Orthotic & Prosthetic Technology Programs

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MASTERING THE CRAFT: KEYS TO SUCCESS IN PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC FABRICATION



Exploring what truly makes a technician exceptional is a topic evaluated and argued about among O&P professionals. Over nearly 28 years in the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) industry, I have had the privilege of working with and hiring many talented individuals.

Through these experiences, I have identified a defining trait of the best technicians: they strike a perfect balance between two essential qualities—**attitude** and **skill.**

In custom fabrication, no amount of technical expertise can outweigh the negative impact of a poor attitude, and even the most enthusiastic mindset will not produce a perfectly crafted device. Thriving in this field requires equal attention to both. This article outlines the behaviors and attributes that set exceptional technicians apart and offers actionable guidance for achieving excellence in your career.

Attitude: Building the Foundation for Success

Foster Teamwork from Day One

Success in O&P fabrication is a team effort. One simple but effective way to contribute to team cohesion is to greet your colleagues each morning. At Fabtech, we start every day with a team meeting to review the schedule and include a bit of casual conversation to get everyone aligned. These small acts of connection build the foundation for seamless collaboration throughout the day.

Be Reliable and On Time

Consistency is key. Being punctual and dependable sets the tone for your professional reputation. Traffic and life's challenges are unavoidable, but good employees plan ahead to ensure that they are on time. This trait is particularly vital for those aspiring to leadership roles. Strong teams require leaders who are consistently present and engaged.

Embrace Feedback and Learn from Mistakes

Custom fabrication involves creating unique, one-of-a-kind items, and mistakes are inevitable. The best technicians do not dwell on errors but focus on solutions. View criticism as an opportunity to improve and treat every failure as a steppingstone toward greater mastery.

Stay Open to New Ideas

Innovation drives our industry forward. While it is easy to stick to tried-and-true methods, especially for experienced technicians, remaining open to new techniques or tools is essential for growth. Even if a new method does not work or function as expected, the willingness to experiment will keep your skills sharp and adaptable.

See Fabrication, Page 2

Fabrication, cont'd

Support Your Team

O&P fabrication can be physically and mentally demanding. At the end of your shift, do not clock out without first checking on the status of your teammate's fabrication projects. If someone is still working, offer to help. This simple act of solidarity strengthens team bonds and creates a workplace culture built on mutual support.

Skills: Developing Technical Mastery

Maintain Cleanliness and Organization

The most important skill a technician can develop is maintaining a clean and organized workspace. Efficiency starts with order. A tidy environment minimizes errors, streamlines processes, and allows you to focus on delivering high-quality work.

Take On Challenging Projects

Growth comes from stepping outside your comfort zone. Do not shy away from complex or demanding projects. Tackling these projects head-on not only builds your technical skills but also demonstrates your initiative and commitment to continuous improvement.

Build a Professional Network

Connect with peers and industry professionals to expand your knowledge and resources. Online communities like the OPTA group on Facebook are excellent platforms to ask questions and share insights. Networking provides access to valuable advice, ranging from component-specific queries to advanced fabrication techniques.

Leverage Manufacturer Resources

When working with unfamiliar materials or components, do not hesitate to contact the manufacturer for technical documents or usage instructions. While many resources are available online, calling directly can introduce you to helpful professionals and strengthen your professional network.

Stay Informed with Industry Publications

The O&P field is constantly evolving, with new components and techniques emerging regularly. Follow industry publications, websites, and webinars to stay up to date. These resources are often available online, making it easy to integrate learning into your routine.

Final Thoughts

Whether you are a newcomer to the O&P industry or a seasoned technician, there is always room for growth. Excelling in custom fabrication is not about perfection—**it is about consistently striving to improve**. Balancing a positive attitude with strong technical skills creates a foundation for personal and professional success.

Our work is exciting, challenging, and deeply rewarding. By adopting these practices, you will position yourself to thrive in a career that not only meets your aspirations but also makes a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Scott Wimberley, CTPO, CPO

Scott Wimberley, CTPO, CPO Principal Fabtech Systems, LLC



Scott became involved with the P&O industry and an adaptive life when his leg was amputated in 1970. Always leading an active lifestyle he developed passions for scuba, rock climbing, skiing, biking and kayaking. While working for Yosemite Search and Rescue in 1996, Scott entered the field as a patient model /athlete working with Hosmer Dorrance in San Jose, California in 1997.

With a history of building adaptive devices for sports and an education in tool making, his work quickly developed into a full-time job. While with Hosmer, Scott was trained as an upper extremity technician and worked with several leaders in the industry helping to develop and field test new products. To work more directly with patients, Scott began work at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California and eventually relocated to Western Washington. There with his two partners, he helped start Fabtech Systems serving as Technical Director, creating and refining new products and processes.

WHEN GOOD WORK IS NOT ENOUGH, IT IS OKAY TO MOVE ON

Orthotics and Prosthetics professionals inherently understand the quiet power of their work. While it may not always command the spotlight, O&P is a cornerstone of allied healthcare—delivering life-changing solutions that help patients regain mobility and independence. The value of what we do is not measured in accolades or recognition; but in the steps patients take toward their futures, thanks to the devices we design and fit.

Sometimes however, the passion and purposes that drive us simply are not enough to overcome the challenges we face.

Whether it is financial uncertainty, burnout, or the limited growth opportunities within the field, these struggles may lead even the most dedicated professional to ask a difficult question: "Is it time to move on?" For many, the answer is not clear-cut. Leaving a field you have poured years of expertise and care into feels monumental—but it is important to remember that moving forward does not mean starting from scratch.

I was drawn to O&P because it felt like the perfect combination of my passions—engineering, nursing, and art. Working with your hands to create, understanding how things function mechanically, and helping others all come together in this profession. For me, working as an orthotics and prosthetic technician was not just a job; it was a calling.

The O&P profession is on a growth trajectory, with demand steadily increasing due to factors like an aging population, advancements in medical technology, and rising cases of diabetes and trauma-related amputations. According to the Orthotic and Prosthetic Group of America (OPGA), the North American market for O&P services reached approximately $2.4 billion annually, with a projected annual growth rate of 3.8% pushing the market to $3.1 billion by 2028.

Despite these promising statistics, O&P professionals—particularly technicians and clinical staff—face significant challenges. While the market grows, so do systemic and financial barriers grow and increase, making it difficult for technicians, assistants, fitters and other clinical staff to thrive.

After graduating from the O&P Technology Program in Spokane in 2017, I moved to the Greater Seattle region for work, with my starting wage at $14 an hour. Finding an apartment on that budget was nearly impossible. Rent alone consumed close to 60% of my income. Payday loans became a lifeline just to make ends meet. Even after four years of raises, the dream of owning a home or building a comfortable life felt out of reach. I had to confront the reality that no amount of hard work or incremental progress could close the gap without drastic changes.

The financial strain faced by many O&P professionals is not unique. Certified technicians earn a median total compensation of $55,366 to $72,333 according to the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (2024 Compensation and Benefits Report). While national averages reported in 2024 by Salary.com range from $50,557 in Florida to $54,500 in Washington. These numbers, though respectable, often fall short when compared to the cost of living throughout the U.S. In Washington state, as reported by SmartAsset via MIT's Cost of Living calculator[2] in 2024, a single adult needs an annual salary of $106,496 to live comfortably, while in Florida, the requirement is $93,309. For professionals with families, the gap widens further. Even at the upper end of the salary spectrum, most O&P professionals struggle to meet these thresholds, let alone save or spend on discretionary needs.

This disconnect places many O&P professionals in a difficult position and is especially notable as larger corporations dominate the field, often offering limited opportunities for growth and wages that lag behind the cost of living in the area.

See Good Work, Page 4

Good Work, cont'd

Eventually, I had to make a choice. Moving to Florida offered proximity to family and a lower cost of living. While the move helped alleviate some financial pressures, it came with its own set of challenges.

At smaller clinics, I felt valued and was encouraged to grow. At a larger corporation, I became just another cog in the machine. A worker bee. Ambition was not rewarded—at least not on a timeline that made sense when the cost of living was rising faster than wages. When there appears to be no clear path to career growth or financial stability, even the most passionate professional can feel alienated and burnt out.

Resentment began to set in. I could not stop asking myself: What was the point of working so hard if it did not lead to greater success? Why had I uprooted my life, only to find myself in the same financial situation? This time the answer of what to do came easier. I opened the search net outside of O&P to see what other opportunities were available.

I did not set out to become a surgical technician—it was simply one of many roles I applied to when it became clear that my opportunities within O&P had stalled. To my surprise, the skills I had developed in O&P translated seamlessly into this new role. Time management, manual dexterity, problem-solving, and familiarity with niche equipment—all skills honed in O&P—were just as valuable in a surgical setting.

That role opened doors I had not anticipated, eventually leading me to my current position in surgical anesthesia. If you had told me when I was crafting custom orthotics in a fabrication lab that those same skills would one day allow me to help deliver anesthesia in an operating room, I would never have believed you.

Allied health professionals share foundational skills: precision, adaptability, and the ability to work under pressure. Sometimes, when you are deeply immersed in one field, it is hard to recognize the transferable value of your skill set. However, taking a step back may reveal surprising and achievable opportunities never considered.

It is important to state emphatically that making the choice to move in a new direction, even if that means leaving the field in which you trained, does not erase the impact your work as a healthcare professional makes on patient lives. It does not negate the investment you made to get you to this point. The writing may be on the wall that it is time to move on for a while. The financial strains, burnout, lack of growth opportunities, and feeling undervalued do not need to overwhelm. Recognizing these signs is not about admitting defeat. It is about being honest with yourself and evaluating what is best for your future.

Ultimately, the choice to move on is one of self-preservation and growth. By putting your needs at the forefront, you are not abandoning the profession; you are making space for new possibilities that honor both your skills and your worth. I must admit it is a hard choice, but it may be the most important choice you will make. For me, the decision to move on was about prioritizing my well-being while creating a sustainable future.

This is not a story of failure. Rather, it is a story of growth. Whether you stay in orthotics and prosthetics or explore new opportunities, the skills you have built will always matter. You have not wasted your time; you have prepared yourself for whatever comes next.

Sometimes, the hardest choice is the one that prioritizes your needs over your passion. But in making that choice, you are not closing a door—you are opening countless other doors and opportunities. Just as orthotics and prosthetics helped to do for me.

Ryan Nebblett, CTPO

See Good Work, Page 5

Good Work, cont'd

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Ryan Nebblett

Ryan Nebblett graduated from the O&P Technology Program at Spokane Falls Community College in 2017. He is a Certified Orthotic & Prosthetics Technician and an Orthotic/Prosthetic Assistant currently serving as an Anesthesia Technician in Daytona Beach while pursuing his MBA at the University of Florida.

FIT AND FUNCTION VS FORM AND FUNCTION

In the field of Orthotics and Prosthetics, when we talk about a device, we speak about it relative to fit and function. As a technician I often ask the clinician, "Did it fit? "Or "How was the fit?" After that question, I talk with the clinician about whether the patient was happy with the device asking, "Did s/he like it?" Meaning mostly, did the patient like the color or surface of the orthotic device? This short conversation determines a hierarchy of importance, function, and fit.

Often, we do not really discuss the specific mechanical function, every spring and rivet, with the patient. The device is expected to function perfectly. From my point of view as a technician, the only time that we talk with the patient about the function of the device is when some part is broken, or the patient complains of pain or discomfort.

Beauty

The beauty of a device plays a major role in the overall acceptance and use of the device. If the patient likes the color and is totally amazed by the surface, they will more likely wear it. Also, if the device fits well, they will wear it. To determine if the device fits well, it is imperative that we listen to and hear the patient's comments.

Getting firsthand feedback from the patient is important as well as physical observations.

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Function, cont'd

When working with a patient to fit an orthotic device, it is important to keep them informed and involved as part of the process of the fitting. Statements like, "This is a new device, it is going to support your leg / foot in a new and different way." Or "We made a few repairs, and your device is going to feel different than it did when you came in." Finally, confirm with the patient what s/he felt while wearing the device and then making the necessary adjustments. These are some key elements that you can do when fitting a device or following up with a device.

Fit and Function

When I was enrolled in technician school for orthotic and prosthetic technology, I was also an intern at a local O and P practice in the area. One of the clinicians at the shop gave me a good and easy test for making prosthetic legs saying that, "If the leg can stand, the leg can walk." Meaning if the prosthetic leg can stand on its own, it is well balanced and thus, it is made correctly, and therefore, it will fit the patient, and the patient will be able to walk with it.

As a technician working in the field of O and P, I often hear practitioners say, "it fits beautifully" when referring to an orthotic device. This is always nice to hear. It means that all the steps in the fabrication process and all the fine tuning were correctly done and the piece fits well the first time.

Good craftsmanship is also very necessary when making a device. When a device is worn every day, it becomes part of the daily life and routine of your patient. When there is a change, with the way the device functions, it is different and noticeable. So, make the needed changes beautiful and make the fix or repair long lasting.

Beauty and Process

After 8 years in the field of O and P, two years of O and P school, and internships, I have perfected my craft and techniques to make beautiful orthotics. For the most part, the devices that I create are made with black or clear plastic with the occasional Solar or purple butterfly transfer paper. When true craftsmanship comes into the picture, the device is a perfect fit with no major adjustments needed or required. Yes, the footplate is trimmed to size and the straps are cut to length, but that is it. The form, the fit, and the function are all "spot-on" the first time. That is the beauty of hand-made, and that is the beauty in the craft of custom orthotics and prosthetics. When I am working in the lab, I try to make every part of the process beautiful. From crisp, clean trim lines to gaskets and rounded rivets. The way that many layers of different materials can come together and make a 3D functional object.

The Beauty is in the Details

When I know all the details are beautiful, then I know that I have done everything that I can to make a well-crafted device that I am proud of. It is always nice to hear that a patient is pleased with their device. To make beautiful O and P devices, as a technician you must make every part shine, and every step of the process be clean and crisp.

When pulling plastic, I always make a fresh aliplast gasket with two stockinettes and I use plenty of electrical tape. If I try to cut corners and reuse a gasket, and save some tape, I might not get a good vacuum. This results in a re-pull of the plastic as well as wasting time cutting off the old plastic, fixing the plaster model, and then trying again with a new sheet of plastic.

Think about the cost of a fresh gasket made with new electrical tape and getting a good vacuum the first time vs. the materials wasted and the time used to fix the model and redo the pull. Getting a good vacuum can be as simple as waiting an extra 30 or 60 seconds for the plastic to fully cook. That extra 30 to 60 seconds can be the difference between a good pull and a re-pull.

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Function, cont'd

When making gaskets, make certain that the final layer of nylon is over the gap between the model and the pipe. I call this 'bridging the gap'. If you do not-bridge the gap, the plastic will most likely pop when you pull it.

When finishing out a KAFO, try to have the edges of the top and bottom aesthetic and functional.

Joshua Unterman, CTO



Joshua Unterman, CTO

Joshua Unterman is a 2016 graduate of Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC) Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician Program. Since graduation, Joshua has been working at UCSF Orthotics and Prosthetics as an ABC Certified Orthotic Technician. Joshua also has a BA in Ceramics and Photography and a MFA in Applied Craft and Design.

In his spare time, Joshua likes to play golf and master the challenges of rock climbing. In 2025, Joshua will be competing in the Para-Climbing National Competition which will be held in Oakland California at Pacific Pipe Climbing Gym.

ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS: OPERATING AND MANAGING A FAMILY BIZ

The Orthotic and Prosthetic world in years past was primarily made up of family owned, smaller practices. Entrants to the field might have been direct family, sons and nephews (daughters and nieces more recently). Additionally, many practitioners were also attracted into the field from their personal experiences and individual use and needs. These individuals then became the entree to the field for others in their family. That access has been changing because of higher levels of education that has attracted a new talent pool. More recently, the introduction of private equity, mergers, and acquisitions has created a shift, but a large part of the practitioner pool remains generational with the initial interest due to familial history.

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Family, cont'd

My father became a German Meister Prosthetist-Orthotist after WWII. Following his emigration to the U.S. from Germany, he became an American Board-Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist. I am a second-generation Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist (emeritus as of 12/31/2024 after 40 years), my youngest son is a Certified Technician in Prosthetics and Orthotics. My oldest son was a technician with my office for nearly ten years before entering nursing school. My daughters also worked in the office at various times but have pursued different healthcare careers. There is a distant relative in Germany who is also a Meister Prosthetist-Orthotist and practice owner. His only son works with him and plans to take over their practice following the upcoming retirement of his father. My father's original partner was also a German Meister Prosthetist Orthotist who became an American Board-Certified Prosthetist. His father was also a German Meister Prosthetist-Orthotist and was the director of the hospital Orthopedic facility in Muenster, Germany. Lots of familial ties to Prosthetics and Orthotics for over sixty-five years.

My choice to pursue this field as a career was identified by a long-term family friend, George. Over the years, I had done odd jobs around the lab to keep busy and off the streets. I had also worked on and off for George in one of his businesses. George had entered and exited multiple businesses and careers, had gained and lost several fortunes but was someone I listened to in my youth. He was in a word "colorful." During one of my more "poorly directed and adventurous" youthful periods, while in high school, undecided about my future, George sat me down for a conversation. George was someone I respected, so I sat and listened. At one time he had used my father's services as a patient. He described the O&P business as the only one he knew that allowed an individual to create something tangible that you could pick up, hold, and use to help others. The O&P industry allows you to interact on a professional level in the medical field, working with unique tools and materials, while helping an individual resolve a problem. The device you create would be the solution to meet and determine the individual needs of your patient. And all the while, controlling your own destiny, you own the business and are not an employee. O&P is the only industry where an individual can wheel into your office, stand, and walk out. Awesome.

Owning and managing an inter-generational business, consisting of family members from different generations working together, creates numerous challenges and benefits. Family members working together already have an innate sense of efficiency and communication. They know the strengths and weaknesses of each other and can readily adapt. However, unspoken interpersonal jealousies, biases and historical conflicts may remain sources of continued aggravation. These conflicts must be addressed before they arise in a consistent manner among family members as well as other employees. Favoritism, nepotism, and infighting serve as a morale killer for all employees, particularly in a small business.

Different generations bring unique viewpoints and experiences, which foster creativity and innovative solutions to problems. Older generations pass down wisdom, skills, and traditions. While younger members share new ideas and technological skills, they must be given the opportunity to have their ideas succeed, and at times fail. Family members can pool resources and recognize skills, making it easier to achieve common goals, whether financial, social, or emotional. Working together enhances bonds, promotes understanding, and leads to strengthened family ties. An inter-generational team can provide emotional, family, and practical support, which can be beneficial to all members during challenging times.

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Family, cont'd

Some of the many challenges created via differing communication styles, values, and expectations may lead to misunderstandings or conflicts. Family members of different generations will have vastly different education and experience levels, skill sets and as a result, opinions. Each generation may have differing priorities and approaches to issues, often leading to friction. Resistance to new methods or technologies, introduced by other family members, may be born from jealousy and cause tension. At times, the older generation, promoting a timeworn technique, or unproven approach will push the younger person out of their comfort and education zone and experiences.

Decision-making processes can be particularly challenging, especially if there are longstanding family dynamics in play or a responsibility transition is in process. Some examples and issues that may create challenges:

a) opening a new location – who runs it?
b) hiring a new employee – who interviews, supervises, trains, hires, fires?
c) time off requests – who gets priority for holidays?
d) divorces – who gets what? How does one handle the spouse non-family member, who happens to be the treasured employee?
e) retirement – who takes over as boss?
f) pay and salary determinations – family vs unrelated employee.
g) who manages and is responsible for on-call requests and schedules?

Finding a balance between the varied needs and desires of different generations can be challenging for all persons involved. These challenges become more apparent when unrelated third parties are also employed. Frequently third parties perceive familial bonds as a disadvantage and a challenge to their own career advancement. You may become aware of a third-party employees hindering the progress of a family member in order to advance their own positions. Likewise, familial squabbles are best left out of employee earshot, although this is difficult in a small business environment. Word travels quickly, walls are thin, comments are difficult to retract, and trust even more difficult to regain.

Any business requires regular, honest discussion and dialogue. Unfortunately for small family-owned entities this often means discussions at every meal, family event, and gathering. While these conversations may become a recurring source of irritation, the larger challenge is keeping employees accountable, family members included. Whether it dictates use of incentives or dis-incentives, accountability options will vary, and often are not perceived as "fair." More frequently, among family members, familial bias may seep thru with unrelated third -party employees recognizing when disparate incentives are used.

With respect for multiple generational contributions and varied education-and experiences, a successful small business requires common goals and teamwork from both family members and unrelated employees. Disagreements are an integral part of a family inter-generational business. Using an unrelated business coach or membership, among employees, family or unrelated, in various local or regional non-orthotic/prosthetic groups can provide unique insights and viewpoints. Some examples include city or community business groups, Chamber of Commerce, Elks, school boards, or local foundations. Such organizations will allow broader based information to introduce and form opinions. Recognizing that it is not just O&P that has inter-generational family-owned businesses.

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Family, cont'd

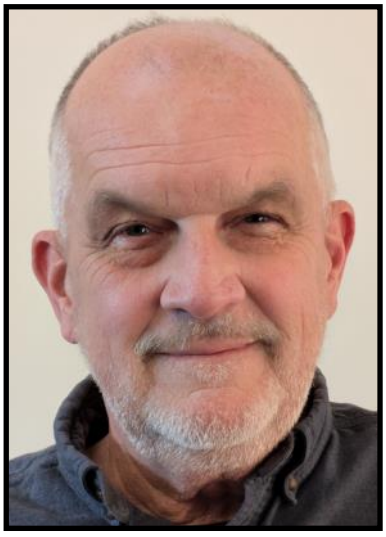
These varied businesses have encountered and managed the same or similar issues, often creating unique solutions that meet business and family needs. There will be conflicts and differences – but having someone unrelated as a sounding board can be a huge resource to resolve issues and achieve success.

On reflection, owning a small inter-generational business, such as my Prosthetics and Orthotics practice, was a rewarding and at times challenging endeavor. Working with my father and then with each of my children was irreplaceable, although it did create some familial issues. These issues have been resolved over time. It has now been five years since the sale of my O&P practice. None of my children wished to pursue Prosthetics and Orthotics as a clinician – likely because of the long hours I worked at times.

Would I change anything? Yes. Would I do it all again? Yes. Will I tell you what I would change? No. Some things might be better left unsaid.

Ralph W. Nobbe, CPO

Ralph W. Nobbe, CPO



Ralph graduated from the Cerritos Community College in 1979 with an Associate of Arts degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics. In 1996, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Ashford University located in Arizona. Ralph became an ABC certified orthotist in 1980 and an ABC certified prosthetist in 1982.

Ralph was President of the California Orthotic and Prosthetic Association from 2005- 2009 and received ABC Emeritus status on December 31, 2024. In 1984, he was the recipient of the Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital Provider of the Year award and in 1993 was the recipient of the Recipient Santa Barbara Mayor's Award. In 2000, his O&P practice received the Employer of the Year award in the City of Santa Barbara.

Ralph was President pf Nobbe Orthopedics, Inc. with practice sites located in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Ventura from 1990 to 2019.

January 15, 2025

US NEWS "Best Healthcare Jobs"

US News & World Report just released their annual "Best Healthcare Jobs" rankings. Turns out that orthotists and prosthetists fared quite well!

1. **#16** in **Best Health Care Jobs**
2. **#27** in **Best STEM Jobs**
3. **#49** in **100 Best Jobs**

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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC EDUCATION (NCOPE)

In August 2024, the NCOPE Board held a strategic planning meeting to update the mission statement and goals as well as to create a Vision statement. These statements were approved by the Board in the fall 2024 and are posted on the NCOPE website.

MISSION

NCOPE creates, upholds, and advances rigorous educational standards to develop highly skilled orthotic and prosthetic professionals. Through collaboration, data-driven practices, and robust accreditation processes, we aim to improve patient outcomes and elevate the profession.

VISION

Promoting excellence in education and training to inspire and empower future orthotic and prosthetic professionals.

STANDARDS IN O&P EDUCATION

Promote high-quality learning outcomes in academic and clinical education to position O&P professionals as leaders in human-device intervention and support innovation and advancement of academic and clinical programs to ensure sustainability and excellence.

ACCREDITATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE

Provide national oversight, to ensure continuous improvement and compliance through rigorous accreditation and quality assurance processes and improving academic and residency programs.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

Facilitate and enhance communication and collaboration among education, research, clinical, and technical communities to bridge the gap between formal education and real-world practice, thereby strengthening workforce development.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION ENGAGEMENT & ALIGNMENT

Through the optimization of resources, staffing, and mutually beneficial partnerships, NCOPE will define and uphold appropriate educational pathways for entry-level workforce development and training while maintaining organizational stability and serving as a valued member of the O&P community.

SPS
MORE THAN DISTRIBUTION PARTNERSHIP

SPS O&P Master's Scholarship

We are accepting applications for the 2025 SPS O&P Master's Scholarship. Two full-time O&P Master's students will be awarded $2,500 based on essay submission and academic achievement.

This year, the essay prompts are:

- *Why have you decided to pursue a career in O&P?*
- *What are you most passionate about in the O&P industry?*



Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be accepted or enrolled in an accredited O&P Master's degree program
- Reside within the U.S.
- Have proven leadership qualities
- Maintain a GPA minimum of 3.0.

Did you know?
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Deadline to submit an application is February 21, 2025

Learn more about the SPS O&P Master's Scholarship at:
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