



## PODIATRIC MEDICINE AT A GLANCE

**Statutes:** Occupations Code, Chapter 202; Chapter 51; Chapter 108, Subchapter B; Chapter 111; Chapter 112; Chapter 116; Chapter 601

**Rules:** Title 16 T.A.C. Chapter 130; Chapter 60; Chapter 100

**Practice Act?** Yes

**Title Act?** Yes

**Inspections?** No routine field inspections, but unannounced inspections for investigative purposes are authorized by TOC §202.602

**Number of Licensees:** 1,567 (FY 24)

**Webpage:** [www.tdlr.texas.gov/pod](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/pod)



### Overview:

In Texas, podiatry is defined as the treatment of or offer to treat any disease, disorder, physical injury, deformity, or ailment of the human foot by any system or method. The term includes podiatric medicine.

A person who claims the title podiatrist, doctor, foot specialist, or word that would lead the public to believe they are authorized to practice podiatry must be licensed by TDLR. Also requiring licensure: a person directly or indirectly charges money or other compensation for podiatric services or a person who directly or indirectly offers to perform podiatric services in exchange for money or other compensation.

*A physician licensed by the Texas Medical Board is exempt from the licensure requirement.*

The Texas podiatric medicine law does not prohibit the recommendation, advertising, or sale of corrective shoes, arch supports, or similar mechanical appliances, or foot remedies by a manufacturer, wholesaler, or retail dealer.

### TDLR Response To The Opioid Crisis

Texas has responded to the ongoing opioid crisis by requiring all prescribers of Scheduled Substances to register with the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) since March 2020. The PMP tracks patients' Scheduled Substances prescriptions so prescribers can be aware of their total prescription history. Prescribers may register at: <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/PMP/>.

### Voluntary Charity Care Status

A podiatrist can practice without compensation in an entirely volunteer capacity for an organization. There is no license fee and CME requirements are reduced to 25 hours provided they adhere to certain requirements in their practice.

### Licensing and Registration

#### Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

To be a podiatrist, a person must:

- be at least 21 years of age;
- successfully complete at least 90 semester hours of undergraduate college courses acceptable at the time of completion for credit toward a bachelor's degree at an institution of higher education acceptable to the department;
- successfully graduate from a reputable college of podiatry approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association;
- successfully pass all required sections of the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination and the jurisprudence examination;
- complete at least one year of GPME in a program approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association with a hospital, clinic, or institution acceptable to the department;
- pay all applicable fees;
- submit a completed application on a department-approved form;
- submit all transcripts of relevant coursework acceptable to the department;
- successfully pass a National Practitioner Data Bank query check performed by TDLR;
- complete a criminal history background check; and
- provide proof of successful completion of a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Licenses are valid for two years.

| License   | Fee   |
|---|-------|
| Temporary Residency License (Initial and Renewal) | \$125 |
| Temporary Residency License (Extension)           | \$50  |
| Provisional Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License  | \$125 |
| Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (Initial)            | \$750 |
| Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (Renewal)            | \$700 |
| Podiatric Medical Radiological Technician         | \$50  |
| Hyperbaric Oxygen Certificate                     | \$50  |
| Nitrous Oxide Registration                        | \$50  |
| Voluntary Charity Care Status                     | \$0   |
| Active Duty Military DPMs                         | \$0   |
| Limited Faculty License (Initial)                 | \$125 |
| Limited Faculty License (Renewal)                 | \$60  |
| Inactive Status License Initial and Renewal       | \$0   |

### Temporary Residency

Any person enrolled in an accredited graduate podiatric medical education (GPME) program must have a Temporary Residency License.

- Applicants must have graduated from a college or school of podiatric medicine approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education;
- must submit proof of successful completion of a CPR course;
- successfully pass the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination (AMPLE) Part I, Part II written and the Part II CSPE if applicable before eligible to apply; and,
- pay all applicable fees.

### Limited Faculty License

TDLR may issue a license to practice podiatry without administering an examination to a podiatrist who has accepted an appointment or is serving as a full-time member of an educational institution in Texas that is offering an approved or accredited course of study leading to a degree in podiatry. The podiatrist must also be licensed to practice podiatry in another state that has licensing requirements that are substantially the same as Texas. A license issued under this section permits the practice of podiatry only for purposes of instruction in the educational institution.

### Optional Credentials for Podiatrists:

*Podiatrists must have the additional credentials issued by the department if they wish to use them in their practice.*

- *Hyperbaric Oxygen Certificate: An applicant must complete a course approved by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society to use this modality.*
- *Nitrous Oxide Registration: An applicant must complete a course approved by the department for conscious sedation and have both basic and advanced CPR certifications.*

### Podiatric Medical Radiological Technician

A podiatric medical radiological technician must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- successfully complete the following 20 hours of clinical and didactic training requirements and provide proof of completion to the department:
  - 5 class hours and 5 out of class hours of radiation safety and protection for the patient, self, and others;
  - 1 class and 2 out of class hours of radiographic equipment used in podiatric medicine, including safety standards, operation, and maintenance;
  - 1 class and 4 out of class hours in podiatric radiologic procedures, imaging production and evaluation;
  - 1 class and 1 out of class hour in methods of patient care and management essential to radiologic procedures, excluding CPR, BCLS, ACLS and similar subjects; and
  - The student must maintain a log demonstrating the successful production of 60 x-rays in the clinical setting overseen and signed by the supervising podiatrist; and
- submit a department-approved application;
- Out of classroom training hours must be verified by a supervising podiatrist;
- A podiatric medical radiological technician must hold a registration and may perform only podiatric radiological procedures;
- A podiatric medical radiological technician registrant shall perform radiological procedures only under the supervision of a practitioner physically present on the premises;
- A podiatric medical radiological technician registrant shall not perform any dangerous or hazardous procedures as identified by the Texas Medical Board; and
- All registrants must comply with the safety rules of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Radiation Control Program relating to the control of radiation.

The provisional license is valid for up to 180 days or until passage or failure of the jurisprudence exam and may be renewed up to three times.

**First State Podiatry School Open:** The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley opened in Fall 2022, becoming the first state podiatry school in the country. TDLR created a reduced-fee faculty license to help support the school with lower licensing fees for out-of-state faculty.

The **Podiatric Medical Examiners Advisory Board** has nine members appointed by the governor serving staggered six-year terms, which includes:

- six members who are licensed in this state to practice podiatry and have been actively engaged in the practice of podiatry for the five years preceding appointment; and
- three members who represent the public.