

Practitioner Education Programs

Concordia University/ Century College★

St. Paul, Minnesota
www.csp.edu/academics/graduate/master-of-science-orthotics-prosthetics

St. Petersburg College/ Florida State University★

St. Petersburg, Florida
www.spcollege.edu/op

Alabama State University

Montgomery, Alabama
www.alasu.edu/academics/colleges--departments/health-sciences/prosthetics-orthotics/index.aspx

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, Texas
www.bcm.edu/education/schools/school-of-allied-health-sciences/programs/orthotics-and-prosthetics

California State University Dominguez Hills

Long Beach, California
www.csudh.edu/oandp

Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti, Michigan
www.emich.edu/chhs/hphp/orpr

Visit www.opcareers.org for the most current program information.

★ HOPE Careers Consortium member

Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, Georgia
www.ap.gatech.edu/mspo

Loma Linda University

Loma Linda, California
www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/op/elmsop.page

Northwestern University

Chicago, Illinois
www.nupoc.northwestern.edu

University of Hartford

West Hartford, Connecticut
www.hartford.edu/mspo

University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
www.shrs.pitt.edu/po

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Dallas, Texas
www.utsouthwestern.edu/po

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington
www.rehab.washington.edu/education/degree/po



HOPE Careers Consortium



The HOPE Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics Careers Consortium is a partnership of five institutions:

- Baker College in Flint, Michigan
- Century College in White Bear Lake, Minnesota
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Oklahoma
- Spokane Falls Community College in Spokane, Washington
- St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida

Together, we are building exciting new programs that provide valuable career education and training in orthotics, prosthetics, and pedorthics (O&P). There is an urgent need in the U.S. to expand the pipeline of workers qualified to serve individuals living with limb loss or disabilities due to chronic disease or war-related injury—and our programs focus on that need.

Through this partnership, we are advancing O&P education and career training by increasing the number of key credentials offered and matching them to the skills required by O&P employers to better prepare TAA-eligible workers, veterans, and other adults for high-wage, highly skilled employment in O&P occupations.

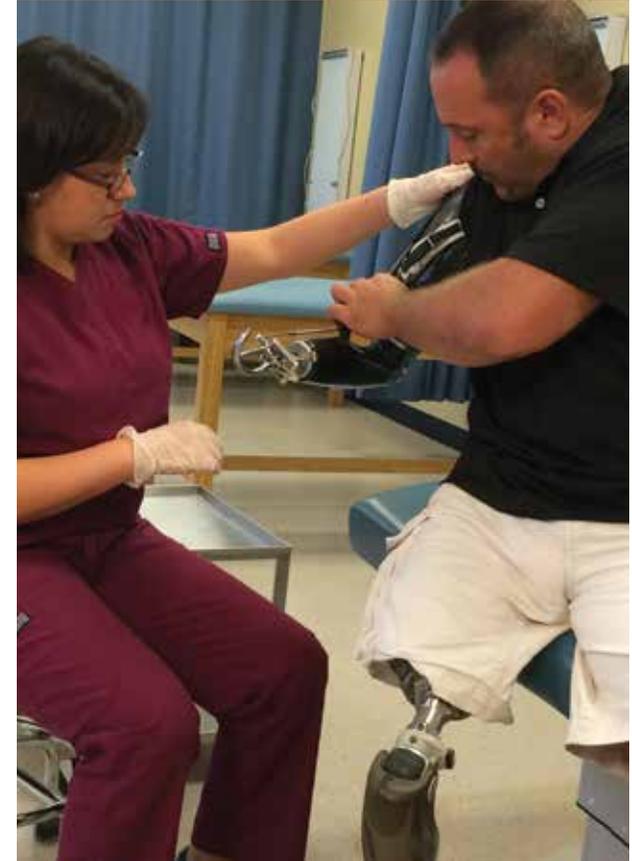
All five of the HOPE Careers Consortium colleges offer occupational training leading to industry-recognized certifications and college degrees in the O&P profession. For more information, visit www.hopecareers.org or www.opcareers.org.

For more information on a member school, click its logo below.



This brochure was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (grant number TC-2375-1-12-60-A-12). This product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

Orthotic and Prosthetic Practitioners and Assistants



MAKE A CAREER OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For More Information

Take the first steps to a new and rewarding career. Visit www.hopecareers.org or www.opcareers.org.

Orthotics and prosthetics

Orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) is the evaluation, fabrication, and custom fitting of orthopedic braces, known as “orthoses,” and artificial limbs, known as “protheses.” O&P professionals are a crucial part of the healthcare team, working with patients, physicians, physical and occupational therapists, nurses, and other healthcare providers.

There are two careers in O&P that blend patient care with design and fabrication of devices: O&P assistants and O&P practitioners. Certified orthotists and prosthetists (i.e., practitioners) and assistants are similar in many ways to other healthcare providers: They see patients in an exam room, they work in partnership with other healthcare professionals, and they become familiar with all aspects of their patients’ health. However, instead of using prescriptions or medical procedures to treat patients, they build and provide orthotic and prosthetic devices to address their patients’ needs.

O&P assistants

The O&P assistant must be supervised by a certified practitioner. An O&P assistant manages patient care, and fabricates, repairs, and maintains orthotic and prosthetic devices to provide appropriate fit, function, and appearance. O&P assistants may work in settings such as patient care facilities, hospitals, and VA facilities.

A career as an O&P assistant

To become an O&P assistant, you must attain a high school diploma, GED, or college degree, and take college courses in human anatomy, physics, and medical terminology. To become certified in either orthotics or prosthetics, you must complete one year of patient care under the supervision of a certified orthotist or prosthetist (depending on the certification you are pursuing) and pass a certification exam. For certification in both orthotics and prosthetics, you must complete 18 months of supervised patient care and pass a certification exam.



O&P practitioners

An orthotist designs, fabricates, and fits custom-made orthopedic braces, or “orthoses,” fits pre-fabricated devices, and provides related patient care.

A prosthetist designs, fabricates, and fits custom-made artificial limbs, or “protheses,” and provides related patient care.

Practitioners evaluate patients, formulate treatment plans, and provide follow-up care and continued patient management that ensures the overall welfare of their patients. Their unique expertise in patient assessment, design, and materials offers patients increased mobility and independence. Practitioners work in settings such as patient care facilities, hospitals, VA facilities, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care facilities, and in patients’ homes.

A career as an O&P practitioner

Aspiring orthotists and prosthetists must complete an O&P master's program. O&P master's students come from a wide variety of undergraduate majors, but keep in mind that all O&P master's programs will have prerequisite courses. These may vary from program to program, but will likely include biology with lab,

chemistry with lab, physics with lab, psychology, statistics, and human anatomy and physiology.

After completion of the master's degree program, you must complete a residency in orthotics, prosthetics, or both. To learn more about residencies, visit www.ncope.org.

To become certified, candidates must pass certification exams in orthotics, prosthetics, or both from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC) or the Board of Certification/Accreditation, International (BOC). To learn more about the requirements for certification, please visit the ABC website at www.abcop.org or the BOC website at www.bocusa.org.

Is this career right for you?

First and foremost, an orthotist, prosthetist, or assistant has a passion for helping others. Other important qualities include:

- Aptitude for math and science
- Compassion
- Creativity
- Dedication
- Excellent hand skills
- Problem-solving abilities
- Strong interpersonal skills

A great way to start your O&P career is to volunteer, job shadow, or intern at an O&P facility in your area. Not only will you become familiar with the day-to-day tasks of O&P professionals, you'll also make valuable contacts that can benefit you throughout your career.

**For more information about
O&P careers, visit
www.opcareers.org.**