

The Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine

Steps to Your Future

Information for Pre-Matriculants

*Newsletter brought to you by the Office of Student Affairs
March 2010*

Welcome to OCPM!

The Office of Student Affairs is very happy that you will be joining OCPM in July 2010! Each month leading up to matriculation, you will be receiving a newsletter containing valuable information about orientation, housing, financial aid, and the OCPM community. If your email address will be changing, or if you prefer to receive this newsletter at a more convenient email address, please contact Kristy DiPalma at kdipalma@ocpm.edu with your preferred email contact information. Other important information may be mailed to you throughout the coming months, including forms that must be returned prior to orientation, so be sure to update your mailing information as well!

Information you need to know before you start classes!

- ✓ Orientation will be Thursday, July 29 and Friday, July 30. Attendance is mandatory!
- ✓ The first day of classes is Monday, August 2.
- ✓ A Rite of Passage Ceremony will take place on Sunday, August 1, 2010. This is a formal ceremony where students will receive their white coats. This coat is the one you will wear during your study and work at OCPM. It signifies your acceptance into the medical community. Parents and spouses are encouraged to attend, if they are in town.
- ✓ Information about suggested text books and instruments will come later.
- ✓ All students are required to have the hepatitis shot series. You can take care of this before school starts, or the procedure can be done at OCPM for an additional cost once you arrive. You are also required to have the Measles Mumps and Rubella vaccination.
- ✓ All incoming students are required by OCPM to have a background check. This process needs to be complete by the start

of classes. You must do this process on line at Verified Credentials. A link to the website is <https://client.verifiedcredentials.com/ocpm/default.cfm>. You may do this background check anytime between now and before you start classes. Please plan ahead and do it soon. No other background check will be accepted. You must go through Verified Credentials.

- ✓ **All students are required to have a drug test through Quest Diagnostics.** Test must be conducted between the dates of June 14 and July 14, 2010. Test must be done through Quest Diagnostics. No other site will be accepted. Only tests done during this time period will be accepted – and only tests done at Quest Diagnostic Centers will be accepted. You will receive the form you need to take to the center in the mail at the permanent address you have on file with us, in May. Do not fill out the form ahead of time. It MUST be filled out at the site, in front of the Quest Diagnostics worker.
 - ✓ **Look for future information about the mandatory Case Western Reserve University Medical forms and other forms that will need to be returned to the school prior to orientation in future emails.**
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A NEW STUDY SHOWS DEMAND FOR DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE TO SURGE OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS

Increase of Aging Population, Prevalence of Obesity and Diabetes Impact the Profession

BETHESDA, Md. – For young Americans looking for job security in a lagging economy, entering the field of podiatric medicine – which currently boasts 15,000 doctors nationwide – may be a step in the right direction. A recent workforce study indicates that the nation’s eight colleges of podiatric medicine would have to triple their graduates between now and 2014 in order to meet growing population demands.

The study, conducted by the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health, University at Albany, attributes an increase in foot problems as a result of growing obesity, diabetes and aging rates to have a direct impact on the profession. In 2002, podiatrists provided close to 40 percent of all foot care services in the United States, compared to 13 percent for orthopedic physicians and 37 percent for all other physicians, including primary care doctors. Podiatrists are medically and surgically trained to diagnose and treat disorders, diseases, and injuries of the foot, ankle and lower extremity. Podiatrists are typically older on average than the overall U.S. labor force. In fact, the professions’ median age of 45 will certainly contribute to future occupational demands in the next 10 to 15 years.

“The field of podiatry is really one of the most specialized in all of medicine. And anyone who has become a podiatrist knows that the payoffs associated with becoming a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) are priceless,” said Dr. Christian Robertozzi, APMA president. “But when it all

boils down to it, most medical students are concerned about what their salaries will be once they enter the workforce. Because the supply is less than the demand for podiatrists at the moment, the median income for our profession is at an all-time high.”

Adding to the profession’s attractiveness, podiatric medicine touts desirable salaries and a flexible lifestyle. The study’s 2001 data revealed the median income of a DPM to be nearly \$134,000, comparable to other medical professions’ salaries such as dentistry, pediatrics and surgery. The most recent podiatric practice survey in 2006 revealed a median salary of \$150,000 and in 2007, podiatric medicine placed 15th on *Forbes*’ survey of “America’s 25 Best Paying Jobs.” In addition, podiatry’s working conditions in comparison to other medical specialties offer more options in practice structure. This gives both those seeking an engaging, always-on-call atmosphere in a hospital emergency room and those looking for a more laid-back, family-friendly schedule the opportunity to each thrive in their respective workplaces.

Did you know OCPM’s hometown of Independence was voted one of the 5 Greatest Places to Live in Ohio, in a 2008 issue of Ohio Magazine?

The magazine states, Independence was awarded with the honor based on its charming community, education, health, safety, heritage, arts, culture, and finally its business.

Read the entire article at <http://ohiomagazine.com/Main/Articles/4002.aspx>.



Facts about the city of Independence:

- As of the census of 2000, there were 7,109 people, 2,673 households, and 2,020 families residing in the city.
- Independence is the current home of the Cleveland Cavaliers Training Facility.
- The city of Independence is 9.6 Square Miles.
- Independence is part of Cuyahoga County.
- Independence is nicknamed Cleveland's Silicon Valley due to some high technology businesses calling Independence home.

Neighborhoods To Live In!

Most OCPM student live in Parma, Parma Heights, Broadview Heights, or North Royalton. All are great neighborhoods that border with the city of Independence, and are a short 10 – 20 minute drive to OCPM. All of these communities are rich with affordable housing opportunities, shopping, conveniences, and resources.

It is never too early for incoming students to start looking for a place to live. Students should allow themselves enough time to settle in and get to know the area before the first day of school.

Remember, a housing certificate can be provided to you or the management company to help secure housing. The letter will include that you are an accepted, full-time student and the years' financial budget (with housing allowance) that you will be awarded. Contact Kristy at kdipalma@ocpm.edu to receive yours.

Looking for a Roommate?

A *Roommate List* has been started if you are interested in finding someone to live with. Only those who inquire about the list will receive it and have their contact information added.

For more information on housing needs, refer to the housing packet that you received at the Official Campus Visit.

Contact Kristy DiPalma in The Office of Student Affairs with questions or to inquire about the housing certificate and roommate list at 216-916-7489, or via email at kdipalma@ocpm.edu.

OCPM'S Annual Housing Fair will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 pm on OCPM's Campus.

Representatives from area housing complexes will be on hand to answer your questions, schedule tours, and sign leases. Also on hand will be area bank representatives, if you are interested in opening a local checking or savings account.

A Message from the Financial Aid Office

Please have your financial aid packets turned in no later than May 24, 2010. Contact Kathy Wright, Financial Aid Specialist, with any Financial Aid questions or concerns at 216-916-7490, or 1-800-238-7903, or email at kwright@ocpm.edu.

You have questions? We have answers!

Call us at 1-800-238-7903 or at the extensions listed below:

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