



Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation

A candidate for admission to the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) program must possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, certain sensory and motor functions, that would enable them to carry out the activities described below. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, the personal Competencies outlined below throughout their progression in Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) program. Graduation from the program signifies that the individual is prepared for entry-level podiatric medicine and surgery postgraduate training programs. It follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills needed to function in a broad variety of clinical situations (medical and surgical) and to render comprehensive general medical and surgical care as well as podiatric medical and surgical patient care. The podiatric medical student must be able to integrate, consistently and accurately, all information received by all available means necessary. In addition, they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, synthesize, and apply various types of information in a self-directed manner within the context of patient care.

A candidate for the DPM degree must exhibit abilities and skills which include but are not limited to the six areas identified below. For candidates or students who require a reasonable accommodation to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (HFCDDHP) at Disability Accommodations (e-mail) or (909) 469-5297 or visit the HFCDDHP web site. Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation:

Observation

Candidates and students must be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and microscopic laboratory exercises. They must be able to accurately assess a patient's asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue/texture changes. The candidate must be able to acquire information from written documents, images, films, slides or video.

Communication

Candidates and students must be able to communicate professionally and effectively in both academic and health care settings. This requires the ability to understand, write, read, and speak fluent English to record information accurately and communicate effectively and sensitively with faculty and staff, patients, and members of the healthcare team. Candidates must be able to elicit information such as a medical history, examine patients, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, perceive non-verbal communication, and correctly interpret the information obtained to develop an accurate patient care plan. Candidates must be able to communicate a patient's condition orally and in writing to others in the diagnosis and treatment process to include documenting patient encounters in an appropriate professionally written format that meets commonly accepted standards. Candidates must be able to complete professional communication activities in an efficient manner considering the response time required to deliver optimal podiatry services.

Motor

Candidates and students must have sufficient motor function to undertake classes, laboratories, and demonstrations. This includes cadaver dissection, microscopy, aseptic technique, and safe handling of microbiological specimens. Candidates and students are reasonably required to provide emergency treatment of patients to include palpation, auscultation, percussion, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, insertion of a variety of catheters, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, opening of obstructed airways, suturing of simple wounds, closed manipulation of lower extremity fractures, intra-operative (open reduction with internal or external fixation-ORIF/OREF) of fractures, and other diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Candidates and students must be able to perform a proper physical exam and other diagnostic

maneuvers and treatments such as palliative care of foot and ankle problems, injections, orthotic impressions, taking and processing of pedal radiographs, and performance of soft tissue and osseous tissue surgical procedures, which require the proficient use of instruments such as scissors, clamps, scalpel, or drill. Candidates and students must be able to chart patient encounters, write prescriptions, and use computer technology. Candidates and students must have sufficient physical stamina to complete the rigorous didactic, laboratory, and clinical experiences.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates and students must demonstrate problem-solving skills, which involve intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities. Candidates must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately, memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit detailed and complex information across a variety of conditions, timeframes, and modalities (i.e., classroom, lab, small group, team, and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; and use of computer technology). Candidates must engage in critical thinking and problem solving and be able to draw conclusions about three-dimensional spatial relationships and logical sequential relationships among events.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Candidates must possess the maturity and emotional stability required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of sound judgment and the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities. Candidates and students must also demonstrate that they can develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with faculty, staff, colleagues, and patients. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in in-patient care. Compassion, integrity, respect, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities to be assessed during the admissions and educational processes. Candidates and students are expected to possess and be able to demonstrate the highest level of ethical and professional behavior. Candidates must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of the healthcare team, and to interact with patients, their families, and healthcare personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. Candidates must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes.

Physical Health

To ensure compliance with California State Health Department requirements and exhibit exemplary commitment to the rights and integrity of all parties in the education of health care professional students, WesternU/CPM has established medical status credentialing requirements that must be completed prior to matriculation. In addition to the skills listed above, candidates for the DPM degree also must be sufficiently free of any serious communicable diseases. Medical status credentialing is designed to ensure that the safety of patients is not compromised while protecting the rights and safety of students as well. For more detailed information, contact the Student/Employee Health Coordinator.