



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Admission to Residency Program Changes Approved

Alexandria, VA – The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) announces that its board of directors has approved amendments to the residency standards. The minimum education requirement for admission to a residency program is now a master’s in orthotics and prosthetics. The new standards are effective July 1, 2018 and any individual applying to enter a residency program, either domestic or foreign educated, must have a minimum of a master’s level education after that date.

Effective January 1, 2020 individuals pursuing the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC) orthotist/prosthetist certification exams must have a master’s in O&P as the minimum education eligibility requirement. In an effort to assure that residency program standards were in sync with the certification agency’s eligibility requirement, the board voted in August to change the residency program admission requirements.

Individuals with a bachelor’s in O&P, a post-baccalaureate certificate or a foreign education equivalent to a bachelor’s in O&P must enter an NCOPE residency no later than June 30, 2018 in order to have completed their residency by December 31, 2019 and apply for the ABC certification exams.

Individuals who plan to extend their credential in the future, or come to the United States to pursue O&P residency and certification, are encouraged to obtain a residency position by June 30, 2018.

For more information on the additions to the standards and the transition for current programs, contact Robin Seabrook at rseabrook@ncope.org.

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The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) promotes education in the profession of orthotics and prosthetics and raises the standards of education in the profession. This includes working in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for the accreditation of orthotist/prosthetist practitioner and technician level education within the O&P profession. NCOPE’s additional responsibilities include the development of standards for, and accreditation of, Residency education and pedorthic education for the O&P profession