




Comparison of Physician Education Between Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), Doctors of Medicine (MD), and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)

Podiatric physicians and surgeons receive basic and clinical science education and training comparable to that of allopathic and osteopathic physicians: four years of undergraduate education focusing on life sciences, four years of graduate study in an accredited podiatric medical colleges, and at least three years of postgraduate, hospital-based residency training.

The following chart is an overview of typical curriculum taught in medical school for each physician type.*

	 DPM	 MD	 DO
YEAR 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy Professionalism and Ethics Clinical Medicine Biochemistry Pathology Immunology Medical Physiology Neuroscience Lower Extremity Anatomy Podiatric Medicine and Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy Professionalism and Ethics Clinical Medicine Epidemiology Skin Immunology Gastroenterology Cardiovascular/Pulmonary/ Renal Foundations of Medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy Professionalism and Ethics Clinical Medicine Biochemistry Pathology Immunology Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Medical Informatics and Translational Learning
YEAR 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geriatrics Sports Medicine Clinical Sciences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacology Dermatology Cardiology/Pulmonary Neuro/Behavioral Medicine Nephrology/GI/Nutrition Endocrinology/Hematology General Surgical Principles and Anesthesiology Podiatric Rotations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endocrine – Reproductive Neurobehavioral Health Multisystem Clinical Skills Electives Professionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Ethics and Legal Topics Clinical Sciences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacology Hematology Cardiovascular Respiratory Neuro/Psych Uro-genital Infectious Disease Geriatrics Integument Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Basic Surgical and Medical Skills
YEAR 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Surgical and Medical Skills Community Health and Professionalism Clerkships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Health and Professionalism Clerkships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Policy Clerkships
YEAR 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerkships Clinical Skills Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerkships/Internships Electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerkships Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

*Variations in curriculum including course titles, sequence, and course offerings may occur between educational institutions

Comparison of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery and Orthopedic Surgery Residencies**

The education, training, and experience doctors of podiatric medicine receive in the care and treatment of the lower extremity is more sophisticated and specialized than that of broadly trained medical or surgical specialists. During residency, podiatric medical and surgical residents treat a variety of cases ranging in sub-specialties such as trauma, pediatrics, dermatology and more.

While both podiatric and orthopedic residents receive a broad body systems overview in their education and training, podiatric residents receive far more specialized training focused on the foot and ankle. Following residency, podiatric physicians and surgeons and orthopedic surgeons may further their training through specialized fellowship programs.

FOOT AND ANKLE PATIENT CARE ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS FOR:

Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residents

Total Minimum Activity Volume of Foot and Ankle Procedures

400



Orthopedic Surgery Residents

Total Minimum Activity Volume of Foot and Ankle Procedures

20

Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency Rotations

- Medical Imaging
- Pathology
- Behavioral Sciences
- Infectious Diseases
- Internal Medicine/Family Practice
- Medical Subspecialties (*minimum of two rotations*): Dermatology, Endocrinology, Neurology, Pain Management, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Rheumatology, Wound Care, Burn Unit, Intensive/Critical Care Unit, Pediatrics, and Geriatrics
- General Surgery (*minimum of one rotation*): Orthopedic, Plastic, or Vascular Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Anesthesiology
- Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
- Research Methodology

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Rotations

- General Medical and/or Surgical Internship
- Medical Imaging
- General Surgical Training
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Foot and Ankle
- Hand
- Pediatric Orthopedics
- Joint Replacement and Oncology
- Orthopedic Trauma
- Research
- Spine
- Shoulder and Sports Medicine
- General Orthopedics
- Surgical Skills Training

**Variations including rotations may occur between residency programs



To learn more about the specialized training podiatric physician and surgeons receive, please contact advocacy@apma.org.