professional atmosphere that encourages learning and personal development. It’s a natural outgrowth of like-minded, graduate-level students preparing for careers in medicine and health sciences. We think you’ll like it.”

ADAM LANG, DPM’11, WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

“Don’t ignore … THE FINE PRINT

ACCREDITATION

The College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery is accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association, 303-275-1000. The Council is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education as the specialized accrediting body for podiatric medical education. The Council also is recognized by the Council for Chemical Sciences, Orthopedics, Podiatric Medicine, and Surgery.

Des Moines University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60603-2554, 312-263-0456.

FINANCIAL AID

Many students need help with tuition and living expenses, and financial aid is available for this program. For current tuition rates and more information on financial aid, please visit our web site located at the Financial Aid Office directly at 800-240-2767, ext. 161, or 515-271-1538. Or send an e-mail to CPMSadmit@dmu.edu.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Candidates for the DPM Program must be able to quickly, consistently, and accurately integrate all information received, and must have the ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data. Candidates must also be able to meet minimal technical standards in order to be admitted. A list of these standards is available at the College of Podiatric Medicine (CPMS) technical standards in order to be admitted. A list of these standards is available at the College of Podiatric Medicine (CPMS) website.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Des Moines University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, creed, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in employment, admission, or access to education programs, activities, or health care.

DEFINITION OF DIVERSITY

The University of Des Moines is a campus environment shaped by individuals and groups that offer a broad spectrum of cultural, religious, political, socioeconomic, and other differences. These include, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution. These ideals, but are not limited to educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, life experiences, and diverse characteristics they bring to our institution.

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CHOOSE DMU

THE ACADEMIC RIGOR YOU NEED,
THE QUALITY OF LIVING YOU WANT

Questions?
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