

Prosthetists & Orthotists



What do they do?

Orthotists and Prosthetists, also known as O&P Professionals, design and fit artificial limbs, braces and other medical devices, and instruct their patients on how to use and care for them. O&P Professionals might work in both orthotics (braces and supports) and prosthetics (artificial limbs and body parts), or they might specialize in one area.

Where do they work?

Many O&P Professionals work in medical equipment manufacturing or health and personal care stores. Others might work in a hospital, private physician's office or for the government.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for O&P Professionals is \$62,670.



Education:

A master's degree is required to become an O&P Professional. An applicant can have any bachelor's degree, but must meet math and science requirements to be eligible. A one-year residency must also be completed prior to becoming certified.

O&P training in surrounding states:

Eastern Michigan University: www.emich.edu

Northwestern University (IL):
www.nupoc.northwestern.edu

Century College (MN): www.century.edu

Accreditation:

Education programs for O&P are accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP):

www.ncope.org

www.caahep.org



Professional Associations:

O&P Professionals can join any of the following professional associations:

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists:

www.oandp.org

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association:

www.aopanet.org



Certification:

Graduates of an accredited O&P program must pass three exams before they can become a certified O&P Professional. The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics administers the following exams:

www.abcop.org

Written Exam: A 165 question, multiple choice exam, tests anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, kinesiology, ethics, professionalism and other areas of patient care.

Written Simulation Exam: A three-hour interactive exam using case scenarios to test analytic and clinical problem solving.

Clinical Patient Management (CPM) Exam: Approximately five hands-on assessments where one demonstrates their knowledge with an in-person examiner and patient model in a clinical environment.

Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician:

An O&P Technician assists O&P Professionals by making, repairing and maintaining orthoses and/or prostheses. Completion of an accredited two-year program and passing of a three hour, multiple choice exam is required to become a Certified O&P Technician.

O&P Technician training in surrounding states:

Baker College (MI): www.baker.edu

Joliet Junior College (IL): www.jjc.edu

Century College (MN): www.century.edu

According to www.opcareers.org, average pay for an ABC Registered Technician is \$48,214. Job outlook is very good.



Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Orthotists and Prosthetists is expected to grow 36 percent between 2012-2022, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Orthotists and Prosthetists:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/orthotists-and-prosthetists.htm>

