



# PODIATRIST

**Podiatrists** diagnose and treat ailments, injuries, and diseases of the foot and lower leg. These doctors use medical, surgical, mechanical, and electrical methods to treat injuries and disorders. They may treat foot and ankle fractures, sprains, or other injuries. Some podiatrists design and develop mechanical devices to correct walking patterns and balance problems.

◆ **Education:** Students should complete a bachelor's degree and must have completed the required semester hours in biology, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, physics and English. Students then may apply to an accredited college of podiatric medicine and must submit a grade point average (GPA) and scores from their MCAT (medical college admission test). The 4-year program includes classroom instruction in anatomy, chemistry, pathology and pharmacology as well as clinical rotations in hospitals and clinics. Graduates receive a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree and go on to complete a 1-3 year residency depending upon specialization. Graduates must also complete required training and pass a written and oral exam to receive a license.

◆ **Work Environment:** Podiatrists work in a variety of health care settings including working in their private offices, hospitals, clinics, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), public health agencies, and nursing homes. Podiatrists usually can set their own hours and they may also work evenings and weekends. They are often assisted by a podiatric assistant.

◆ **Salary:** The average salary for a podiatrist is \$90,284 a year in South Dakota.

◆ **Job Outlook:** According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the profession is expected to grow at an average rate through 2014. According to the American Association of Podiatric Medicine, sports injuries and an increasing elderly population have created a demand for podiatrists.

◆ **Educational Programs:** Visit the link below to explore South Dakota educational opportunities in this field. <http://www.sdjobs.org/sdhott/SD%20Training%20in%20Healthcare.htm>