

What does a podiatrist do?

Podiatrists provide preventative care, diagnosis and treatment of a range of problems affecting the feet, ankles and lower legs. This can include infections, defects and injuries, as well as foot and nail conditions related to other major health disorders such as diabetes. They also give advice to patients on improving mobility, independence and their quality of life. Podiatrists are also known as **chiropodists** and both are protected titles.

Salary

Podiatrists usually earn \$46,000 to \$65,000 per year. Senior podiatrists usually earn \$69,000 to \$95,000 per year.

What subjects do I need to take at school?

- ❖ Biology
- ❖ Chemistry
- ❖ Physical Education
- ❖ Health
- ❖ English

How do I get into it?

To become a podiatrist you need:

- ✓ a Bachelor of Health Science majoring in podiatry from Auckland University of Technology (AUT), **or** an overseas qualification recognised by the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand
- ✓ to be registered with the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand and have a current Annual Practising Certificate

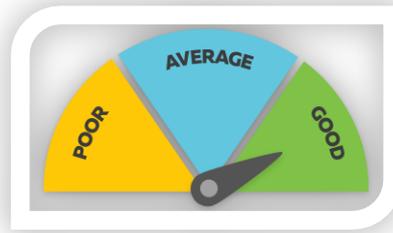
This job requires three years of training.

Interpersonal skills

Podiatrists need to be:

- ❖ patient, friendly, and helpful
- ❖ practical
- ❖ accurate, with attention to detail

You must also have good eyesight (with or without corrective lenses). Useful experience for a podiatrist includes work caring for people and experience in shoe manufacturing or sports industries.



Will I get a job after training?

Demand for podiatrists is growing and is higher in rural areas rather than in Auckland. Auckland University of Technology is the only place to study podiatry and so competition for Auckland based jobs is high. Job vacancies are often not advertised, so approach podiatry businesses directly to look for work, or ask Podiatry New Zealand to be connected to a mentor.

Most podiatrists are self-employed but you could also be based in a hospital, GP surgery or within a private practice and may work with a team of people including nurses, physiotherapists and doctors. Specialist areas also exist, such as in high-risk feet (diabetes), sports injuries, pediatrics, and aged care.

Where can I find out more?

- **Podiatry New Zealand**
(04) 473 9547 <https://www.podiatry.org.nz/>