

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE: COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

AT THE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE (TUSPM), our mission is to educate highly qualified, ethical and professional podiatric physicians, and to advance our profession through research, quality patient care and community service. To that end, we stress early and extensive clinical training for our students. TUSPM is integrated with a major university with a comprehensive allopathic academic health science center. Our students train in interdisciplinary education models with other Temple University physicians and health care professionals.

Our third- and fourth-year students participate in rotations at the Temple University Health System, which allows for significant exposure to training in trauma cases. Additionally, TUSPM students rotate through our Foot & Ankle Institute, The Leonard Abrams Center, The Charcot Center, The Limb Salvage Center, and The Lymphedema Center and hundreds of hospitals and clinical settings throughout the country. In preparation for this unparalleled clinical experience, our students have a curriculum that provides a foundation in the basic sciences that stresses the lower extremity's place in all of the body's physiological systems.



Second year students are introduced to standardized patients with case studies and are taught full body history and physical exams and didactic reasoning by examining standardized patients. Furthermore, second year students are introduced to clinic rotations and podiatric medicine skills.

The third and fourth years emphasize clinical experience with rotations that may include internal medicine, podiatric surgery, vascular medicine/surgery, primary podiatric medicine, anesthesia and radiology. Elective rotations may include infectious diseases, emergency medicine, endocrinology, orthopedics and diabetic wound care.

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

Podiatric medical school graduates are required to complete a standard three year residency program: one year of podiatric medicine, a second year focusing on fore-foot surgery, and a third year on rear-foot and reconstructive surgery.

TUSPM graduates are accepted into the most prestigious residency programs across the country, serving either traditional or medically underserved populations. A number of our graduates complete their postgraduate training within the Temple University Health System.

Once training is complete, most graduates pursue practice opportunities as a member of a podiatric medical, surgical, multi-disciplinary, or private practice. Others may seek to practice in government-sponsored programs.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE CLINICAL CENTERS

LEONARD S. ABRAMS, DPM, CENTER FOR ADVANCED WOUND HEALING—extremely active out-patient center that experiences approximately 7,500 patient visits annually and uses the most recent evidenced based modalities of treatment.

CHARCOT CENTER—new center dedicated to treating a disease process that causes nerve damage. The center brings together a range of physicians and provides students excellent experiences.

LIMB SALVAGE CENTER—TU Hospital multi-disciplinary clinic with an aim to prevent amputations that occur as a result of many disease processes, primarily diabetes. Podiatric physicians, vascular surgeons, cardiologist and physical therapist work together in an attempt to treat the patient more effectively.

LOWER EXTREMITY DIABETIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE—located at the health sciences campus, the center provides care to an area of the city that experiences the highest incidence of diabetes.

LYMPHEDEMA CENTER—utilizes compression therapy to reduce lower extremity swelling and pain and increase mobility and improve quality of life.

AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER—fully licensed center allows for patients to have foot and ankle surgery on-site without the time and cost of a hospital stay.

SOME UNIQUE QUALITIES OF TUSPM:

- Access to the Clinical Simulation Center, which allows TU health professional students to learn from automated mannequin patients
- With more than 35,000 patient visits per year, the Foot & Ankle Institute is one of the largest podiatric medical facilities of its kind in the world
- The Gait Study Center, one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the United States, utilizes "Opto Gait," a portable system for analyzing gait, running and jumping. Additionally, the center includes a 3D motion capture system, foot pressure mapping and offers research opportunities

WHAT IS A PODIATRIC PHYSICIAN?

Podiatric medicine is the branch of medicine concentrating on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of problems and diseases of the foot, ankle and lower extremity. A practitioner in this field is a DPM, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, also known as a podiatrist, and is recognized legally and professional as an integral member of the health care team.

In the health care system of today, it is important to focus on the whole patient, rather than an isolated medical problem. Podiatric medicine is no exception. Podiatric physicians don't treat feet; they treat patients. Serious problems of the foot or lower extremity can adversely affect the overall health and well-being of a patient. Conversely, a systemic disorder such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease may manifest itself first through potentially serious foot problems. These complex relationships demand a skilled practitioner, educated to detect and treat a variety of related diseases.

There are many areas of specialty for the practicing podiatric physician, including:

- Orthopedics
- Geriatrics
- Wound care
- Dermatology
- Sports medicine
- Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Diabetes

BASIC SCIENCES TO CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Becoming a student at TUSPM is making a commitment to excellence in education from your first week in orientation through your graduation. During the first year, TUSPM students develop a solid foundation in the anatomical and physiological sciences, with studies highlighting microscopic and developmental anatomy, gross and lower extremity anatomy, neurosciences, bio-mechanics, physiology, biochemistry and fundamentals of podiatric practice. The second year focuses on microbiology and immunology, pathology, pharmacology, orthopedics, and surgery, as well as additional clinically related courses.