



July 2011 E-Newsletter

Who is eligible for scholarships?



NYCPM offers a variety of different scholarships to help fund your medical education. Applicants who are accepted to the College are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships. The criteria that determine scholarship amounts are:

- Science and Cumulative GPA
- MCAT
- College Ranking

These scholarships are offered at the time of acceptance and are spread out evenly over four years. In addition to merit-based scholarships, second-, third-, and fourth-year NYCPM students are eligible for

additional scholarships. These are usually based on things like your academic grades here, leadership involvement and community service. So, if you're accepted and not satisfied with the amount of scholarship you're offered, keep in mind that you will be eligible to apply for more scholarship aid and loans beyond your first year.

If you aren't offered any scholarships, you may still be eligible for other forms of financial aid including federal Stafford loans, Perkins loans, Grad PLUS loans, and/or work-study compensation to assist with paying your tuition and living expenses.

When should I send my transcripts and letters of recommendation?



If you know that you're going to apply, you can send your transcripts from every institution of higher education you attended and three letters of recommendation at any time. Transcripts must be sent to AACPMAS and letters of recommendation must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions at NYCPM. If you send your materials before you apply, they will be kept on file until you submit your application. Requesting your materials before you apply expedites the application process once you submit the online application through AACPMAS. Of course, you may submit your transcripts and letters of recommendation after you submit your application, but in general, it's a good idea to do it sooner rather than later since your application will be placed on hold until we receive them.

Additionally, we will be unable to proceed with your application until AACPMAS receives your official MCAT score(s). Applicants will not be invited for an interview without an official MCAT score and at least one letter of recommendation.

What should I expect after I submit my application?



Once you complete and submit your online application, the admissions staff will look to see if you are missing any of your supporting documents (transcripts, letters of recommendation, official MCAT score) and notify you of your status. Once AACPMAS receives your official transcript(s), official MCAT score, and we receive your letters of recommendation, you should allow 2-3 weeks for us to contact you. Qualified applicants will then be invited in for an interview on one of our interview days held Monday-Thursday. After your interview, the Office of Admissions will notify you of our decision within 1-2 weeks via regular mail. An admissions counselor will also follow up with a phone call shortly thereafter to make sure you received your letter and answer any questions you may have.

Because there are multiple parts to the application, it's important for you to self-manage the process and be well organized. For more information on how to apply, please visit <http://www.nycpm.edu/application.asp>.

Will I be at a disadvantage if I have not shadowed a podiatrist?



Though shadowing a doctor of podiatric medicine is not required for admission to NYCPM, it's strongly encouraged, and applicants do so for many reasons.

Shadowing a DPM will provide you with exposure to podiatric medicine, giving you the background needed to make a solid career decision. In other words, if you're not familiar with podiatric medicine before you apply, you should shadow a podiatrist simply to learn more about the field you plan to enter. Everyone should know as much as possible about podiatry before they commit to a four-year program as well as a career.

Also, during your interview you may be asked to describe your experience with podiatric medicine and so shadowing a DPM can help you to build a more compelling case for your interest and motivation for the field.

Finally, applicants who have a letter of recommendation from a podiatrist will be looked upon favorably by the Admissions Committee. If you shadow the same podiatrist long enough to build a relationship, you can more easily ask him/her to write you a letter of recommendation.

You will not be denied an interview based solely on not having shadowed a podiatrist, however, you should do as much research as possible before you interview so that you can speak about podiatry with a reasonable level of competence.

If you would like help finding a DPM to shadow in your area, call or email the Office of Admissions, and a staff member will be happy to assist you.

Meet an NYCPM Student:



Name: Nancy Vilaysak

Hometown: San Leandro, CA

Email: nvilaysak@nycpm.edu

Undergraduate College: University of California, San Diego

Medical School Class: 2014

What made you decide to pursue a career in podiatric medicine?

I loved biology and working with people. Also coming from a big family, I knew I wanted to have a life outside of work. When I shadowed a podiatrist, it was great to see the different interdisciplinary fields of medicine all concentrated into the foot and ankle. Also the podiatrist loved her job and still had time for her family.

What made you decide to attend NYCPM?

I love being in new environments and being challenged. At NYCPM, you get the opportunity to work with a diverse group of people. You also get to work at the school clinic where you see all sorts of different pathology.

What was the transition from undergrad to medical school like?

There is a lot more material that is covered at a faster rate. It was tough to adjust to the amount of information I needed to study in such a short time. It seemed overwhelming at times, but breaking it down into small chunks everyday helped me out. You just have to tackle it bit by bit and be realistic about how much work you can do in a day.

What is your favorite part about being a student at NYCPM or in NYC in general?

It is great that it is so easy to ask for help. I can stop any upperclassmen and ask them about how to study for a class and they will just tell you. Also living in NYC is a unique experience in itself. There is something for everyone here. I'm a foodie so when I need a break from school I love going out to try new places to eat.

What activities are you involved in at NYCPM?

I'm a student ambassador coordinator, in the International Podiatry Club, Pediatrics Club, and the Wound Care club.

What advice do you have for incoming students?

Don't be afraid to ask for help. This is going to be a tough journey and it is easy to get consumed by school. Remember the reason why you came here and don't lose focus of the big picture. This is NYC so take some time off to just walk through Central Park or just wander to clear your head if you need it.

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