WHAT DO THESE FIELDS HAVE IN COMMON?

**Dentistry, Optometry, and Podiatric Medicine**

Focus deeply on one particular aspect of the body.

Alternate paths to medical school (MD/DO).

Allow more autonomy than other health professions programs (Physician Assistant).

All have primary care options and can be the first point of contact for a patient.
DENTISTRY  |  DMD or DDS
WHAT IS A DENTIST?

A person who evaluates the overall health of their patients while advising them about oral health and disease prevention. Dentists perform clinical procedures (exams, fillings, and surgeries) and play an important role in identifying and treating oral health conditions such as oral cancers. They also work as a part of a team.

Advantages of Dentistry: Helping patients to regain health and quality of life; opportunity to be independent; flexible lifestyle (control over hours and days worked); be creative in daily work, earn a good salary.

http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Future_Dentists/FAQ.aspx
AVERAGE SALARY — DENTAL

Average NET Income for independent private general practitioner who owned all or part of his/her own practice in 2012:

• $202,760

Average NET income for independent private dental specialists in 2012:

• $303,790

Per the ADA Health Policy Resource Center 2013 Survey of Dental Practice. 
http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Dentistry_101/Why_be_a_dentist.aspx
## COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Required Courses</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Semesters General Chemistry with Lab</td>
</tr>
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<td>2 Semesters Organic Chemistry with Lab</td>
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<td>2 Semesters Biology with Lab</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Biochemistry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Other Courses to Consider</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English/UWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and/or Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These may/may not be required by individual dental schools.*
SHADOWING A DENTIST

Dental Schools consider direct dental experience to be vital to knowing that you want to go into dentistry. You are strongly encouraged to shadow at least one general dentist prior to applying to dental school. A recommendation letter from a dentist that you shadowed can also be a strong positive factor in your dental school application.

Local Schools:
Tufts requires 75 hours of dental shadowing, at least 40 hours must be with a general dentist.
UNECOM – 30 hours minimum
# APPLYING TO DENTAL SCHOOL

## GPA

| Competitive GPA: 3.3 |
| Minimum GPA recommended: 3.0 |

## DAT

| Competitive DAT: 19+ (Academic Average and Science) |
| Base DAT: 18+ in all sections |

AADSAS (the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service) opens in June. We recommend submitting an application no later than September 1st.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (MINIMUM)

Two Science letters
1 Other academic letter
1 Recommendation letter from a Dentist
WHAT IS AN OPTOMETRIST?

Optometry is the field involving virtually everything that has to do with eyes and vision, including examination, diagnosis and treatment of the eyes and surrounding structures, and the treatment of vision problems.

Optometrists are independent primary health care professionals for the eyes. They examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye. (Definition from the American Optometric Association).

Optometrists are found in individual private practice or group practice. May practice only with other ODs or in conjunction with MD/DO ophthalmology specialists. Most practice “full scope” primary care, but it is possible to “specialize” (referred to as concentrating on or emphasizing a particular patient population or focal treatment area).
### Average Salary — Optometrist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Average NET Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average NET income from the primary practice of optometry in 2011 (all optometrists)</td>
<td>$129,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average NET income from Optometrists who owned their own practice</td>
<td>$156,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average NET income from Optometrists employed by others</td>
<td>$105,757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the American Optometric Association survey

### Required Courses

- Two Semesters of General Chemistry with Lab
- Two Semesters of Organic Chemistry with Lab*
- Two Semesters of Biology with Lab
- Two Semesters of Physics with Lab
- One semester of Biochemistry*
- Two semesters of Math – 1 of calculus, 1 of statistics
- One semester of Microbiology**
- One semester each Anatomy/Physiology
- One semester of Psychology (any course)

### Other aspects to consider

*Many schools only require one semester of organic chemistry; however, to be successful in BCHM 100 at Brandeis, you should expect to take both semesters of organic chemistry.

** Microbiology at Brandeis is an upper-level biology course; many pre-health students will take this elsewhere during the summer (community college or local institution is fine).
Optometry Schools consider direct optometry experience to be vital to knowing that you want to go into the field. You are strongly encouraged to shadow at least one optometrist prior to applying to optometry school.

There are no specific hour requirements, but we would recommend at least 25-30 hours as a base.

A recommendation letter from an optometrist that you shadowed can also be a strong positive factor in your application, and in fact, many schools require a letter from an optometrist as a part of their application.
APPLYING TO OPTOMETRY SCHOOL

GPA
Competitive GPA: 3.3+
Minimum GPA recommended: 3.0

OAT
Competitive OAT: 320+ (Academic Average and Science)
National Average of OAT: 300-310.

OptomCAS (the Optometry Central Application Service) opens July 1st. We recommend submitting an application no later than September 1st.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (MINIMUM)

Two Science letters

One Recommendation letter from an Optometrist

PODIATRIC MEDICINE  DPM
WHAT IS A PODIATRIST?

Podiatric medicine is a branch of the medical sciences devoted to the study of human movement, with the medical care of the foot and ankle as its primary focus. A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) undergoes lengthy, thorough study to become uniquely well-qualified to treat a specific part of the body. This includes 4 years of podiatric medical school (very similar to MD/DO) and a 3 year medical/surgical residency.

The APMA has career profiles of podiatrists.

Many practitioners focus on a particular area of podiatric medicine, including surgery, sports medicine, biomechanics, geriatric care, pediatrics, orthopedics and primary care. Additionally, care of diabetic patients is a rapidly growing podiatric medicine specialization as lower extremity problems often develop.

http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field/21/Podiatric_Medicine
AVERAGE SALARY — PODIATRIST

Average NET income of full-time podiatrists in 2008

• $190,670

From a survey by the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA 2008 Podiatric Practice Survey)
# Course Requirements for Podiatry

## Required Courses

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<td>1 Semester of Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Semesters of English (UWS will count as one)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Courses to Consider*

- Psychology/Sociology (Psych 2a recommended for MCAT)
- Anatomy and/or Physiology
- Microbiology
- Math

*These may/may not be required by individual podiatric medical schools.
Podiatric Medical Schools consider direct podiatric experience to be vital to knowing that you want to go into the field.

You are strongly encouraged to shadow at least one podiatrist prior to applying.

A recommendation letter from a podiatrist that you shadowed can also be a strong positive factor in your application, and in fact, many schools require a letter from a podiatrist as a part of their application.
## APPLYING TO PODIATRIC MEDICAL SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>MCAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competitive GPA: 3.3+</td>
<td>Competitive MCAT: 23-24+ for the old MCAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA recommended: 2.75</td>
<td>No information yet on the MCAT2015 scores.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AACPMAS (the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service) opens in early August. We recommend submitting an application no later than December 1st.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (MINIMUM)

Two Science letters

1 Recommendation letter from a Podiatrist
DENTAL RESOURCES

ADEA GoDental Website
ADEA GoDental FAQs
ADEA GoDental Dentistry 101
AADSAS (American Association of Dental Schools Application Service)
AADSAS Application Instructions
ExploreHealthCareers
OPTOMETRY RESOURCES

ExploreHealthCareers - Optometry
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
ASCO Career Guide
OptomCAS (Optometry Centralized Application Service)
OptomCAS – Information about Prerequisite Courses
OptomCAS – Information about Letters of Recommendation
PODIATRY RESOURCES

ExploreHealthCareers – Podiatric Medicine

AACPM – American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

AACPM FAQ’s

AACPMAS – American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service

AMPA – American Podiatric Medical Association

AMPA – Career Profiles of podiatric surgical residents and doctors of podiatric medicine
QUESTIONS? CONTACT PRE-HEALTH ADVISING

Abby Voss, Assistant Director
Misty Huacuja-LaPointe, Director
Nicole Labrecque, Department Coordinator
PHA@brandeis.edu

For appointments, call Student Financial and Academic Services at 781-736-3470 or book online here.