



AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY

RECONSTRUCTION
SPORTS MEDICINE
TRAUMA
TECHNOLOGY

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Position Statement on Podiatry

1. The AOFAS believes that members of the podiatric community provide a valuable service when they function within their education and training.
2. The AOFAS believes that nationally recognized educational standards which are widely accepted by the medical profession are an essential means of educating and credentialing practitioners to provide safe and effective patient care. These standards are essential to maintain the public trust.
3. The AOFAS believes that all practitioners who provide surgical care should meet the uniform educational and training standards established by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). All foot and ankle care providers should be educated, trained, and credentialed by the same standards as other medical and surgical specialties.
4. The AOFAS believes that separate and unequal credentialing and accreditation are not in the best interest of quality patient care.
5. The AOFAS believes that patient care would be best served if the podiatric community: a) prepares all podiatric students to take and pass the standardized U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) at the completion of podiatry school, as is required of medical students; b) attains and maintains ACGME accreditation for all podiatric residency programs; and c) prepares and requires podiatric residents to pass a certifying examination prepared by a member board of the ABMS.
6. The AOFAS is willing to assist regulatory and credentialing bodies to achieve these goals.
7. The AOFAS is willing to work with the podiatric community for the benefit of patient care.

*Approved by AOFAS Board of Directors
March 31, 2007*