



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine

CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW

2023-2024

OUR MISSION

The mission of Western University of Health Sciences College of Podiatric Medicine is to mentor and educate students by providing innovative educational experiences, including interprofessional patient care, in an inclusive, diverse and equitable environment, and inspiring a passion to improve the lives of others.



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine

OUR VISION & CORE VALUES

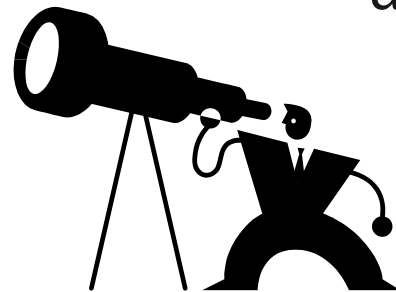


VISION

- The global leader of innovative and integrated Podiatric Medical Education.

CORE VALUES

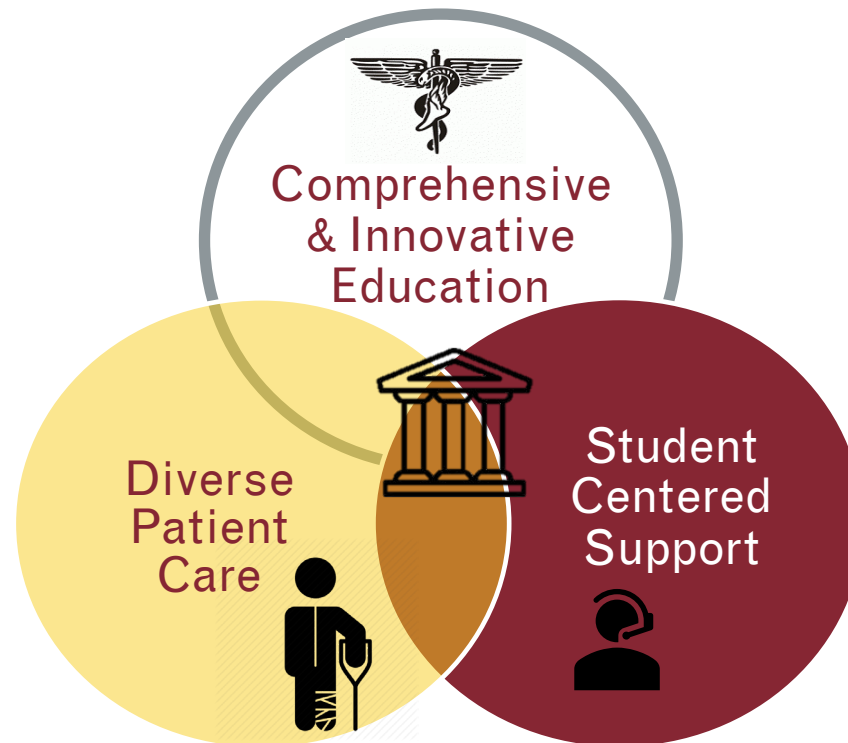
- Embody a humanistic tradition that encompasses compassion, humility, integrity, truth, quality and service.



3 Pillars

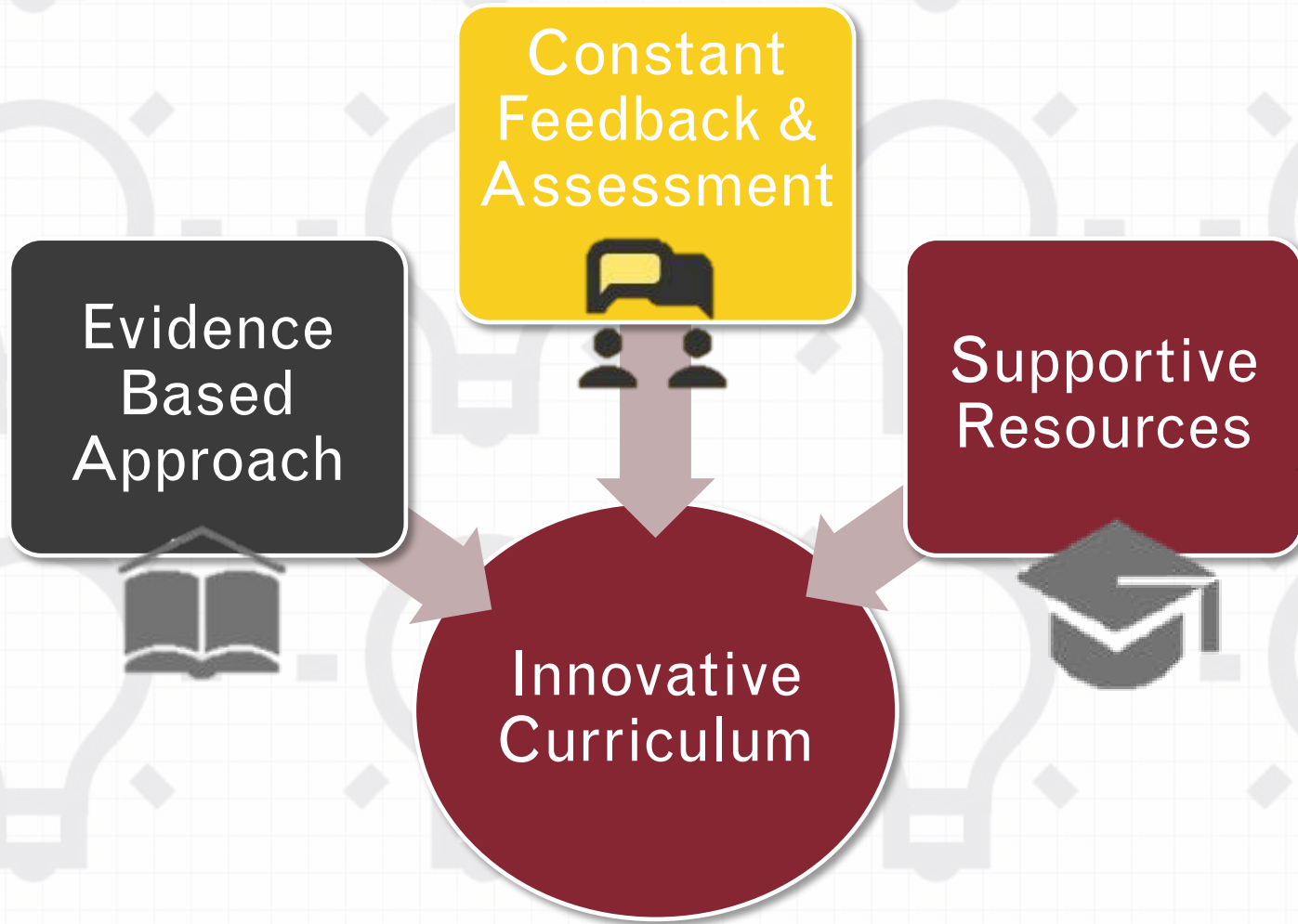
THAT SHAPE OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

If you want to find quality education and training to practice in today's health care environment, and you want a supportive learning environment, then consider Western University of Health Sciences College of Podiatric Medicine.



College of
Podiatric Medicine

ELEMENTS OF INNOVATION



A PRODUCT OF INNOVATION



Start

with the end in
mind...



Outcome

Whole-Body
Clinician with
Specialty in Lower
Extremity
Medicine &
Surgery



Assessment

Multimodal design
to capture the
Outcome in mind



Learning Activity

High-yield
curriculum
designed to
support the
Outcome and align
with Assessment
modes



CURRICULUM TIMELINE

Year 1 | Pre-Clinical Foundations | Two-Pass Model

1



Organ Systems & Podiatric Principles

Focused on wellness. High yield for the clinician: basic science integrated with clinical science. Core podiatric content integrated in a comprehensive clinical thought process.



Early Patient Care Skills

Focused on basics of a human systems physical exam, documentation, humanism, communication, and patient safety.



Team-Based Skills

Innovative interprofessional experiences focused on the foundations of team-based medicine.

2



Integrated Systems & Podiatric Principles

Focused on health restoration - Year 1 foundation layered with advanced clinical principles. Core podiatric content advances in complexity in a continued comprehensive clinical thought process.



Early Patient Care Skills

Focused on advanced human system physical exams, diagnosis and treatment plan; advancement of year 1 soft science skills.



Team-Based Skills

Advanced interprofessional experiences focused on critical care points that require application of team-based medicine principles.

YEAR 1 & 2 SUMMARY

Standardized Patient Encounters

- Humanistic clinical skills
- State of the art clinical labs
- Emphasis on critical thinking

Hands-on Community Service Clinics

- Office based procedures
- Preventative care
- Health screening
- Patient education

Early Patient
Care Exposure



Team-Based Patient Care Skills

Whole Body Curriculum

- 10 Human Body Systems
- Lower Extremity Anatomy
- Podiatric Medicine & Surgery
- Biomechanics
- Radiology

Critical Thinking Skills

- Integrated disciplines
- Biostatistics for clinicians
- Research methodology

Comprehensive
Foundation



Built-in Student Wellness

Academic Counseling

Mental Health Services

Disability Accommodations

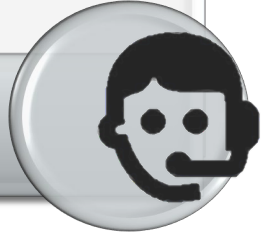
Board Preparation

- Protected preparation time
- Board preparation materials
- Mock Board Written Exam

Mentorship/Networking

- Faculty advisor
- Conference Week

Student Centered
Support



Innovative Delivery & Evidence Based

CURRICULUM TIMELINE

Year 3 | Clinical Rotations (including 2 elective months)

3



Broad Clinical Exposure

Core rotations in medical & surgical disciplines (*Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Podiatric Surgery, etc.*)



Team-Based Skills

Applied team-based medicine in the clinical setting



Diverse Patient Care

Long-standing academic/ teaching hospitals; diverse patient populations



Early Externships

Head start on residency search and match process at end of 3rd year



Critical Thinking

Didactic experiences advance pre-clinical foundations & assist in externship prep

4



Advanced Experiences

Core rotations in sub-specialty medical & surgical disciplines (*Plastic Surgery, Infectious Disease, Vascular Surgery, etc.*)



Team-Based Skills

Applied team-based medicine in the clinical setting



Diverse Patient Care

Core hospitals across the USA; elective rotations at podiatric residency program



Externships

Built-in facetime at podiatric residency programs; completed before residency interviews



Residency Match & Board II Prep

Mock interviews, simulated Boards Part II CSPE

3RD YEAR CORE ROTATION SITES

- Note: List of core rotation sites subject to change based on new affiliations



THIRD YEAR DIDACTIC EXPERIENCES



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine

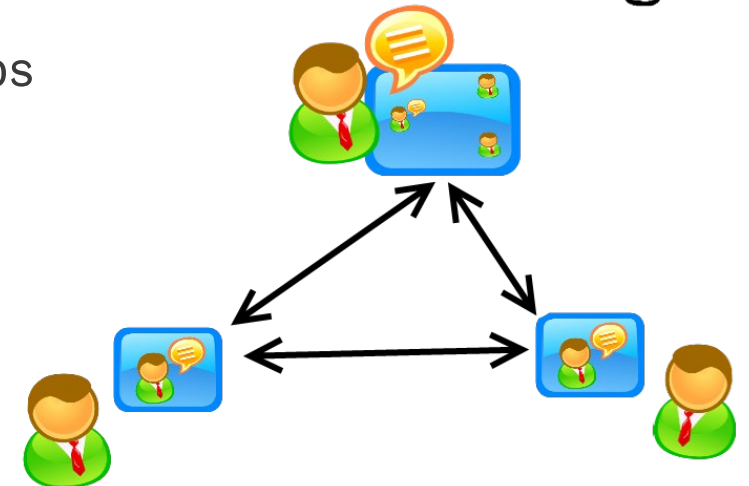
Learning experiences designed to...

- Advance beyond pre-clinical foundations
- Prepare for externships and residency interviews
- Provide competency assessments

Examples:

- Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE)
- Journal club
- Case conference
- Clinical skills workshops

Web Conferencing



YEAR 3 & 4 SUMMARY

Wide range of pathology exposure

- Rotations in different disciplines such as medicine, general surgery, podiatry, etc.
- Diverse patient population
- In-patient and outpatient clinics
- Emphasis on critical thinking

Seasoned teaching/academic hospitals

Early externship experiences/ 6-7 *before* residency interviews

Well-Rounded
Clinical Experience



Team-Based Patient Care Skills

- Applied skills from year 1&2

Critical Analysis Skills

- Journal Club
- Case Conference

Whole body physician specializing in the lower extremities

Clinical skills workshop

Comprehensive
Foundation



Academic Counseling
Mental Health Services
Disability Accommodations

Board Preparation

- Protected preparation time
- Mock board standardized patient exam

Residency Preparation

- Mock residency interviews
- Faculty & peer advisor
- Rotation preparation

Student Centered
Support



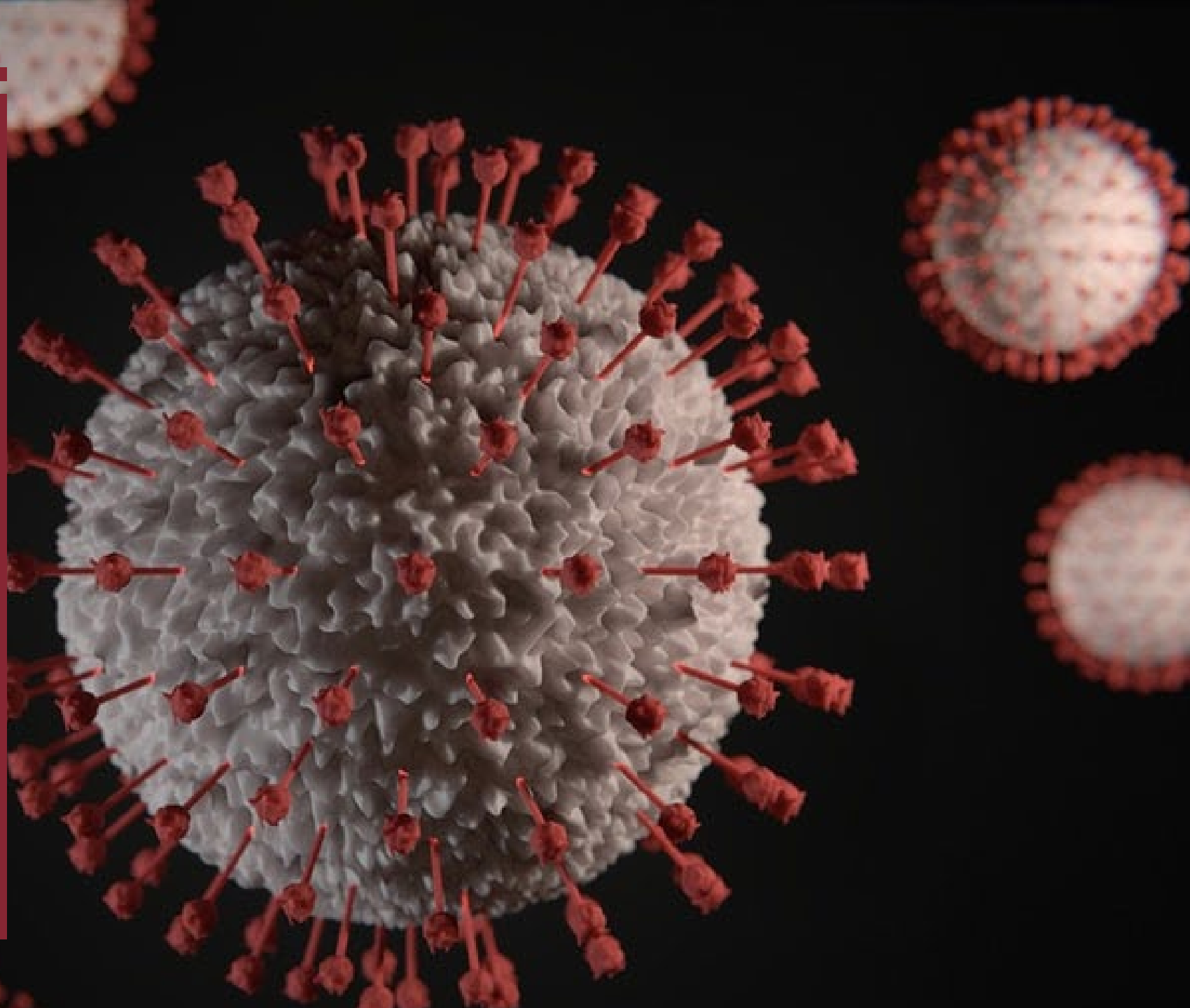
Innovative Delivery & Evidence Based



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine

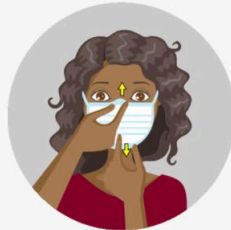
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Strict protocols to minimize exposure risk to variant strains of SARS-CoV-2.
- Mandatory Infection Prevention Control training.
- **Mandatory proof of vaccination and booster against SARS-CoV-2** unless exemption granted for documented medical or religious reasons.
- Mandatory daily Qualtrics screening for all employees and students who come to campus.
- For more details, click <https://www.westernu.edu/covid-19/>

WEAR



A MASK

TEMPERATURE CHECK



AT ENTRY

WASH YOUR HANDS



THOROUGHLY

SOCIAL



DISTANCE

CURRICULUM MODIFICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Pre-clinical Curriculum

- Hybrid delivery with 100% in-person hands-on learning and online didactics.
- Pivoting curriculum schedules after break periods to reduce exposure.
- Construction of new hands-on CMR Skills Lab and Sarkaria Family Patient Simulation Suite.
- Online repository of recorded didactics.



Clinical Education

- In-person rotations with options to modify as needed based on each student's situation.
- Continued partnership with residency program directors.
- Up-to-date information on externship and residency placement processes.



Student Support

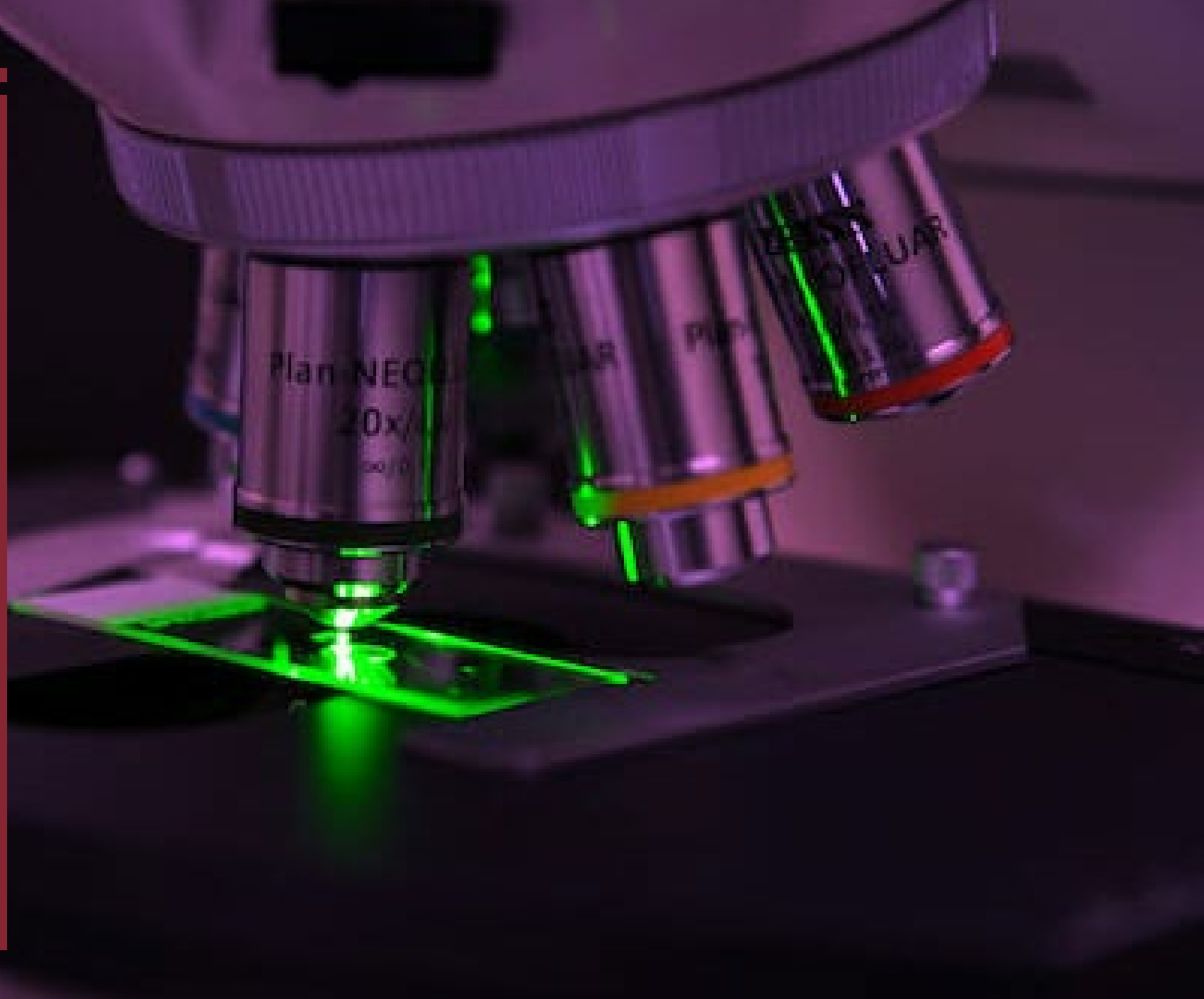
- Open forum Townhalls and Student Affairs office hours.
- Free counseling service provided through Optum.
- Educational, emotional, and personal resources and services provided through Student Affairs.
- CPM Learning Skills Specialist.



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine

STUDENT
RESEARCH



STUDENT RESEARCH

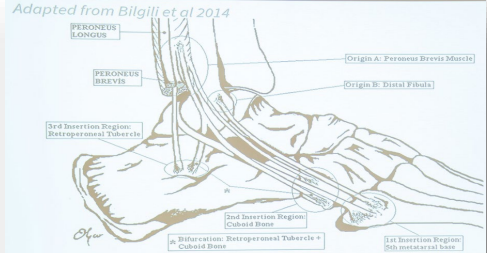
Research Opportunities

- Begins ANY time a student is ready
- Students create research ideas or work on existing projects
- Encouraged to complete data collection by the middle of 3rd year
 - Optimizes their portfolio before residency interviews
 - Allows the opportunity to present/publish in front of a national audience

Summer Student Research Grant


- Internally funded program open to all WesternU students (>1,000+)
- Funded over the 1st summer (before 2nd year)
- Poster or oral presentation at the end of the summer
- ~50% of CPM students participate.

Adapted from Biglii et al 2014



Findings By Platform

- **Youtube** users: @ commercial posts from businesses & % personal accounts from students
- **Facebook** users: @ personal posts from patients & % personal accounts from students
- **Instagram** users: @ "other healthcare" personal posts & educational posts from podiatrists/businesses
- **Instagram** users: % personal posts from laymen
- **Twitter** users: @ educational and commercial posts from businesses
- **Twitter** users: % commercial and personal posts from podiatrists





Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine



INTENSIVE SUMMER ANATOMY COURSE

(ISAC)

SELECTION CRITERIA



- Science GPA of 3.35+ **and** MCAT average of 26+ (or 500 +)
- Successful completion of anatomy, physiology or anatomy and physiology course in undergraduate coursework.

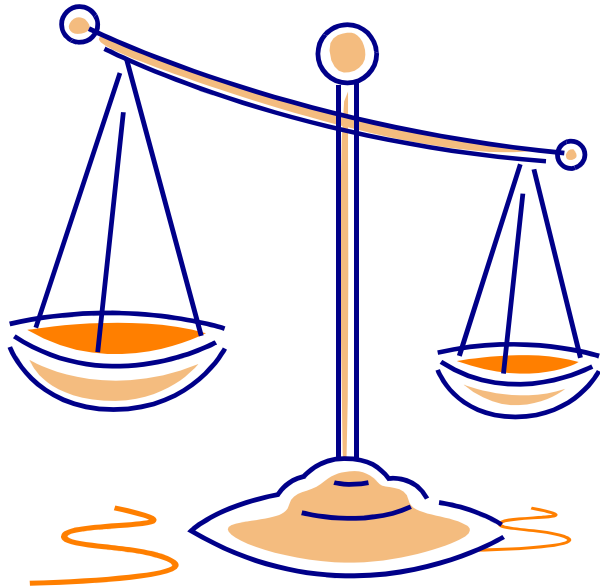


Begins in June, **prior** to the start of the academic school year.



Accelerated
7-week course.

WHY TAKE ANATOMY OVER THE SUMMER?



- **ISAC GOAL:**

- To *improve the ratio* of facilitators to students during dissection periods

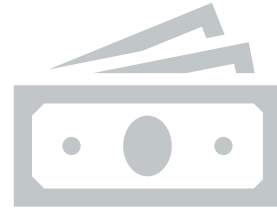
- 1:35.2 → 1:8-12



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine

...MORE
REASONS
TO TAKE
SUMMER
ANATOMY!



- **8.5 credits**
- Facilitators will be **chosen** from students who score **>80%** in ISAC
 - No additional exams during the academic year
 - Still must attend lecture
- **Compensated** for teaching lab
- **Score of < 70%** must take MGA during academic year

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE ENROLLMENT

ISAC fills up
QUICKLY!

Inquire with Office
of Admissions if
interested in ISAC
and apply early

Enrollment is on a
first come first
serve basis



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine



SUMMER PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS COURSE

(SPARC)

WHY PAY FOR A SUMMER PREP PROGRAM?

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT & ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

The logo for LEAD (Learning Enhancement & Academic Development) features the word "LEAD" in a large, bold, black serif font. A thick, green, curved arrow starts under the letter 'L', loops around the 'E', and points towards the 'D'.

LEAD

- Evaluates personal academic strengths & weaknesses.
- Provides tools to help transition to medical school.
- Gives hands-on preview of WesternU courses.

Apply through LEAD from WesternU website

<http://www.westernu.edu/lead/lead-summer-prep/#smsplinks>



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES



ADDITIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES (MSHS)



**Western
University**
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Health Professions Education (HPE), Community Health Education (CHE), or Research in Podiatric Medicine Tracks
- 2 options for application
 - Before matriculation, or
 - During year 2 of DPM program
- 5-years total if earning DPM and MSHS concurrently
 - Masters course work done in between years 2 & 3 prior to clinical rotations
- Link: [Master of Science in Health Sciences \(MSHS\) | Prospective Students \(westernu.edu\)](#)

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT US AT...

- <http://prospective.westernu.edu/>





Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine



THE END

THANK YOU!