

POSITION STATEMENT 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, to create parity in credentialing and accreditation, the podiatric community should take steps to ensure that: a) podiatric students take and pass the standardized U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), as is required of medical students; b) ACGME accreditation is attained and maintained for all podiatric residency programs; and c) podiatric residents take a certifying examination prepared by a member board of the ABMS.
6. The AOFAS will assist regulatory and credentialing bodies to achieve these goals.
7. The AOFAS will work with the podiatric community for the benefit of patient care.

Original statement approved by the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society Board of Directors, March 31, 2007; Revised May 2009 and May 2019.

Endorsed by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Board of Directors, May 16, 2009; March 11, 2019; and June 2019.