



## College of Podiatric Medicine Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) Program

### 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 him/her 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, he/she 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 in order to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy/Accommodation and Resource Center (CDHP/AARC) at (909) 469-5297.

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 have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and microscopic laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

#### Communication

Candidates and students must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues. They should be able to hear with or without reasonable accommodations. Candidates and students must be able to read, hear, speak, and be fluent in the English language. Reasonable accommodations may be provided for the hearing and speaking impaired.

#### Motor

Candidates and students must have sufficient motor functions to enable them to execute movements (with or without reasonable accommodations) that are reasonably required to provide general and emergency treatment of patients (i.e., palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and therapeutic modalities). Examples of procedures reasonably required of students and podiatric physicians include, but are not limited to: physical examination in the acute and non-acute settings, 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, and intra-operative (open reduction with internal or external fixation-ORIF/OREF) of fractures. These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

#### Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates and students must demonstrate problem-solving skills, which involve intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities. These abilities include memory, measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. The critical intellectual skill demanded of a podiatric physician, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates

and students should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

### **Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of the intellectual abilities. They must show evidence that they can exercise good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the assessment and care of patients. 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 patient care. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities to be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

### **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](#).