

## **Title: Certified Orthotics and Prosthetics Technician**

### **Job description**

Prosthetists and orthotists assess patient needs and physical abilities; design, fabricate, fit, evaluate and repair prosthetic devices (artificial limbs) and orthotic devices (braces and supports) or supervise these activities; and provide related advice.

### **As a certified orthotics and prosthetics technician you will:**

- Fabricate and fit of Orthotics and prosthetics
- Provide the required training for the patient.
- Assess the clinical/ physical needs of the patient, including joint range of motion, strength, and gait assessment.
- Diagnose conditions and develop treatment plan to restore movement, reduce pain or improve mobility
- Attend clinics, rounds and conferences.
- K records by entering data into patient's paper and electronic file.
- Communicate by conversation, correspondence, email, telephone with referring physicians and/or other health professionals re: findings and recommendations.
- Provide information needed for patient to get funding from third party payers. Ensure that technician has all needed information to fabricate the device.
- Keep up-to-date with "evidence based" practice including new materials and procedures through journals, electronic media and correspondence with peers.
- Educate students and support personnel.

### **Work environment**

Orthotics and prosthetics work in a variety of settings:

- Private practice
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Specialty clinics and home health settings
- Nursing homes

### **Education**

Most provincial funding agencies require prosthetics and orthotics to be certified by the [Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists \(CBCPO\)](#). Certification requires successful completion of:

- An accredited clinical prosthetic and orthotic program.
- A 96 week internship under the supervision of a certified prosthetist or orthotist.
- A national certification exam for prosthetics **or** orthotics.

To qualify to take the examination for the second discipline (prosthetics or orthotics), those who are certified in a first discipline must complete a further 96 weeks of practical experience and internship in the second area of specialty.

### **Required High School Courses:**

- Physical Education
- Physics
- Biology
- Math
- English
- Chemistry

### **Personal characteristics and skills**

Prosthetists and orthotists need the following characteristics:

- the ability to work with a variety of people including clients, physicians, physiotherapists, nurses and technicians
- patience, empathy and the ability to motivate and encourage people
- strong analytical and problem solving skills
- time management and organizational skills
- good oral and written communication skills
- the ability to concentrate and pay close attention to details
- manual dexterity
- mechanical aptitude

They should also enjoy:

- working with people and directing the activities of others
- working with tools, instruments and machinery at tasks requiring precision
- analyzing biomechanical scenarios and using ingenuity solving problems

### **Employment and earning potential**

- [Working in Canada](#)
- Capital Health \$ 61,062 – 67,256 per year

### **More Information**

- [Canadian Association for Prosthetics and Orthotics](#)
- [The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association \(AOPA\)](#)
- [O&P online community](#)
- [The Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics](#)
- [Amputee Coalition](#)
- [Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists](#)
- [Pedorthic Association of Canada](#)
- [The College of Pedorthics of Canada](#)
- [The War Amps](#)