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HOW ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC TECHNICAL EDUCATION ENHANCED MY CAREER



For almost 10 years, I had worked as a production manager for a printing company. My job responsibilities included scheduling, purchasing, planning, organizing, turning wrenches to fix things, and rolling up my sleeves to get dirty with the print work when needed. This position provided a great career and one that I found very fulfilling. Unfortunately, though, this kind of unique role comes through chance and experience but really does not offer a place to study or enhance knowledge on the subject.

Shortly after turning 30, I experienced a life-changing accident which ultimately led to a below knee amputation and some deep introspection. I wanted to master this new life that I had fallen into. After some time, I decided that studying prosthetic and orthotic technology would be the first order of business once I was recovered and able. A few years after my accident, I found myself as stable and able as could be and started my education at Century College.

Beginning on the orthotic side of things, I was immediately fascinated by this new craft. I was very fortunate and able to secure employment with Century College as an assistant in the O&P lab. I saw many similarities with my old job: fixing machines, monitoring inventory, mentoring, and just enjoying my time and work in the facility.

Not only did I learn all I wanted about orthotic and prosthetic technology, I also got to apply my previously gained skills in a totally new workplace environment. This opportunity, I believe, helped sharpen my skill set and provided a totally new edge.

As my time with Century College ended, I was offered a position in marketing for a large prosthetic supplier. Through this position, I spent six years traveling and getting to know the ins and outs of the of the O&P industry. I now work on the clinical side of things as an Operations Manager for a network of 8 clinics. I continue to grow in my career, propelled by my learning experiences at Century College.

Joel Goltry
Operations Manager
Pongratz Orthotics & Prosthetics, Inc.
730 N 52nd St Ste 100
Phoenix, AZ 85008
Cell: 262.689.5041
Office: 602.222.3032
Fax: 602.222.3506
jgoltry@pongraztop.com
www.pongraztop.com



Editor-In-Chief

Ruthie Dearing, MHSA, JD

rdearing@ncope.org

INTRODUCING THE O & P TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS AT CENTURY COLLEGE

ORTHOTIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Custom fabrication of orthopedic braces, known as “orthoses.”

INTRODUCTION

As an orthotic technician, you will provide care for patients with disabling conditions of the limbs and spine by fabricating devices known as orthoses (braces). Under the guidance of a certified orthotist, you will fabricate orthoses according to a physician prescription. Digital scans, patient casts and measurements are used during the fabrication process to create devices that maximize fit, function and patient outcomes. As an orthotic technician, you will also be responsible for the repair, maintenance and finishing of orthoses.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The orthotic technician program prepares you for entry into the field of orthotics at the technician level. Didactic and laboratory coursework is combined with individualized instruction in the areas of lower limb, upper limb and spinal. Each of these areas contain instruction in anatomy, terminology, measurement forms, fabrication processes, system alignment, suspension techniques, components, materials, and maintenance procedures. The practicum section will allow you to experience the role of a technician in an orthotic facility for a minimum of 120 hours.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon recommendation from the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (www.ncope.org). It also fulfills the requirement to sit for the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (www.abcop.org) Orthotic Technician Certification Examination.



PROSTHETIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Custom fabrication of artificial limbs, known as “prostheses.”

INTRODUCTION

As a prosthetic technician, you will provide care for patients with partial or total absence of a limb by fabricating prostheses (artificial limbs). Under the guidance of a certified prosthetist, you will fabricate prostheses according to a physician prescription. Digital scans, patient casts, and measurements are used during the fabrication process to create devices that maximize fit, function and patient outcomes. As a prosthetic technician, you will also be responsible for the repair and maintenance of prostheses.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The prosthetic technician program prepares you for entry into the field of prosthetics at the technician level. Didactic and laboratory coursework is combined with individualized instruction in the areas of lower limb and upper limb. Each of these areas contain instruction in anatomy, terminology, measurement forms, fabrication processes, system alignment, suspension techniques, components, materials, and maintenance procedures. The internship section will allow you to experience the role of a technician in a prosthetic facility for a minimum of 120 hours.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon recommendation from the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (www.ncope.org). It also fulfills the requirement to sit for the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (www.abcop.org) Prosthetic Technician Certification Examination.



ORTHOTIC PROGRAMS AT CENTURY COLLEGE

ORTHOTIC TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE—Program # 5288

ORTHOTIC TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA—Program # 5632

The Orthotic Technician program prepares students for entry into the field of Orthotics at the technician level. Didactic and laboratory coursework is combined with individualized instruction in the areas of lower limb, upper limb, and spinal. Each of these areas contains instruction in anatomy, terminology, measurement forms, fabrication process, system alignment, and suspension techniques, components, materials, repair and maintenance procedures. The clinical section enables the students to practice fabrication skills in an orthotic facility for a minimum of 160 hours.

ORTHOTIC TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Career/Occupational Credits	40
General Education/MnTC Credits	20
Total Credits	60

ORTHOTIC TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA

Career/Occupational Credits	40
General Education/MnTC Credits	6
Total Credits	46



PROSTHETIC PROGRAMS AT CENTURY COLLEGE

PROSTHETIC TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE—Program # 5289

PROSTHETIC TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA—Program # 5631

The Prosthetic Technician program prepares students for entry into the field of prosthetics at the technician level.

Didactic and laboratory coursework is combined with individualized instruction in the areas of lower limb and upper limb. Each of these areas contains instruction in anatomy, terminology, measurement forms, fabrication process, system alignment, and suspension techniques, components, materials, repair and maintenance procedures. The clinical section enables the students to practice fabrication skills in a prosthetic facility for a minimum of 160 hours.

PROSTHETIC TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Career/Occupational Credits	40
General Education/MnTC Credits	20
Total Credits	60

PROSTHETIC TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA

Career/Occupational Credits	40
General Education/MnTC Credits	6
Total Credits	46



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330 John Carlyle St
Suite 210
Alexandria, VA 22314

P 703-836-7114
F 703-836-0838
ABCop.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Debbie Ayres
703-836-7114 ext. 224
dayres@abcop.org

ABC Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics (ABC) is proud to announce 75 years of serving the orthotic and prosthetic profession in upholding the highest standards for clinical patient care.

ABC was established September 9, 1948 by our first president, Chester E. Haddon, CPO, three orthopedic surgeons and three orthotic and prosthetic practitioners who developed the initial growth plan and established our mission to support high standards for clinical O&P care. That mission continues to guide the current board and staff as they look to the next 75 years of serving the OP&P profession.

We started our journey as The American Board for Certification of the Orthotic and Prosthetic Appliance Industry later changing our name in 1959 to American Board for Certification in Orthotics & Prosthetics. This was just the first of many changes over the years, including creating a code of ethics program, helping to establish both the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists and the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and changing our name again in 2007 to our current name.

ABC continues to evolve with the needs of the profession. In addition to adding credentials that cover the entire spectrum of patient care, developing the first OP&P facility accreditation program in the nation and implementing the first mandatory continuing education program for the profession, ABC has been a steadfast leader in advancing OP&P standards, ethics and professionalism.

We will be celebrating this milestone anniversary throughout the year. Watch for more details on how you can join in on the celebration to commemorate ABC's 75 years of service to the profession.

