POP
whatispop.org

Prosthetic, orthotic and pedorthic devices—or POP—help people move better.

A career in POP is full of purpose, opportunity and potential.

It's a career that provides a unique blend of science, technology, art and helping people. Depending on your interests, educational background and credentials, your career can focus on research and development, design, fabrication, manufacturing, education, or patient care.

To become a certified prosthetist and/or orthotist you'll need a master's degree in orthotics and prosthetics from an accredited program. Programs vary in length—generally a degree can be completed in two years.

Kickstart your POP career by planning what you will study in college to position yourself for admissions.

POP professionals come from different academic backgrounds. While many are engineering or life science majors, some POP professionals have undergraduate degrees in the social sciences or non-science fields before choosing to pursue a master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics.

Admissions requirements to master's programs vary by program. There is often a minimum GPA requirement and programs usually require applicants to have taken the following undergraduate level courses:

- Biology/Life Sciences
- Chemistry
- Human Anatomy
- Physics
- Psychology
- Statistics

POP professionals change lives.

They help people live a life with more opportunity and more purpose.

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Life in a Prosthetics and Orthotics Program

It's never boring! Getting a master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics doesn't just mean sitting in a classroom all day. Programs include hands-on clinical instruction; creating, fabricating and fitting devices; conducting original research; and working directly with people in the community through service projects. The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics, the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, and the Orthotics and Prosthetics Foundation for Education and Research have several scholarships and awards to students studying orthotics and prosthetics.

After Graduation

To become a board-certified prosthetist and/or orthotist and provide patient care, a clinical residency is also required. A clinical residency provides real-world learning experiences and is a paid position. Following residency, POP professionals can work in clinics, hospitals, universities or in tech or device companies. The demand for certified prosthetists and orthotists is expected to grow by 17% in the next 10 years. Learn More:

- American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics at ABCOP.org
- American Academy of Orthotics and Prosthetics at OandP.org
- National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education at NCOPE.org

Learn more

POP