

# ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC PROGRAMS SPOKANE FALLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## AN INSIDE LOOK AT ONE DRIVEN CERTIFIED O&P TECH



Robert Carlile, CPA, CTPO, is the Prosthetic Lab Manager at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas and a long-time proponent of ABC certification. I recently met with Robert to learn more about his career as an O&P technician and to find-out how ABC certification helped open doors for him along the way. Here is what we discussed.....

### **Why do you do what you do?**

I had to have my right foot amputated at 10 and I found it so interesting that someone could make something to help me run and walk like the other kids. I told the chief of staff that someday I wanted to come and work with him in the prosthetics department.

### **Why did you want to become ABC certified?**

I wanted to show people that I knew what I was doing. People look at where you've been, how far you've gone and what accomplishments you've made. ABC certification shows that you are truly dedicated to your work and to your profession.

### **How did you handle the naysayers...people who nixed the certification idea?**

I put all of my attention on relationships with people that wanted to help and work with me. Some people tried to slow me down, make me think that certification did not matter and that it was too hard. Glad I proved them wrong!

### **What is the one tech tool that you cannot live without?**

My hands! And the other skilled and driven techs around me who push me to do my best.

### **What is the best advice you ever got?**

- Give it to God and he'll take care of it
- Never let anyone tell you that you cannot do something when you know you can (thanks Mom!)

### **What tips would you give someone who is concerned about passing the ABC exam?**

- Study and ask questions
- Block out all of the people telling you that it's too hard. It is not!
- Believe in yourself

### **How do you keep up with the profession?**

I keep up with the profession by attending trade shows, serving on various ABC committees, talking to vendors about new products and most importantly, just getting in there, working and learning hands-on!

### **What would you ask a technician who is not certified?**

What are you waiting for? If you've got the experience, put your faith in what you know and move up to the next level. If that doesn't help, CALL ME and let's talk about what's holding you back!

### **ABC Certification Has Helped My Career**

It has opened so many doors for me with a lot of different jobs and helped me garner respect from others in the profession.

To learn how you can become an ABC certified orthotic and/or prosthetic technician, please visit [ABCop.org](http://ABCop.org) or contact us at [certification@abcop.org](mailto:certification@abcop.org) |

Megan Matijevich

American Board for Certification Orthotics, Prosthetics, Pedorthics  
Manager, Marketing & Communications (703)836-7114



## 2019 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Offered by the O&P Technology Programs

Spokane Falls Community College

### **PROSTHETISTS: Introduction to Fabricating With High Consistency Silicone Rubber SFCC Campus**

Friday, July 19 OR Saturday, July 20, 2019 please select one date only

**Registration Fee: Early \$295 until June 14; Late \$350 June 15—July 19, 2019 (includes refreshments, lunch, parking pass)**

HCR silicone rubber is a versatile material that is inert, very flexible, and suitable for prosthetic use. Available as a two-part system, this compound is mixed with the help of a two-roll mill and baked at a low temperature to achieve cured, durable rubber in several compatible formulations that produce different finished firmness. Add new power to your problem-solving capabilities with these adaptable, elastic, ultra-strong materials making liners, partial feet, and hand and finger appliances. All attendees will have the opportunity to make a silicone liner during the hands-on lab. **This course has been approved for 8 CEU credits ABC; 9.25 CEU credits BOC; 6 MCE credits OPC.**

**REGISTER SOON SINCE SPACE IS LIMITED TO 20 ATTENDEES.**

### **THERAPEUTIC SHOE FITTER Pre-Cert/CE Course SFCC Campus Online begins: April 15, 2019; Ends May 1, 2019**

**Registration Fee: \$225 (includes refreshments, lunch, parking pass) Lab: May 3, 2019** A therapeutic shoe fitter is an allied health professional specifically educated and trained to provide non-custom therapeutic shoes and non-custom multi-density inserts. This course includes fitting, adjusting, or modifying devices that reflect the level of education and training received. This is a hybrid course with 16-hours online didactic and a 4-hour in-class fitting lab conducted in Spokane, Washington on May 3, 2019. **This course has been approved for 16 Category II CEU credits ABC; 14.16 Category I CEU & 6.34 Category II CEU BOC.**

### **PEDORTHIC COURSE: Best Practices – Proven Fundamentals SFCC Campus May 31 and June 1 Registration Fee:**

**Early \$350 Until May 10; Late \$425 May 11 – May 31 ( includes refreshments, lunch, parking pass)** This hands-on course will provide practitioners and participants with additional techniques and knowledge in the areas of clinical Pedorthic evaluation, general foot and ankle biomechanics, diagnoses specific orthotic modification, extrinsic posting, advanced shoe modification, and casting techniques. The course objective is to provide practical skills and knowledge that can be directly applied in the field by attending practitioners. Participants are required to bring a pair of old athletic shoes that will be used for the modification aspect of the course. **This course has been approved for 12 CEU credits ABC; 13.75 CEU credits BOC; 12 MCE credits OPC.**

### **ORTHOTIC FITTER Pre-Cert/CE Course SFCC Campus Online begins 09/25/19; Ends 10/23/19 Registration Fee:**

**\$525 (includes refreshments, lunch, parking pass) Lab October 25 – 26, 2019** An orthotic fitter is an allied health professional specifically educated and trained in the provision of certain orthoses. This includes fitting, adjusting, or modifying devices that reflect the level of education and training received. This is a hybrid course with 25-hours online didactic and a 16-hour in-class fitting lab conducted in Spokane, Washington on October 25 and 26, 2019. This course is intended as the pre-certification course required by the ABC and BOC and as a refresher course for experienced orthotic fitters. **This course has been approved for 32 Category II credits ABC; 40.25 CEUs (37.25 Scientific and 3 Business) BOC.**

**REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE NOW**

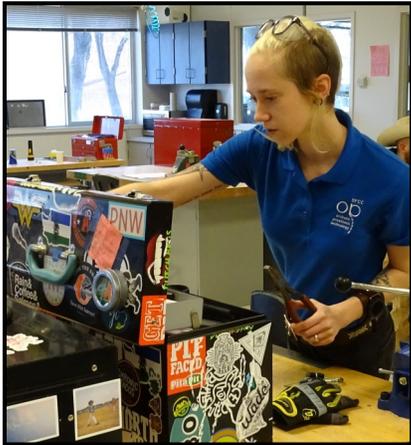
**FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT [ruthie.dearing@sfcc.spokane.edu](mailto:ruthie.dearing@sfcc.spokane.edu) (509)533-3231**

### **CADCAM**

**Any interest in attending a one-day CE course focusing on turn-key CAD/CAM systems?**

**If so, please let us know.....[ruthie.dearing@sfcc.spokane.edu](mailto:ruthie.dearing@sfcc.spokane.edu)**

# AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PORTENDING THE FUTURE



My name is Ellen Buckles and I am a second-year student in the Orthotic & Prosthetic Technology Program at Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC). My family is composed of craftsmen and I have always enjoyed working with my hands. After deciding that an art degree was not the right field for me, I dropped out of school to work full-time and decide what I was going to do with my life. Prior to beginning the O&P Technology Program, one of the activities that I found most fulfilling was fabricating items of heavy utility, practical use and ergonomic fit, that expressed some sense of style. I was making everything from leather holsters, utility belts, backpacks and satchels, silver jewelry, and ergonomic mugs, to manual functional hand extensions, brackets, braces, and even armor. From these experiences, I found that I favored sewing, leatherwork, metalwork, pottery, and sculpture. When I learned of the O&P program, it felt like something clicked for me. This is the career I am looking for! O&P truly is the amalgamation of my passions, while providing the opportunity to help people in need.

From the first day of class, I knew I was in the right place. Attending an 18-credit course load while working full-time has been hectic and exhausting at times. However, each day after leaving class, I'm eager to come back again. This program has taught me so much throughout the two short years. Not only about how to fabricate, modify, and repair orthotic and prosthetic devices, but also how to better communicate with the people working above, below, and alongside me. Because of this, I have made friendships that will last a lifetime. I am excited to keep learning and working as I continue in my career.

As I enter the 7<sup>th</sup> quarter of the program, I am overwhelmed with positive feelings. I am hopeful about the future and about my career. I am excited to graduate with honors, begin my next technical practicum, and see where life takes me. I am thankful for everything I have learned and the help I have received thus far. However, one feeling I cannot shake is how much I am going to miss the energies and activities experienced with my classmates, faculty, and staff members.

Getting out of bed and into class by 7:30 a.m. the first Monday after spring break should have been difficult, but I was at my bench early along with other students. Immediately the sense of camaraderie was in the air as we reunited and buzzed about our experiences over break and welcomed in the new students. It has been truly amazing to meet so many people from all walks-of-life who are drawn to the O&P Tech field and are now thriving with a captivating career. Every new student or O&P tech graduate that has walked into the lab while I've been here has increased my confidence and assured me that this is the right career for me.

This program has been the most wonderful, challenging, kind, accepting, and hands-on learning environment I have ever had the privilege of participating in. When I come to class each day, I expect to laugh, experience, build, discuss, interact, and above all **learn**.

Ellen Buckles  
Second Year O&P Student

## TESTIMONIAL

Hello Ruthie,  
Thanks for doing a fantastic job organizing the silicone class last Friday. It was well worth attending, even all the way from **Canada**. It was easy to register and communicate all details with you. Thanks again!

Duane Nelson, CP  
Synergy Prosthetic Services Inc Edmonton, AB

## TESTIMONIAL

Hi Ruthie,  
I want to thank you for all of your hard work and hosting of the silicone class. I learned a lot and hope to return for more continuing education classes.

I was also impressed with the SFCC students and their knowledge and thought it benefited both students and professionals to work together. This way the students get to meet contacts in the field and practitioners meet the students.

Thank you,  
Jack Stephens, CTPO

## COMMENTS ABOUT THE INTRO TO FABRICATING W SILICONE RUBBER CE COURSE

- ◆ "...one of the best CE classes I've been a part of."
- ◆ "Really liked having the ability to fabricate an actual liner."
- ◆ "Can't wait to implement this into our practice!"
- ◆ "Wonderfully creative presentation."
- ◆ "Amazing course! Worth every penny...I learned a ton!"
- ◆ "Awesome Class! Course was well thought of and executed very well."
- ◆ "Excellent course, informative, interactive and easy to follow instructions."
- ◆ "This course will open new and exciting avenues into advancement of the patient's acceptance and compliance."



## O&P TECH STUDENTS 2027

