

# Exploring the Surgical Pathway in Podiatric Medicine

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## Few things change a life like helping someone walk without pain.

That's the power of podiatric medicine — a field that blends medical science, biomechanics, and surgical skill to help people stay active, independent, and pain-free. As a foot and ankle specialist, you'll treat patients of all ages and activity levels, improving mobility and quality of life every single day.

Learn more at [DiscoverPodiatry.org](https://www.discoverpodiatry.org), and explore the [Feet on the Street](#) shadowing experience to see how foot and ankle surgeons are changing lives one step at a time.

## A Profession Where Skill Meets Impact

Foot and ankle surgery is a dynamic and growing area within podiatric medicine — where science meets movement and precision leads to possibility. Physicians who pursue this surgical pathway are typically board certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) and may become Fellows of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS). Together, ABFAS and ACFAS lead the profession in surgical education, research, and advancing patient outcomes.

Joining this community means surrounding yourself with innovators and lifelong learners dedicated to restoring mobility and improving lives.

## A Profession That Pays Back in Purpose and Potential

A career in foot and ankle surgery offers the chance to make a lasting difference while building a rewarding future. According to the 2025 ACFAS Compensation and Practice Survey, Fellows report both strong earning potential and exceptional career satisfaction.

Nearly nine out of ten ACFAS Fellows say they love what they do — a reflection not just of financial opportunity but of the fulfillment that comes from helping people regain their independence.

The same survey found an average annual total compensation based on a full-time schedule of **\$446,000**, which includes all sources of professional compensation such as bonuses, ancillary services, research, leadership, and speaking engagements.

## A Profession Centered on Excellence and Innovation

ACFAS is committed to advancing surgical quality and improving patient outcomes through:

- Clinical research that strengthens evidence-based care
- World-class education from residency to fellowship and beyond
- The National Foot and Ankle Registry (NFAR) — the only database dedicated to measuring and improving surgical outcomes

## Step Into a Career That Moves People Forward

Being a podiatric foot and ankle surgeon means joining a community driven by clinical excellence, continuous learning, and meaningful patient impact — all while building a career that keeps people moving.



**American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®**

[acfas.org](https://www.acfas.org)