

# 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 \$69,120.



## 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](http://www.emich.edu)

Northwestern University (IL): [www.nupoc.northwestern.edu](http://www.nupoc.northwestern.edu)

Century College (MN): [www.century.edu](http://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](http://www.ncope.org)

[www.caahep.org](http://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](http://www.oandp.org)

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association:

[www.aopanet.org](http://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](http://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 & 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](http://www.baker.edu)

Joliet Junior College (IL): [www.jjc.edu](http://www.jjc.edu)

Century College (MN): [www.century.edu](http://www.century.edu)

According to [www.opcareers.org](http://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 22 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition*, Orthotists and Prosthetists, [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/orthotists-and-prosthetists.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/orthotists-and-prosthetists.htm)

