



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) Graduate Entry

TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS





The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences is pleased to offer the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree - the first such program in Australia

Knowledge for a changing world

DPM graduates will be eligible for registration as general podiatrists in Australia and New Zealand without the need for any further pre-registration training or compulsory internship. Podiatry is a relatively young but rapidly growing profession that is becoming increasingly well recognised in the western world. The demand for graduate podiatrists in all states of Australia is high, with most finding early employment in established private podiatry practices, medical or allied health practices or in the public health system.

Podiatrists specialise in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions affecting the lower extremity, and in particular, the foot and ankle. Most podiatrists work in general practice and see an interesting and wide range of patients from all age groups, with foot and

leg problems often associated with other medical conditions. Many podiatrists develop expertise in a specific area of podiatry, such as the management of sporting injuries or podiatric biomechanics, treatment of the high-risk foot, the elderly or children's foot and leg problems. Podiatrists are independent practitioners with the right to perform minor foot surgery, refer patients for relevant investigative tests and to prescribe drugs necessary for the treatment of podiatric conditions. Medical practitioners and podiatrists often work collaboratively in the management of patients.

Graduates of the DPM course may wish to continue their studies to specialise in podiatric surgery and become registered as a specialist podiatric surgeon. A 3-year full time,

or 6-year part time, Doctor of Clinical Podiatry (DClinPod) course is available for suitable graduates who wish to specialise in elective foot surgery. Research degrees are also available (Doctor of Podiatry or Doctor of Philosophy) for graduate podiatrists interested in a career in clinical research.



Professor Alan Bryant
Head, Podiatric Medicine

The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine *

The world is changing rapidly, and so are leading universities. At UWA, we want to make sure that our graduates continue to be well prepared to contribute to society as it undergoes further transformation.

Studying podiatric medicine at postgraduate level allows graduates to develop exceptional communication and research skills, in addition to critical thinking skills and a level of maturity that will distinguish them as global citizens. All applicants will require an undergraduate bachelor degree for entry into the DPM program. All applicants wishing to study podiatric medicine at UWA will have to complete an undergraduate bachelor degree before completing the postgraduate professional qualification. On completion of the DPM, graduates will have both an undergraduate and a postgraduate degree ensuring they have a well-rounded education as well as the specialist skills needed in their professional career.

The DPM

The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) commenced in 2013. The 3-year course is an integrated case-centred curriculum with scientific, professional and clinical teaching embedded throughout the curriculum. Clinical teaching will

commence early in the course and continue throughout the program in the UWA Podiatry Clinic and UWA Podiatric Surgery Clinic, major public teaching hospitals, community health centres and in selected private practices.

Number of places available

There will be an annual intake of 35 students, including 2 places for Indigenous applicants and up to 5 places for international applicants.

Prerequisites

All applicants must meet the University's requirement for English language competence (ELC). Applicants who have completed at least two successful years of full time or equivalent undergraduate study at an Australian university will automatically meet the University's ELC requirement. Please refer to www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/elc for details. There are no further prerequisites.

Recommended subjects

The following university level subjects are recommended but are not prerequisites for entry to the DPM: anatomy, biochemistry, human biology and physiology. To help prepare for the GAMSAT knowledge of the equivalent of Australian Year 12 Physics, university level 1 biology/human biology and chemistry are recommended.

Credit

Please note that DPM students cannot be credited for units from undergraduate units previously undertaken.

Indigenous applicants

There will be pathways available for Indigenous applicants. Please contact the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health. See www.sparhc.uwa.edu.au/camdh for more information.

Selection process

Applicants will be ranked on their GPA and GAMSAT/MCAT¹ scores. Each component is weighted equally.

Application process

Applicants should apply to the Faculty Admissions Office by the last day of September. For further information contact meddentadmissions@uwa.edu.au.

¹ International applicants only can sit the MCAT.

Length of study

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
UNDERGRADUATE: Bachelor degree ¹			POSTGRADUATE: Doctor of Podiatric Medicine ²		

Notes:

- ¹ Bachelor's degree in any discipline (minimum 3 years).
- ² First intake February 2013.

* Title is subject to final approval

Standard pathway

The Standard Pathway is for those applicants who have already completed a bachelor degree (minimum of 3 years) or for those who will complete their bachelor degree in the application year. There are no restrictions placed on the length of time since the bachelor degree was completed.

As there are no specific subject prerequisites for entry to the DPM, an applicant's undergraduate degree can be in any chosen field of study.

There are some issues worth considering when deciding upon a degree with the ultimate goal of

studying podiatric medicine. The most relevant considerations for most applicants are as follows.

Length of degree

Regardless of an applicant's undergraduate study, the length of the DPM will be 3 years. A student with a three year bachelor degree will study for a total period of six years to obtain a qualification in podiatric medicine.

Relevance/usefulness of degree to studying podiatric medicine

Students interested in podiatric medicine may find that an

undergraduate degree covering related fields of study may be of most interest to them, however there is no requirement to study any particular degree or major in preparation for the DPM course.

Degree and University

The Faculty Admissions Office considers all bachelor degrees equally and does not give preference or apply scaling to any particular degree or university.



Admission requirements

- Bachelor degree with minimum GPA of 5.0 (weighted average of approx 60 %)
- Suitable GAMSAT score or suitable MCAT¹ score

Academic achievement

All applicants will be required to meet the minimum academic threshold of a Grade Point Average (GPA of 5.0 on a 0-7 scale (approximately equivalent to 60%). No extra weighting or scaling is given to particular bachelor courses, content or university.

The GPA is calculated on the most recent 3 years of study. Further bachelor study, Honours, Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Masters by Coursework study are considered in the calculation if it falls within the valid period of study. A small bonus will be awarded to applicants with a completed Masters by Research and those with a PhD are automatically awarded a GPA of 7.0.

Admission tests

GAMSAT

All domestic applicants are required to sit GAMSAT. Registration for the test normally opens in October and closes in January. The test is usually held in mid-March. Applicants can sit the test during their penultimate year of study. Test scores are valid for two years, so if an applicant does well in the test they can either hold that score or attempt to better it the following year. Sitting the test the year before graduating may be more time efficient; if an applicant does not do as well as hoped in the GAMSAT in their penultimate year, they can sit the test the following year without having to take a year off between studying and applying for the course. There are three sections in the test: Reasoning in Humanities and Social Sciences, Written Communication, and Reasoning in Biological and Physical Sciences. The Science section is double weighted in the overall score and equates to approximately first year university

level chemistry and biology and about year 12 level physics.

The minimum score required is 50 overall and 50 in each section. An applicant should refer to the Faculty Admissions website if a score slightly below 50 in one section is achieved. For further information on GAMSAT please refer to www.gamsat.acer.edu.au

MCAT

As the GAMSAT is not available worldwide, international applicants may sit the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) instead of the GAMSAT (Domestic applicants can only sit the GAMSAT). The MCAT is a standardised, multiple choice exam, that assesses problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of science concepts and principles.

The minimum requirements are 8 (Verbal reasoning), 8 (Physical Sciences), and 8 (Biological Sciences). For more information refer to www.aamc.org/students/mcat. An applicant should contact the Faculty Admissions Office if they achieve a score below the minimum requirements for advice on competitiveness and eligibility. Results must be submitted at the same time as the DPM application.

- Thresholds for GAMSAT and MCAT¹ are determined annually and will be determined on how the peer group has done.
- Both GAMSAT and MCAT¹ scores are valid for two years.
- An application without a valid GAMSAT or MCAT¹ score will not be considered.

¹ International applicants only can sit the MCAT.



The curriculum and registration

The DPM is a three-year full time professional degree course with a significant research component. Students will commence patient contact in Year 1.

The benefits include:

- Small class sizes allowing for more individual tuition and intensive clinical supervision
- Excellent career opportunities with increased scope of practice
- A broader knowledge-base from the undergraduate degree and
- An improved learning environment at postgraduate level including critical thinking and research skills

A UWA Doctor of Podiatric Medicine graduate will:

- Have high quality knowledge and skills
- Be up to date with evidence based practice
- Work collaboratively as a valuable team member with medical and allied health professionals
- Manage a wide range of podiatric conditions from minor foot and ankle trauma, paediatric lower limb and gait problems to chronic conditions affecting the adult foot and ankle
- Design, prescribe and/or manufacture foot orthotic devices

- Assess the walking and running gait of patients
- Order and interpret diagnostic tests
- Prescribe a range of scheduled medicines to treat infections, pain or inflammatory conditions of the foot and ankle
- Perform minor surgical procedures on the foot
- Have the ability to undertake further training at UWA to become registered as a specialist Podiatric Surgeon

The curriculum:

- Teaching will be for 40 weeks per year
- There will be opportunities for interested students to spend time in chosen areas of clinical practice in rural and remote areas of WA and overseas
- A variety of teaching methods will be used including lectures, tutorials, practicals and directed self-learning
- Case-based and symptom-based learning will be used to emphasise patient focused practice
- Clinical practice will commence in Year 1 and increase over Years 2 and 3

Year 1

- Foundation biomedical science subjects including anatomy and physiology
- Introduction to podiatric medicine
- Clinical examination and treatment skills
- Podiatric biomechanics and orthotic therapy

Year 2

- Surgical and medical conditions relevant to podiatric practice
- Pharmacology and therapeutics
- Local anaesthetic techniques and basic podiatric surgical skills

- Diagnosis and clinical management of common podiatric conditions
- Understanding and interpreting clinical research

Year 3

- The final year is focused around consolidating diagnostic and clinical skills in preparation to practice
- Extensive clinical practice rotations in hospital, private practice and UWA podiatry clinics
- One day per week will involve lectures, seminars and case-based learning
- Podiatric management of the high risk patient
- Diagnosis and management of acute foot and ankle trauma and infections
- Students will undertake a research project in their final year

Registration

Graduates will be able to register with the Podiatry Board of Australia and commence practice as a podiatrist in Australia and New Zealand without the need for any further training.

All internationally qualified applicants for registration or applicants who qualified for registration in Australia but did not complete their secondary education in English, must demonstrate that they have the necessary English language skills for registration purposes. All applicants must be able to demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or the equivalent, and achieve the required minimum score in each component of the IELTS academic module, OET or specified alternatives. For further information refer to www.podiatryboard.gov.au







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Contact us

Course Information

www.studyat.uwa.edu.au

askUWA—answers online anytime

www.ask.uwa.edu.au

Curriculum Information

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Information in this publication was compiled in Feb 2014, but is subject to change from time to time. In particular the University reserves the right to change the entry requirements and number of places at any time.