



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Annual Report 2024

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

Chair's Message

Dear O&P Community:

The National Commission on Orthotic & Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) is proud to share our 2024 Annual Report. Our profession, like many areas of healthcare, is advancing at a significant pace. It is imperative that we move forward as the expert managers of the human-device interface to optimize our patient outcomes.

NCOPE embarked on our Strategic Planning Meeting in August of last year. We created our first organizational **Vision**: *“Promoting excellence in education and training to inspire and empower future orthotic and prosthetic professionals,”* along with updating our **Mission** to accomplish this *“through collaboration, data-driven practices, and robust accreditation processes”* to elevate the profession. Goals were established to focus on the following four areas:

- **Standards in O&P Education**
- **Accreditation and Quality Assurance**
- **Community Collaboration and Communication**
- **Internal Organization, Engagement and Alignment**

Highlights from the past year include the development of new Residency Standards. Thanks to the tireless work of NCOPE's Clinical Resource Director, Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP (D), and the Residency Standards Committee led by Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO, our new standards will begin implementation on July 1, 2025. The new standards maintain the core purpose of residency but no longer tie competency to a particular device. Instead, competency will be based on seven domains, including Professionalism, Communication, Decision-making, and Patient Care—better reflecting the clinical skills needed in today's healthcare environment.

NCOPE continues to work closely with ABC to ensure the updated residency standards align with the updated certification process and the profession's trajectory. Over the coming years, residency training models and exams will be combined for a more efficient, yet still rigorous, process of becoming a CPO.

In collaboration with the Academy, NCOPE developed the inaugural Clinical Mentoring Award. Nominations were sought in the Fall of 2024 and the award was presented to Michelle Hall, MS, CPO, LPO, FAAOP (D), at this year's Academy Meeting for her many years of service and mentorship in the name of O&P education.

We continued monitoring and received a progress report regarding the Core Concepts and Principles in O&P Grant awarded to Jönköping University and PI Dr. Nerrolyn Ramstrand. We eagerly await the results of her team's study to guide our decision-making in the coming years. A Workforce Study Committee was also established and continues to move forward to provide data-driven information for education programs, employers, and policymakers regarding long-term growth and sustainability in O&P.

All of this was accomplished while continuing our accreditation services for academic and residency programs. It was exciting to welcome East Tennessee State University as one of our newest O&P master's programs as they sought initial accreditation, in addition to the advancement of the Assistant Program at Oakland University in Michigan. Residency programs across the country continue their strong commitment to the second half of the education process and provide a structured learning environment to develop competent, entry-level clinicians for future careers in O&P.

I would like to thank our Immediate Past Chair, Susan Spaulding, MS, CPO (L), FAAOP, for her nine years of service to the NCOPE Board, which ended this past year. Though she continues to volunteer her time and expertise to our mission, her passion for O&P education, vision for the future, and leadership as Chair will have a lasting impact on our profession. This past year, we also welcomed Stacy Pommer, LMSW, as a public member to the Board, and her contributions have been invaluable. To the NCOPE staff—especially our Executive Director of thirty-eight years, Robin Seabrook—Board members, and numerous committee volunteers, I thank you for your continued passion and dedication to O&P education.

As I have traveled throughout the country to many of our schools and clinics, and attended numerous regional and national meetings featuring contributions from students and residents, I would like to especially recognize our outstanding academic program directors, faculty, residency directors, mentors, and staff who effectively bridge the educational pathway of the O&P profession. Your service does not go unnoticed, and I look forward with much excitement to continued growth and advancements for the benefit of the patients we serve in the years to come.



Mark D. Clary, CPO/L, FAAOP
Chair

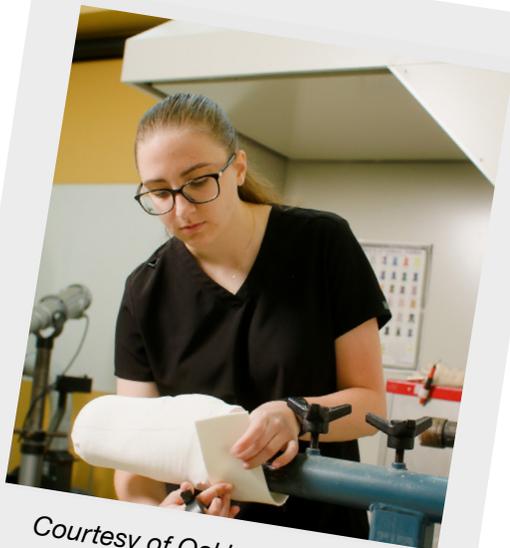
Accredited Program Listing for 2024

Orthotist-Prosthetist Programs in US					
Institution	Degree	Cohort size	Format	Length	Residency Model
Alabama State University Montgomery, AL	MSPO	10	FT in-person	19 mo (5 sem)	post-graduation residency
California State University - Dominguez Hills Los Alamitos, CA	MS in Health Science, O&P option	30	FT in-person	21 mo (7 qtrs)	post-graduation residency
Loma Linda University Loma Linda, CA	MSOP	Closing in 2025		24 mo (8 qtrs)	post-graduation residency
University of Hartford Hartford, CT	MSPO	24	FT in-person	24 mo (2 yrs)	post-graduation residency
International Institute of Orthotics & Prosthetics Tampa, FL	MSOP	50	FT in-person	16 mo(4 sem; 16 wks/sem)	post-graduation residency
Kennesaw State University Kennesaw, GA	MSPO	24	FT in-person	22 mo (4 sem)	post-graduation residency
Northwestern University Chicago, IL	MPO & MPO-R	MPO: 48 MPO-R: 1-6 (Note: MPO-R students are enrolled in the same courses as the MPO students)	blended (MPO: 3 quarters online, 4 quarters on site; MPO-R: 2 quarters online, 7 quarters on site)	MPO: 21 months (7 quarters) MPO-R: 27 months (9 quarters)	post-graduation residency
Eastern Michigan University Ypsilanti, MI	MSOP	24	FT in-person	20 mo (5 sem)	post-graduation residency

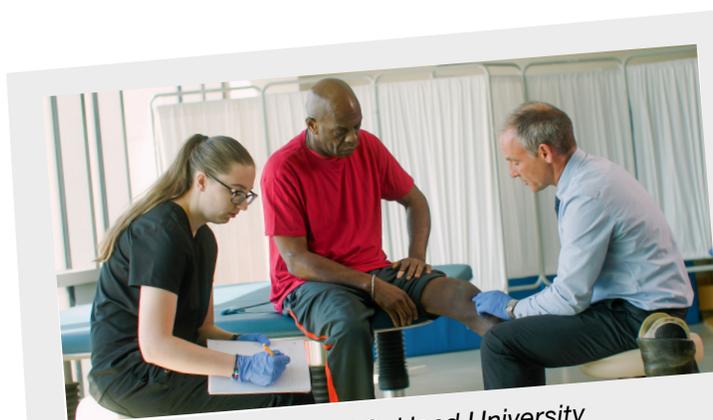
Orthotist-Prosthetist Programs in US					
Institution	Degree	Cohort size	Format	Length	Residency Model
Concordia University St Paul/Century College St Paul, MN	MSOP	24	Blended (9-months Full-time in person, 5 semester online with 3 – 1-wk onsite.)	21 mo	post-graduation residency
Drexel University Elkins, PA	MSOP	8-24	FT in-person	34 mo (4 sem didactic + 5 Sem residency)	integrated residency
University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	MSPO	24+	FT in-person	20 mo (5 sem)	post-graduation residency
Eastern Tennessee State University Johnson City, TN	MSOP	14 per cohort	FT in-person	24 mo (6 sem)	post-graduation residency
Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX	MS	24	FT in-person	30 mo (12 mo didactic + 18 mo residency)	integrated residency
University of Texas - Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, TX	MPO	16	FT in-person	19 mo	post-graduation residency
University of Washington Seattle, WA	MPO	12	FT in-person	21 mo (7 qtrs)	post-graduation residency
Assistant Programs					
Oakland University Rochester, MI	Exercise Science BS with O&P Assistant		FT in-person	4 yrs (8 sem)	

Technician Programs					
Institution	Degree	Cohort size	Format	Length	Residency Model
Joliet Junior College Joliet, IL	AAS Orthotic Technology Certificate Prosthetics Technology Certificate	Variable	FT in-person		
Bluegrass Community and Technical College Lexington, KY	AAS	Variable	FT in-person		
Century College White Brea Lake, MN	AAS Orthotic Technology Prosthetic Technology	Variable, hybrid			
Spokane Falls Community College Spokane, WA	AAS Orthotic and Prosthetic Sciences Orthotic and Prosthetic Certificate	Variable	FT in-person	7 quarters for AAS 4 quarters for OP Certificate	

For access to all currently accredited programs view this link [CAAHEP | Find An Accredited Program](#).



Courtesy of Oakland University



Courtesy of Oakland University

Academic Accreditation Services at a Glance 2024

During 2024, NCOPE performed accreditation services for the following programs and CAAHEP activities.

Orthotist/ Prosthetist Level Program	Self-Study Submission & Review	Site Visit Conducted	CAAHEP Accreditation Awarded 2024	Status Applied and or Awarded
Alabama State University	2024	November 2024	Sent to CAAHEP for action in 2025	Continued
Concordia University – St. Paul	December 2022	June 2023	July 2024	Probation
Drexel University (merged with Salus University)	Summer 2023	November 2023	March 2024	Initial
East Tennessee State University	December 2024	Scheduled for April 2025		Initial
International Institute of Orthotics & Prosthetics			July 2024	Transfer of Sponsorship from FIU to IIOF
International Institute of Orthotics & Prosthetics	December 2024	Scheduled for March 2025		Continued
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	October 2023	April 2024	September 2024	Continued
University of Washington	November 2023	May 2024	September 2024	Continued
Technician Level Program	Self-Study Submission & Review	Site Visit Conducted	CAAHEP Accreditation Awarded 2023	Status Applied and or Awarded
Century College	Spring 2023	October 2023	July 2024	Continued
St. Petersburg College				Inactive Status Awarded for 2 years. Set to expire in January 2025 unless reactive program

Clinical/Residency Accreditation Services at a Glance 2024

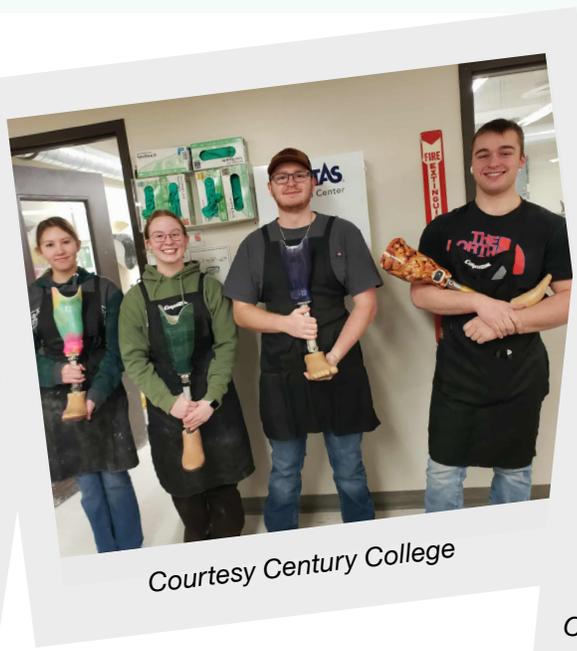
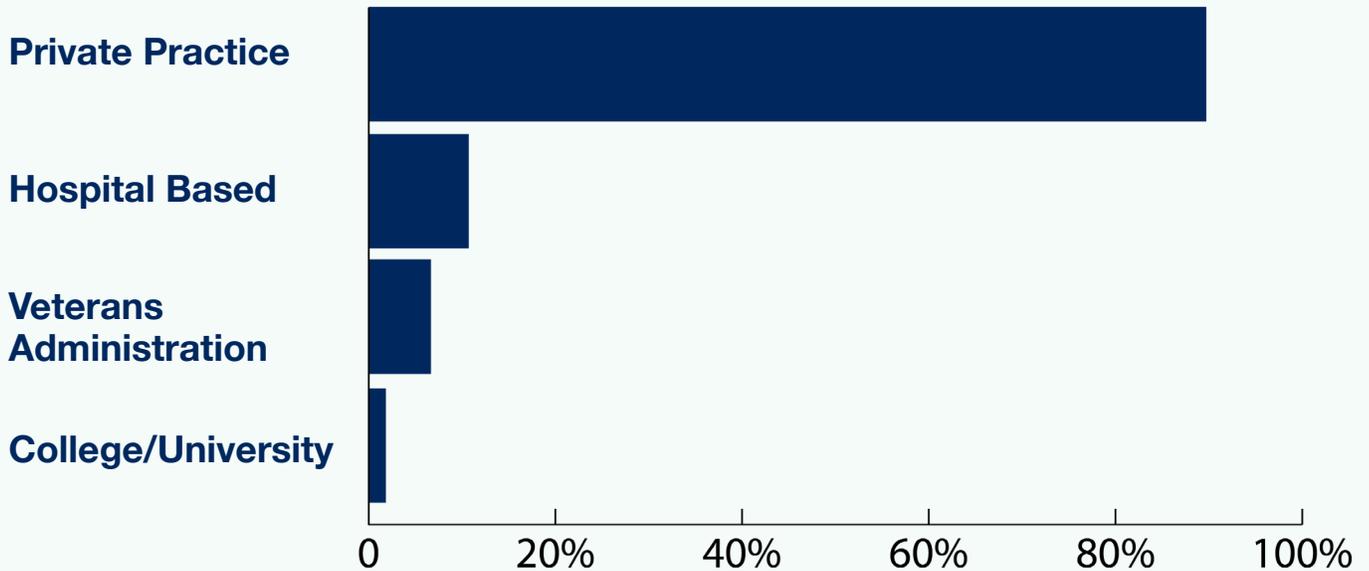
During 2024, NCOPE performed the following accreditation services:

Residency Sites Information:

Applications reviewed and accredited: **184**

Total Number of accredited programs in 2024: **494**

Organizational Type



Resident Information Data



Program Type for 2024 Residents

- Prosthetic Single Discipline 37%
- Orthotic Single Discipline 33%
- O&P 30%



Courtesy of East Tennessee State University



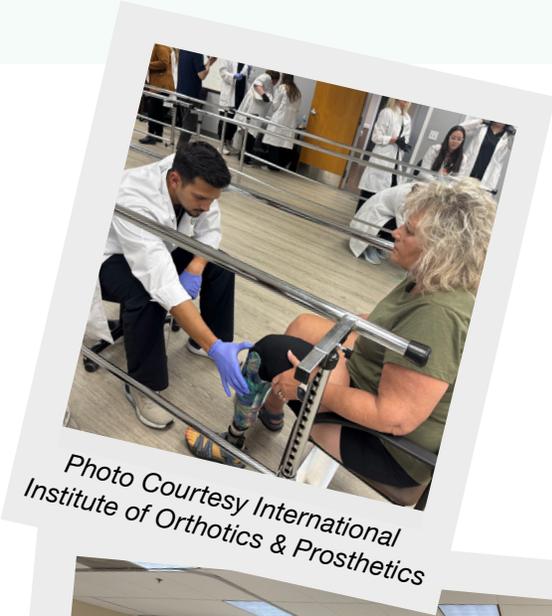
Courtesy of Concordia University - St. Paul/Century College

Resident Information Data

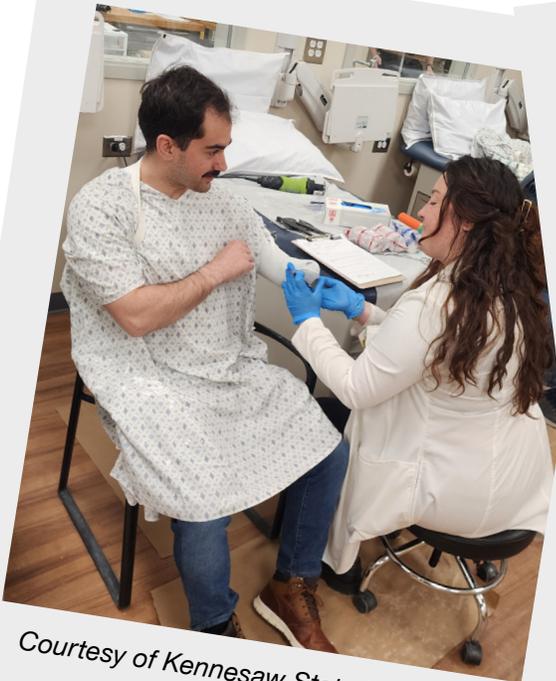
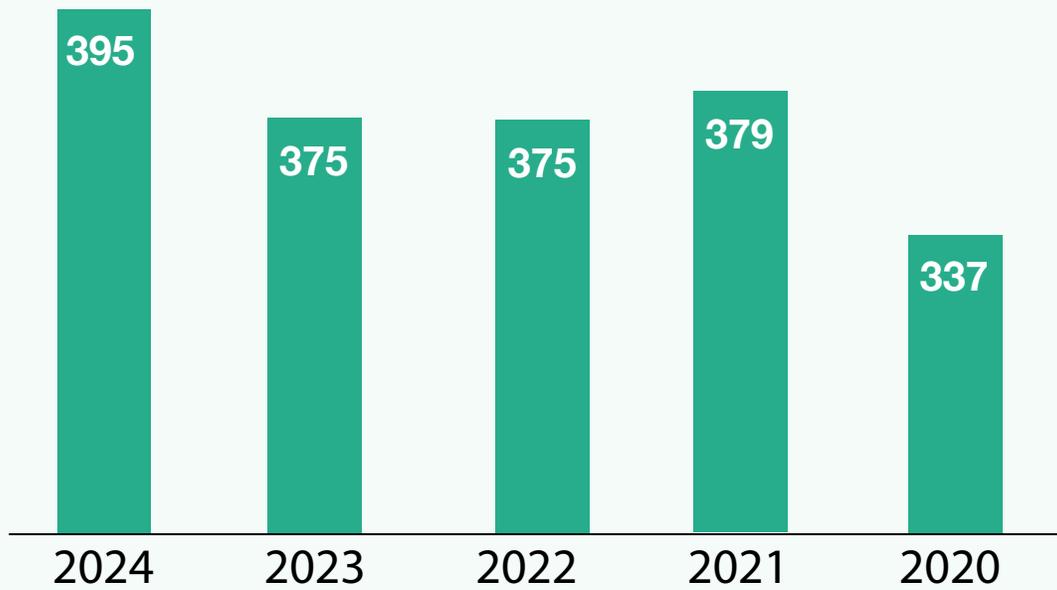


Program Track for 2024 Completed Residents

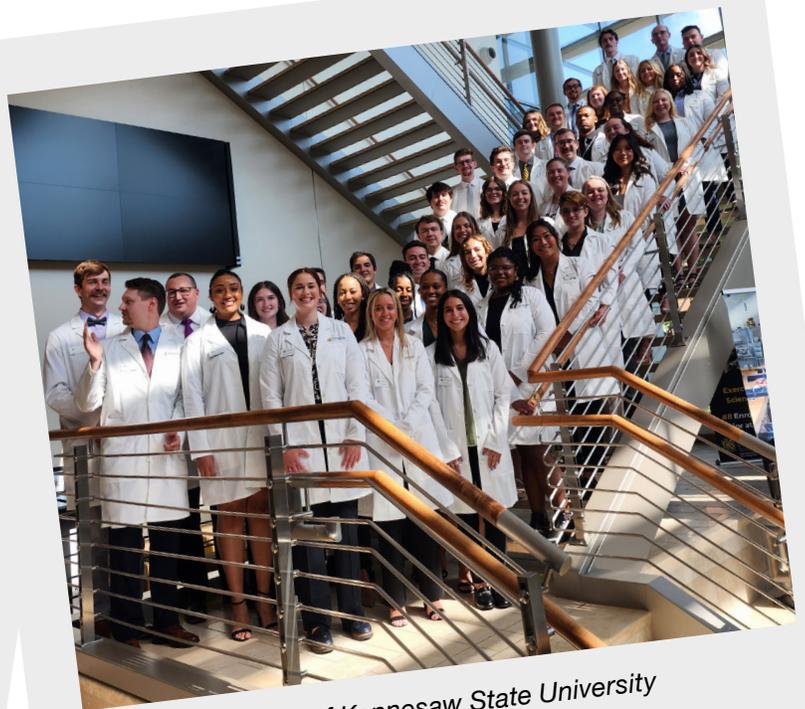
- Clinical Track 89%
- Research Track 11%



Five Year Trend of Completed Residents



Courtesy of Kennesaw State University



Courtesy of Kennesaw State University

NCOPE's Continued Outreach/Impact to the O&P Community

	Prospective Students	Current Students	Faculty	Residents	Directors/ Mentors
Online Courses ^{a,b}			✓		✓
Supervision Credits ^b			✓		✓
NCOPE Tracker				✓	✓
Exhibiting at Academy/ AOPA		✓	✓	✓	✓
Workshops at Academy/ AOPA ^c			✓	✓	✓
Networking Sessions at Academy/AOPA ^d				✓	✓
Employer Meet & Greet - Technician level		✓	✓		
Resident Fair		✓		✓	
Health Professions Week	✓				
Noteworthy Newsletter				✓	✓
Technician Newsletter		✓	✓		
OPRESCAS ^e		✓		✓	
Policy Forum ^f		✓			
Travel Awards ^g				✓	

^a Site-visitor training, Approved Clinical Mentor (ACM)

^b ABC Category 2 credits submission by NCOPE monthly

^c TOPER or Specific subject

^d Breakfast, lunch, or social events

^e Pays for the first 4 applications

^f NCOPE funds 50% of student travel/housing, rest is funded by sister organization contributions

^g Larry Lange and NCOPE Travel Award

Financial Report

I am pleased to report that NCOPE remains in a strong financial position. For Fiscal Year 2024, NCOPE received a clean audit with no findings, affirming our commitment to sound financial stewardship and transparency. Our audit was conducted by an independent accounting firm and reviewed by our Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

NCOPE continues to maintain appropriate reserves and a balanced budget while supporting strategic initiatives in education, accreditation, and workforce development. Income was driven by residency applications and registration fees, as well as clinical and academic accreditation services. Investments were monitored closely throughout the year, and we maintained conservative financial practices considering market volatility.

Expenses were consistent with expectations and aligned with organizational goals, including increased investments in accreditation development and technological platforms to support program delivery and tracking.

As we look ahead, NCOPE remains committed to maintaining financial responsibility while investing in meaningful initiatives to support the orthotic and prosthetic profession.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO
Treasurer

Revenue and Expense Breakdown for 2024

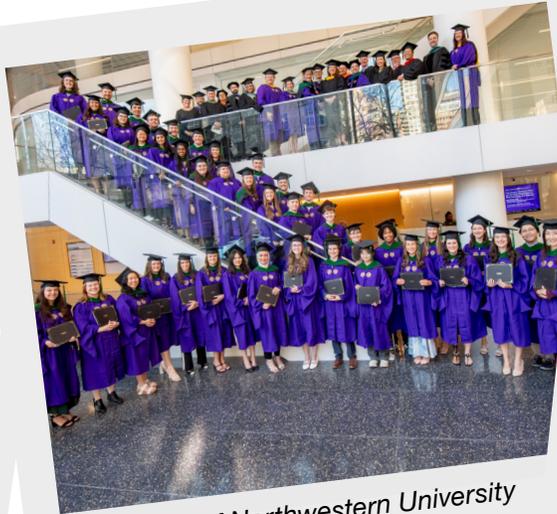


Revenue Sources:

- Resident Fees 68%
- Residency Applications 9%
- Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments 9%
- Interest, Dividends 9%
- School Accreditation Fees 3%
- Contributions 1%
- Other Program Fees 1%



Courtesy of Northwestern University



Courtesy of Northwestern University



Courtesy of University of Pittsburgh

Revenue and Expense Breakdown for 2024



Expense Categories

- Clinical Services 58%
- Academic Services 33%
- Governance - Administration 9%
- Fundraising 0%



Courtesy of University of Hartford



Courtesy of University of Hartford



Courtesy of University of Texas Southwestern



Courtesy of University of Texas Southwestern

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2024 and 2023

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$942,299	\$1,000,638
Investments	2,992,134	2,429,509
Accounts Receivable	8,955	3,688
Prepaid Expenses	11,125	10,574
Total Current Assets	\$3,954,513	\$3,444,409
Fixed Assets:		
Fixed Assets - Net	41,282	47,021
Other Assets:		
Deposits	3,550	2,500
Total Assets	\$3,999,345	\$3,493,930
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$13,598	\$47,968
Grant Payable	\$30,000	60,000
Accrued Leave & Salary	37,686	33,084
Due to Affiliate	101,837	102,014
Deferred Revenues (including long-term)	691,003	577,300
Total Liabilities	\$874,124	\$820,366
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$3,125,221	\$2,673,564
Restrictions	-	-
Total Net Assets	\$3,125,221	\$2,673,564
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,999,345	\$3,493,930

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Statement of Activities Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

Revenues and Other Support	2024	2023
Contributions	\$19,000	\$ 20,039
Program Fees:		
– Residency Fees	1,047,762	936,900
– Site Application Fees	142,908	118,145
– School Accreditation Fees	37,800	35,820
– Other Program Fees	16,190	17,844
Interest and Dividends - Net of Invest Fees	144,548	82,968
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(43)	32,235
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	133,813	119,614
Net Assets Released from Restrictions		
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	19,000	20,000
– Temporarily Restricted	(19,000)	(20,000)
	<u>\$1,541,978</u>	<u>\$1,363,565</u>
Expenses		
Academic Services	\$354,776	\$406,997
Clinical Services	634,298,	694,543
Governance - Administration	95,802	95,367
Fund Raising	5,445	5,227
	<u>\$1,090,321</u>	<u>\$1,202,134</u>
Changes in Net Assets	\$451,657	\$ 161,431
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$2,673,564</u>	<u>\$2,512,133</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$3,125,221</u>	<u>\$2,673,564</u>

Executive Director Report

In 2024, NCOPE advanced its mission to promote excellence in orthotic and prosthetic education through strong governance, sound financial management, and strategic collaboration.

Governance & Strategy

The Board approved the 2024 budget and welcomed new officers. A successful strategic planning session aligned our goals with the profession's evolving needs.

Accreditation and Program Oversight

NCOPE continued its vital role in accreditation, with site visits and reviews. We also managed program withdrawals and candidacy transitions, ensuring that all actions aligned with CAAHEP standards and timelines.

Collaborative Initiatives and Standards Development

Our partnership with ABC remained strong, with joint executive committee meetings addressing the implementation of new standards and examination reforms. These discussions are critical to maintaining alignment across credentialing and educational bodies.

Staff and Operational Highlights

NCOPE staff demonstrated exceptional dedication throughout the year. Notably, the planning and execution of the 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting received high praise for its professionalism and impact. Internal performance reviews highlighted areas of excellence and opportunities for growth, reinforcing our culture of continuous improvement.

Looking Ahead

We will continue to support our accredited programs, engage with stakeholders, and adapt to the changing landscape of healthcare education.



Robin C. Seabrook
Executive Director

2024 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Mark D. Clary, CPO, FAAOP

Chair

Susan Ewers Spaulding, MS, CPO, FAAOP

Immediate Past-Chair

Michael P. Madden, CPO, FAAOP

Vice-Chair

Resigned during 2024; position remained vacant for the remainder of the year.

Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO

Treasurer

Jonas Ljung, MSPO, CPO

Secretary

Directors

Erin Ruxton, CPO

Edward Strachan, CPO

Rebecca Spragg, CPO

Heidi Truman, CPO

Stacy Pommer, LMSW, *Public Member*

J. Megan Sions, PhD, DPT, PT, *Public Member*

Robin C. Seabrook, *Executive Director – ex-officio*

NCOPE Staff

Robin C. Seabrook, *Executive Director*

Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D), *Clinical Resource Director*

Claire Doyle, *Residency Program Services Coordinator*

Eric Watters, *Resident Program Services & Accreditation Assistant*

Active Committee Roster for 2024

Governance

Executive Committee

Mark Clary, CPO, FAAOP, *Chair*

Susan E. Spaulding, MS, CPO, FAAOP

Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO

Robin C. Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

Finance Committee

Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO, *Chair*

Mark D. Clary, CPO, FAAOP

Erin Ruxton, CPO

Sue Spaulding, CPO(L), FAAOP

Robin C. Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

Nominations Committee

Susan E. Spaulding, MS, CPO, FAAOP, *Chair*

Thomas Karolewski, CP(L), FAAOP(D)

Walter Afable, CP(RET)

Charles Kuffel, CPO, FAAOP

Arlene Gillis, CP(L). FAAOP

Data Management and Analytics Committee

Erin Ruxton, CPO – *Chair*

Kevin Hagemeyer, CPO

Ashley Harris Mullen, CPO

J. Chad Duncan, PhD, CPO

J. Megan Sions, PhD, DPT, PT

Gerald E. Stark, Jr., PhD., CPO, FAAOP(D)

Renee Van Veld, PhD

Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D)
– *Staff Liaison*

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee & NCOPE Diversity Award Committee

Jonas Ljung, MSPO, CPO, *Chair*
Stacey Brown, Former Resident
Sydney Ezell, CPO
Lauren Levey, CPO
Edward Strachan, CPO, *Board Liaison*
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*
Robin Seabrook - *Staff Liaison*

Workforce Study Committee

Susan E. Spaulding, MS, CPO, FAAOP, *Chair*
Taffy Bowman, CPO, FAAOP
Michael Carroll, CPO, FAAOP
Tim Fair, CPO
Jeff Gerber
Eddy Gosschalk, CPO
Nathan Kapa, CP
Brad Mattear, CPA, CFo
Rebecca Spragg, CPO
Heidi Truman, CPO
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

Academic Education

Accreditation Committee

Wendy Beattie, CPO, FAAOP – *Chair*
Susan E. Spaulding, MS, CPO, FAAOP, *Co-Chair*
Jennifer L. Block, CPO
Michael Cavanaugh, CPO
Tim Fair, CPO
Matthew A. Parente, CPO, FAAOP(D)
LaCheeta McPherson, PhD
Rebecca Spragg, CPO
Tamara Treanore, CO
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

Clinical Education

Larry Lange Travel Fellowship Award Selection Committee

William Barringer, CO – *Chair*
Tyler Klenow, CPO, FAAOP
Erin Ruxton, CPO
Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO
Catherine Carter, ABC Executive Director
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*
Eric Watters – *Staff Liaison*

Residency Review Committee (RRC)

Charles W. Kuffel, MSM, CPO, FAAOP
Stephanie D. Langdon, CPO, FAAOP(D)
Thomas Karolewski, CP(L), FAAOP(D)
Heidi Truman, CPO
Jennifer Richards, CPO
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

Regional Residency Liaison (RRL)

Michael Carroll, CPO (Region 1) – *Chair*
Gila Tzipora Baer, CPO (Region 2)
Sarah Caragian, CPO (Region 3)
Morgan Brace, CPO (Region 4)
Colleen Clark, CPO (Region 5)
Sydney Ezell, CPO (Region 6)
Alexis Heikkila, CPO (Region 7)
Rochelle Groves, CPO (Region 8)
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

Clinical/Residency Standards Committee

Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO – *Chair*
Michael Carroll, CPO
Megan Christ, CPO
Mark Clary, CPO, FAAOP
Bria Collins, CPO
Nathan Kapa, CP
Jonas Ljung, MSPO, CPO
Ashley Harris Mullen, CPO
Stacy Pommer, LMSW
Erin Ruxton, CPO
Rebecca Spragg, CPO
Heidi Truman, CPO
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC,
FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

*Resident/Student Activities Committee
& Specialist*

Jonas Ljung, CPO, *Chair*
Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO
Bria Collins CPO – *Communications Specialist*
Ruthie Dearing – *Communications Specialist*
Abby Senczyszyn, CPO – *Project Manager*
Resident Fair
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC,
FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*



Courtesy of University of Washington



Courtesy of University of Washington

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

VISION

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

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.



NCOPE • 330 John Carlyle St., Ste. 200 • Alexandria, VA 22314
703-836-7114 • NCOPE.org

NCOPE is a nonprofit national organization that works in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Accreditation Programs (CAAHEP) in accreditation activities for educational programs for the orthotics and prosthetics profession. NCOPE also accredits residency programs.