

Admissions requirements for students seeking matriculation to a Podiatric Program*
 * LLU does not offer this program.

Degree:
 ❖ A bachelor's degree is preferred, though not required.

Units:
 ❖ **Number:** Satisfied by minimum of 135 quarter units. (Pre-foundational courses and/or courses with a grade of C- or below will not satisfy prerequisites.)
 ❖ **GPA:** A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. To be competitive, students should have a 3.5 or higher for both their overall and BCPM (Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Math) GPA.
 ❖ **Institution:** No preference cited.
 ❖ **AP & CLEP:** May be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Can satisfy non-science prerequisites if fulfilling degree requirements (though some institutions will not accept for any prerequisites).

Experience:
 ❖ All candidates are encouraged to have had direct patient care experience in order to become acquainted with medical careers.

Application:
 ❖ **Service:** AACPMAS (American Medical College of Podiatric Medicine Application Service) usually opens in May and applications can be submitted beginning June 1. It is important that students apply as early as possible as this improves one's chances of acceptance.
 ❖ **Deadline:** Applications are submitted at the end of junior year until the summer after the senior year. *Western's deadline is June 30 for the same year admission.*
 ❖ **Tests:** MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) is required. *The average MCAT score of accepted students is 23.*
 ❖ **Recommendation Letters:** A minimum of 3 recommendations needed: *2 from science professors and 1 from a podiatric physician or recommendation committee.*

Coursework

Prerequisite Courses		Recommended Courses
Sciences: ➤ General Biology __ BIOL 111 & Lab __ BIOL 111A __ BIOL 112 & Lab __ BIOL 113 & Lab ➤ General Chemistry __ CHEM 111 & Lab __ CHEM 112 & Lab __ CHEM 113 & Lab ➤ Organic Chemistry __ CHEM 271 & Lab __ CHEM 272 & Lab __ CHEM 273 & Lab	Sciences (cont'd): ➤ General Physics __ PHYS 231 & Lab __ PHYS 232 & Lab __ PHYS 233 & Lab Communication: ➤ College Writing __ ENGL 111 __ ENGL 112 __ ENGL 113 OR __ ENGL 124 Freshman Seminar in Writing	Sciences: ➤ Biochemistry (Highly recommended; lab not needed) __ CHEM 491 __ CHEM 492 ➤ Upper Division Biology Courses __ BIOL 434 Histology __ BIOL 446 Gross Anatomy __ BIOL 466 Systems Physiology ➤ Psychology __ PSYC 104 General Psychology __ PSYC 482B Physician-Patient Communication Others: __ MDCN 204 Intro to Medicine __ MATH 131 Calculus I __ MATH 155 Introductory Statistics __ COMM 104 Fundamentals of Speech __ COMM 244 Interpersonal Communication

Timeline

Freshman	Junior
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Become acquainted with the Pre-Health Professions (PHP) advisor. Join the Pre-Medical Club. Explore the field of medicine, e.g., shadowing, volunteering, Intro to Medicine course. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Print out the recommendation packet (from PHP website). Complete and submit by the deadline. Complete and submit the AACPMCAS application. Take prep course for the MCAT.
Sophomore	Senior
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with PHP. Participate, e.g., mission trips, volunteering, shadowing, clubs, SALSU. Get to know your science professors (future recommendation writers). Attend pre-health seminars. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete all classes for your degree and medical school. Complete your medical school interview. Wait for your acceptance letter (this can take a while). Graduate and matriculate.

Career opportunities and related occupations:

❖ The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) is the most highly trained primary health care provider in the normal and abnormal functioning of the foot and lower extremities. Podiatrists complete four years of medical school, typically followed by a one to three year residency program. While podiatric physicians and orthopedic surgeons both diagnose and treat the lower extremities, they differ in basic ways; orthopedic surgeons receive general surgery training for all bones throughout the body and podiatric physicians employ their surgical skills on the foot, ankle and lower leg. Additionally, podiatric physicians employ effective not-invasive treatment options developed from a comprehensive understanding of podiatric biomechanics.

Educational qualifications:

❖ The minimum educational requirement for entry into podiatry schools is a 4-year Bachelor's degree (any major). Additionally, many applicants have formal education beyond a BA/BS, and may also have had a variety of experiences in the health care field. In podiatry school, students spend most of the first two years in laboratories and classrooms studying the basic sciences.

Expectations:

❖ Overall, becoming a podiatrist requires physical, emotional and intellectual stamina and lots of perseverance. It takes the desire to work with and for people, and particularly, the ability to use critical thinking to solve problems. Prospective podiatrists must be prepared to study throughout their careers to keep up with medical advances, and to be flexible enough to respond to changes in the healthcare system.

Salary:

❖ For the most updated information on salaries visit: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>.

For more information:

Websites	Possibilities	Professional Organization(s)
La Sierra University: www.lasierra.edu/prehealth Loma Linda University: www.llu.edu	Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University Western University	American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine 15850 Crabbs Branch Way, Suite 320 Rockville, MD 20855 301-948-0957 www.aacpm.org

Pre-Health Professions is dedicated to providing quality service to La Sierra University students, faculty and staff. Our primary goal is to address your pre-professional needs. To schedule an appointment, please call 951.785.2490. We endeavor to answer all of your questions about careers in the health field; no question is too small for our attention.

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