

Technician Program Schools

Baker College of Flint★

Flint, Michigan

www.baker.edu/programs-degrees/orthotic-prosthetic-technology-associate

Century College★

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

www.century.edu/futurestudents/programs/pnd.aspx?id=99

Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology★

Okmulgee, Oklahoma

www.osuit.edu/op

Spokane Falls Community College★

Spokane, Washington

www.spokanefalls.edu/OandP

St. Petersburg College★

St. Petersburg, Florida

www.spcollege.edu/opt

Francis Tuttle Technology Institute

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

www.francistuttle.edu/classOfferings

Joliet Junior College

Joliet, Illinois

www.jjc.edu/orthotics-prosthetics/Pages/default.aspx

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



★ HOPE Careers Consortium member

**For
More
Information**

Take the first steps to a new and rewarding career. Visit

www.hopecareers.org
or
www.opcareers.org.



HOPE Careers Consortium



The HOPE Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthotics 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 pedorthotics (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.



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Orthotic and Prosthetic Technicians



**MAKE A CAREER
OF MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



The technician fabricates, repairs, and maintains orthopedic braces and artificial limbs to provide the best possible fit, function, and appearance in consultation with the practitioner.

Orthotic & prosthetic technicians

Orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) technicians are professionals who fabricate custom devices that add quality and function to the lives of individuals with an array of disabling conditions. Technicians make orthoses (braces) or prostheses (artificial limbs) for patients with amputation, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, sports injuries, or many other conditions.

A prospective technician may enjoy working with his or her hands using a variety of hand and power tools. They may use technologically advanced tools such as digital scanners, microprocessors, 3-D printers, and myoelectrics. Typically, their domain is in the lab working with these tools and materials as varied as leather, thermoplastics, foams, and carbon fiber.

O&P technicians may decide to fabricate devices for their entire careers, or they may opt to transition into careers as O&P fitters, pedorthists, assistants, practitioners, or a combination of any of these. For more information on O&P careers, visit www.hopecareers.org or www.opcareers.org.

O&P technicians can come from any educational or occupational background. Some technicians come from other O&P roles. Some have a background in other healthcare professions. Still others start as servers, woodworkers, massage therapists, teachers, chiropractors, or craftsmen. Others enter the profession after graduating from high school or earning a GED.

Prospective technicians may have qualities including:

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

O&P technicians do rewarding work and are in great demand throughout the country.

Technicians work in a number of settings including:

- O&P patient care facilities
- Fabrication laboratories
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Specialty clinics
- VA facilities

Getting started

There are two paths to a career as a technician.

The first is to complete an accredited technician program that includes courses in musculoskeletal anatomy, material science, fabrication techniques, and job preparation skills. A complete list of programs is included in this brochure.

The second option is to obtain a high school diploma, GED, or college degree and then work for two years under the supervision of a certified practitioner or technician in orthotics, prosthetics, or both.

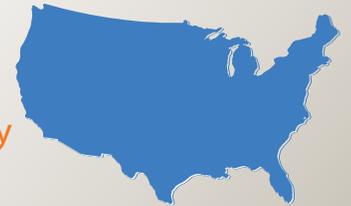
To obtain certification, you will have to pass exams from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC). To learn more about the requirements for certification, please visit the ABC website at www.abcop.org.

Patients need O&P care

According to the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association's 2013 Compensation and Benefits Report, a certified technician earns approximately \$45,000 per year. Uncertified technicians earn approximately \$36,000.¹

72,000,000

Number of Americans who will be 65 or older by 2030²



Diabetes **15.3 million** ↑ New cases in the U.S. since 1980³

Heart Disease **27%** ↑ Projected increase in cases in U.S. women by 2030; the projected increase is 26 percent for men⁴

Obesity **22.3%** ↑ Increase in incidence since 1960⁵

¹American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA), 2013 Compensation and Benefits Report. Note: Compensation varies based on factors such as geographic location, years of experience, practice setting, and benefits.

²NIH National Institute on Aging, "Dramatic changes in U.S. aging highlighted in new census, NIH report." 2014.

³CDC, "Annual Number (in Thousands) of New Cases of Diagnosed Diabetes among Adults Aged 18–79 Years, United States, 1980–2011." November 2013.

⁴Pandya A, et al., "More Americans Living Longer With Cardiovascular Disease Will Increase Costs While Lowering Quality Of Life." *Health Affairs*, October 2013.

⁵Flegal KM, et al., "Prevalence of obesity and trends in the distribution of body mass index among US adults, 1999–2010." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2012.

Visit
www.opcareers.org
 to view videos of O&P
 professionals on the job.