

Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgery

Introduction to the Education, Training and Licensing Requirements of Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM).

Presented by the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons®



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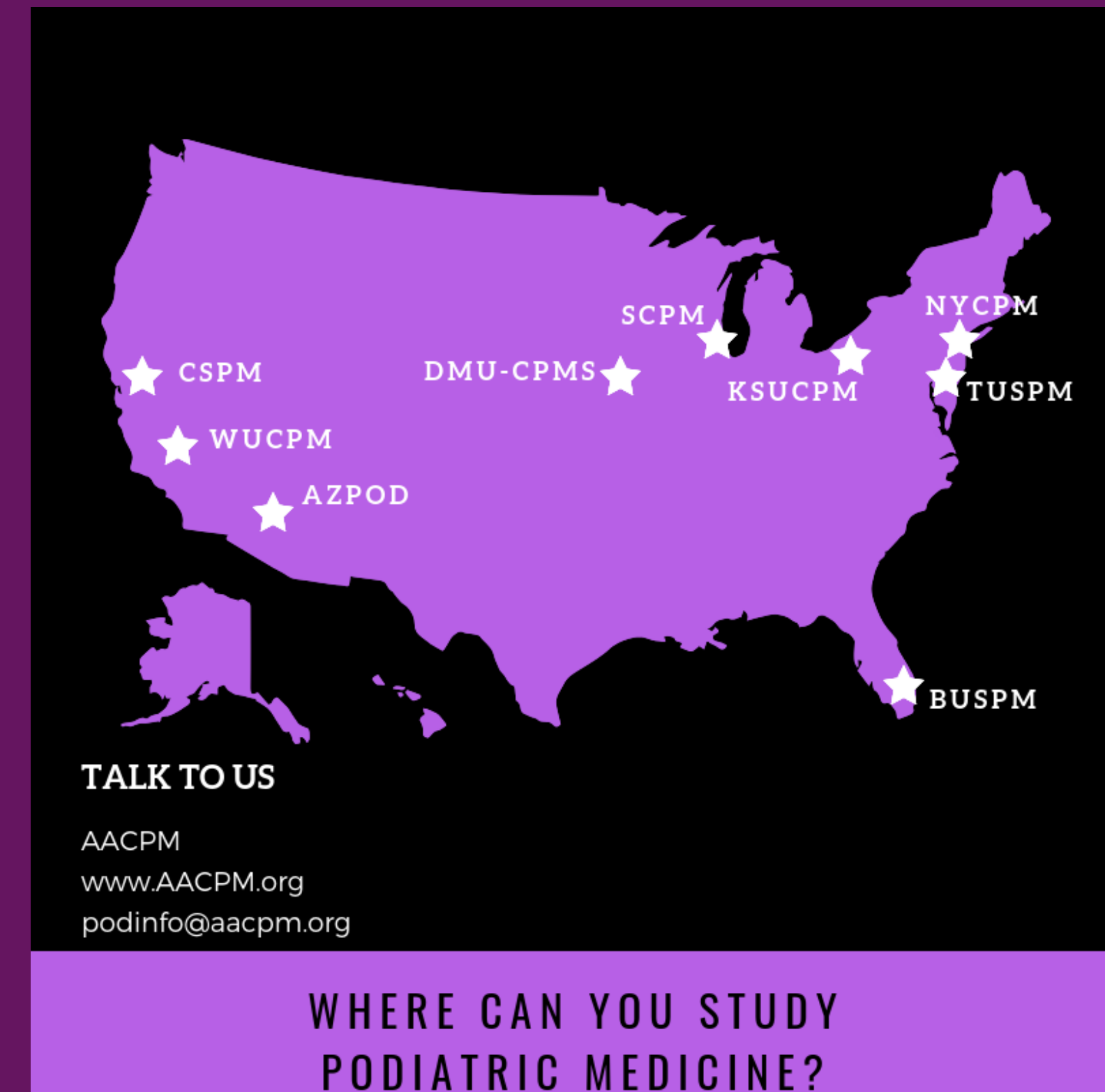
About ACFAS

- The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) has been the preeminent organization for surgery of the foot and ankle in the US since 1942. This is 80+ years leading and educating foot and ankle surgeons.
- There are >15,000 licensed DPMs in the US. Nearly 8,000 are members of ACFAS.
- And of these, more than 5,000 are Board-Certified Fellows of the College. This is designated “FACFAS”.



Admission Requirements of Podiatric Medicine School

- The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM) is the national student educational association for the podiatric profession (aacpm.org).
- This is analogous to the AAMC of allopathic medical schools.
- There are currently ten accredited colleges of podiatric medicine in the US.



Admission Requirements of Podiatric Medicine School

Admission requirements to podiatric medical school:

- **Minimum of three years or 90 semester hours of college credit at an accredited institution**
 - 97% of students who enter podiatric medical school have a bachelor's degree
- **Required pre-requisites:**
 - Biology: 8 semester hours including lab
 - Chemistry: 8 semester hours including lab
 - Organic chemistry: 8 semester hours including lab
 - Physics: 8 semester hours including lab
 - English: 6-8 hours
- **Completion of the MCAT within three years**
- **Letters of recommendation**
- **Statement of purpose**
- **Interview**
- **Proof of financial resources**
- **Proof of application fee**



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Subject	Specifications**
Behavioral Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraged to complete coursework in Behavioral Sciences (e.g. psychology, sociology, etc).
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One year with lab experience (one semester of lab experience should be with corresponding coursework; however, second semester lab may be fulfilled by independent laboratory based research) is required.• Should include cellular and molecular aspects• AP credits cannot be used; however, if students have earned college credit for biology through AP coursework, upper level courses in biology will satisfy this requirement.
Chemistry/Biochemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two years of chemistry (four courses) including inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry are required.• Lab experience required• AP credits that enable you to take a higher-level course will satisfy one semester of inorganic chemistry
Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One year is required.• Lab experience is desirable but not required• <u>Pathways</u>- AP credits that enable you to take an upper-level course will meet one semester• <u>HST</u>- One year of physics must be taken at the college level. Candidates are strongly encouraged to meet this prerequisite with at least one year in calculus-based physics*
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Pathways</u>- Encouraged to complete one year of coursework in mathematics, including one semester each of calculus and statistics (preferably biostatistics)• <u>HST</u> - Coursework that includes upper-level mathematics (typically to include differential equations and/or linear algebra)* is strongly encouraged, although evidence of comparable engagement with analytic and computational tools through other activities will be considered. Statistics (preferably biostatistics) is also encouraged
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One year is required.• AP credits cannot be used• Writing intensive courses are preferred• Humanities or social science courses involving substantial expository writing will satisfy this requirement

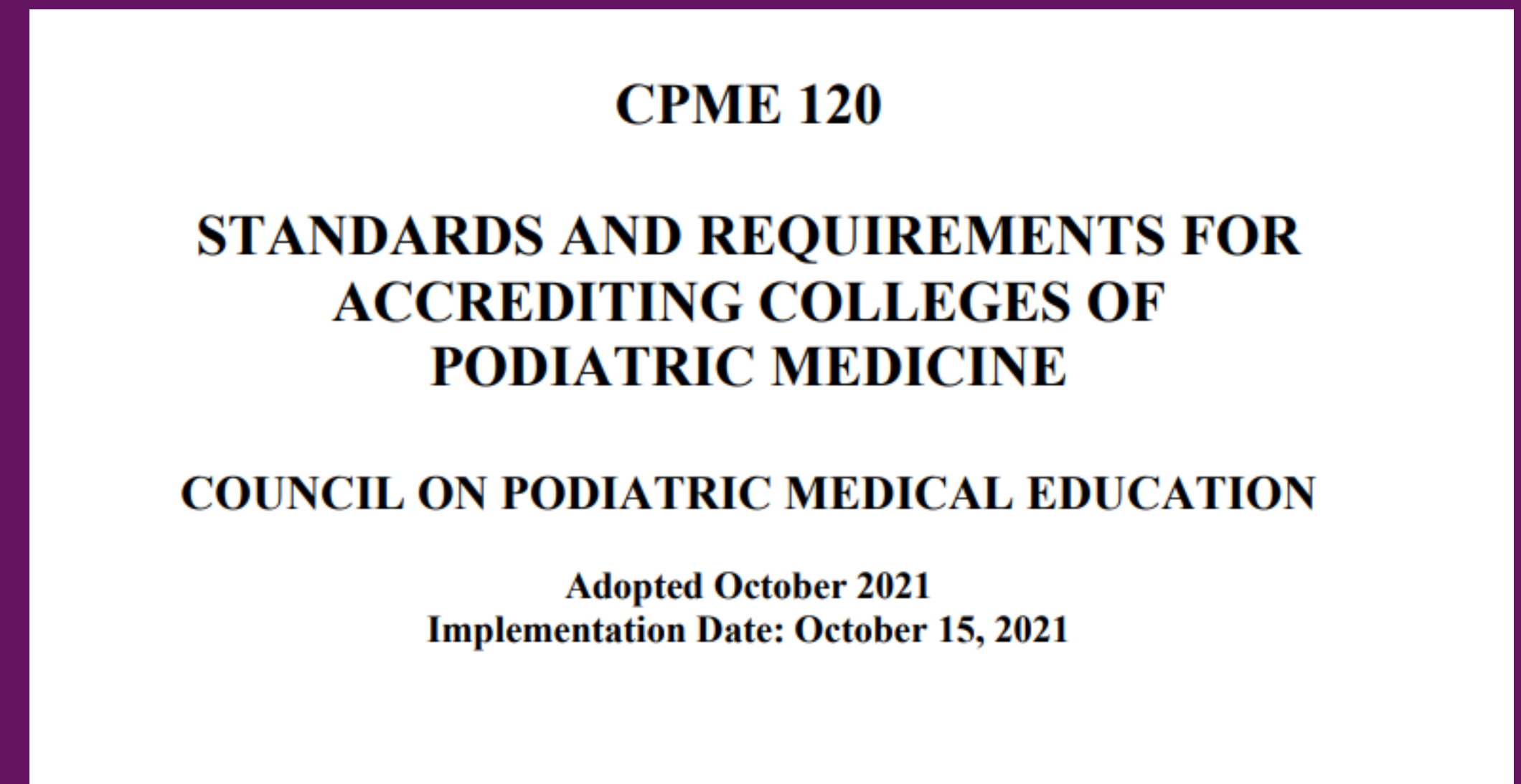
Harvard Medical School
Prerequisite Requirements

<https://meded.hms.harvard.edu/admissions-prerequisite-courses#requiredcourses>



Podiatric Medical School Curriculum

- Colleges of podiatric medicine are accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME; cpme.org) and have been for > 100 years (est. 1918).
- This is analogous to the CME and ACGME of allopathic medical schools.
- A 4-year curriculum is mandatory with specific curricular standards and requirements outlined in the CPME 120 document.



Podiatric Medical School Didactic Curriculum (Example)

- General Anatomy (7 credit hours)
- Histology (6.25 credit hours)
- Biochemistry (6 credit hours)
- Physiology (5 credit hours)
- Pathology (9 credit hours)
- Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- Microbiology and Immunology (6.8 credit hours)
- Neuroanatomy (2 credit hours)
- Neurophysiology (2.5 credit hours)
- Pharmacology (5.25 credit hours)
- Vascular Disease (2 credit hours)
- Dermatology (2.2 credit hours)
- Infectious Disease (1 credit hour)
- Internal Medicine (3 credit hours)
- Neurology (1.6 credit hours)
- General Orthopedics (2 credit hours)
- Community Health (2 credit hours)
- Law and Medicine (1.8 credit hours)



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- Law and Medicine (1.8 credit hours)

Plus, an additional 44.75 credit hours of lower extremity specific course content including 15.65 credit hours specific to surgery of the foot and ankle.

- Lower Extremity Anatomy (7.7 credit hours)
- Biomechanics (2 credit hours)
- Pathomechanics (2 credit hours)
- Fundamentals of Podiatric Practice (6.2 credit hours)
- Foot and Ankle Radiology (2.6 credit hours)
- Sports Medicine (2 credit hours)
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (2 credit hours)
- Orthopedic Casting seminar (1 credit hour)
- Clinical Foot Orthopedics (1.8 credit hours)
- Pediatric Foot and Ankle Orthopedics (1.8 credit hours)
- Perioperative Protocols (1 credit hour)
- Introduction to Podiatric Surgery (2.8 credit hours)
- Surgical Skills (2.4 credit hours)
- Digital and Metatarsal Surgery (2.5 credit hours)
- Principles of First Ray Surgery (2.6 credit hours)
- Foot and Ankle Traumatology (1.75 credit hours)
- Principles of Reconstructive Surgery of the Foot and Leg (2.6 credit hours)



Podiatric Medical School Licensing Examinations

The American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination (APMLE) consists of **four components** during podiatric medical school.

- **Part 1:** General Anatomy, Embryology, Histology, Genetics, Geriatrics, Biochemistry, Physiology, Microbiology, Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Lower Extremity Anatomy
- **Part 2:** General Medicine, Anesthesia, Surgery, Community Health, Jurisprudence, Research, Radiology, Orthopedics, Biomechanics, Sports Medicine
- **Part 3:** Clinical Skills Patient Encounter: Standardized patient encounter assessing podiatric and general medical knowledge, verbal and written communication, and interpersonal skills.
- **Part 4:** Assessment of clinical skills in evaluating, diagnosing, and treating patients including photographs, radiographs and case presentations.

This is analogous to the USMLE.



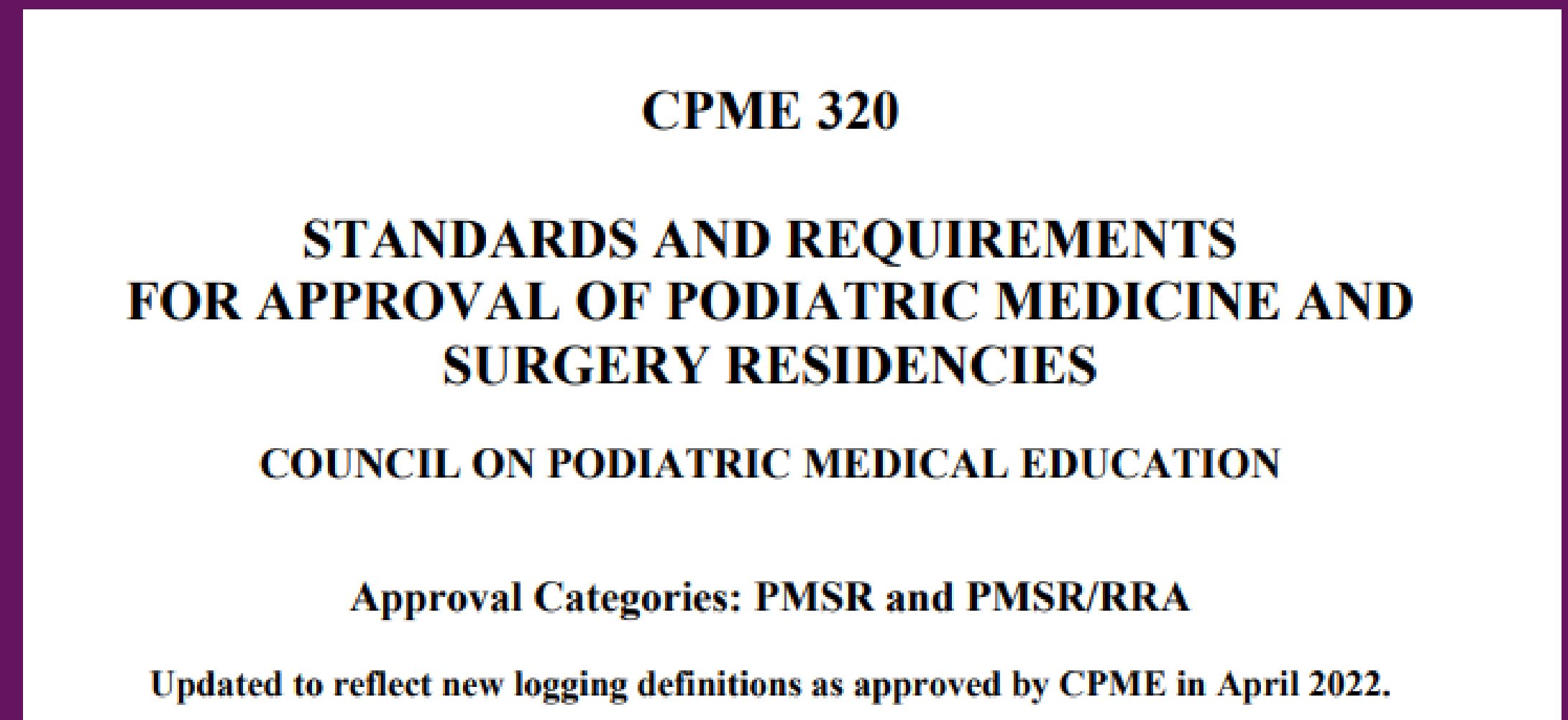
<https://www.apmle.com/about-the-exam>



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Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency Programs

- Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies are accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME; cpme.org).
- This is analogous ACGME.
- There are currently 200+ approved residency programs in the US where residents specialize in foot and ankle surgery from day one on July 1.
- A minimum 3-year curriculum is mandatory with specific curricular standards and requirements outlined in the CPME 320 document.



Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency Programs

Required Clinical Rotations

- General Surgery
- Anesthesiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Infectious Disease
- Medical Imaging
- Behavior Science
- At least **one** of: orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, vascular surgery
- At least **two** of: dermatology, endocrinology, neurology, pain management, physical medical and rehabilitation, rheumatology, wound care, burn unit, intensive/critical care, pediatrics, geriatrics

The CPME Residency Review Committee confirms these experience requirements on an annual basis and performs on-site program site visits approximately every 5 years.

Required Experiences

- Minimum volume of clinical encounters
- Minimum volume and variety requirements of foot/ankle surgical cases
- Minimum volume of trauma experiences
- Minimum volume of pediatric experiences
- Minimum volume of biomechanical examinations
- Minimum volume of history/physical examinations



Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Fellowship Programs

Fellowship programs beyond the 3-year podiatric medicine and surgery residency programs are **not required**, but have become increasingly prevalent.

There are **70+** reconstructive surgical fellowships recognized by The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

- A minimum of annual foot/ankle surgical cases are required for recognition.
- This surgical experience is verified on an annual basis.

Fellowship programs might also be approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education, but this does not specifically indicate that it is a reconstructive surgical fellowship.



Board Certification in Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgery

The CPME Joint Committee on the Recognition of Specialty Boards recognizes two certification boards:

- The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery
- The American Board of Podiatric Medicine

The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) is the certification board for podiatric foot and ankle surgery and has been since 1975.

abfas.org



ABFAS Board Certification in Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgery

Graduating residents must pass a 2-part examination process in order to be considered board “qualified”:

- Foot Surgery didactic exam
- Foot Surgery computer-based patient simulation (CBPS) examination

Many graduating residents also pursue reconstructive rearfoot/ankle (RRA) qualification through two separate exams:

- RRA Surgery didactic exam
- RRA Surgery CBPS examination

In order to become “board certified”, board qualified foot and ankle surgeons:

- Must log all foot and ankle surgical cases prior to certification.
- Must meet minimum surgical volume and variety requirements in order to be eligible for certification.
- Submit cases and pass a peer-reviewed case review process.



Continuing Medical Education

All states require continuing medical education to maintain licensure.

With that said and similar to allopathic and osteopathic physicians, these requirements vary state-to-state.

CME approval is managed by the CPME.



In Conclusion

Our profession has had a long and admittedly sometimes variable history, but we have evolved through standardization of training of our students, residents and fellows into the experts in the diagnosis and treatment of foot and ankle pathologies in the US.



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