

ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC PROGRAMS

SPOKANE FALLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Inside This Issue

Demand Growing for Orthotic and Prosthetic Technicians	1
Continuing Education Courses	2
Practicums	3
Our Lab	3
Demand (continued)	4
Students in the Lab	4

DEMAND FOR ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC TECHNICIANS IS GROWING

DEMAND

In the decade of 2018-2028, the Medical Appliance Technician occupation category (which includes O&P Technicians as well as other occupations) is projected to grow “much faster than average” (11% increase or higher) with projections of 2,200 job openings. This data is according to O*NET, the nation's primary source of occupational information.

Growth and job openings source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018-2028 employment projections. Projected growth represents the estimated change in total employment over the projections period (2018-2028). Projected job openings represent openings due to growth and replacement.

Medical Appliance Technicians are identified as a “Bright Outlook” occupation; a trend that is occurring across the United States. Every Bright Outlook occupation matches at least one of the following criteria:

- Projected to **grow faster than average** (employment increase of 7% or more) over the period 2018-2028
- Projected to **have 100,000 or more job openings** over the period 2018-2028

If you are curious about employment and salary trends by state, check out the O*NET website to learn more (<https://www.onetonline.org/>).

SFCC

As the only O&P Technology Program in the western United States, Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC) is well positioned to help meet the increasing demand for technicians. Our program has been educating and training technicians for over 30 years and placing graduates in employment across the country and internationally. The O&P Technology Program at SFCC can accommodate 32 students and offers admission to the program in the fall and winter quarters.

Training for each discipline (orthotics or prosthetics) includes three quarters of study and lab work, plus a five-week clinical practicum with an O&P practice at the end of each academic year. The five-week practicum gives students hands-on experience in real-world environments and offers the possibility of landing a work position with the practice. Students can earn a one-year certificate for either discipline, or an associate in applied science (AAS) degree upon completion of both disciplines (two years). Upon completion of the academic studies, graduates are immediately eligible to take the national technician certification exams. SFCC is proud to note that our graduates quickly find employment positions with O&P practices, hospitals, and central fabrication businesses.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

SFCC also offers significant services and resources to engage and support our students from start to finish. These services and resources include assistance navigating the enrollment and financial aid processes, access to the campus fitness center and recreation center, a food bank, a bus pass to use anywhere Spokane Transit Authority goes, the O&P Club, and job search support. Vital to the educational mission at SFCC, is the overall success of each student...completing the required academic studies and enjoying life!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

As we all continue to suffer-through the “stay home/save lives” COVID virus outbreak, we do continue to plan and prepare for presentation of the ongoing continuing education (CE) courses offered each year for CPOs, assistants, fitters, pedorthists, and technicians. Because of the virus, the CE courses that were scheduled to be offered during springtime 2020 have all been rescheduled this fall with registration beginning in late August.

See **DEMAND**, Page 4



2020 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Offered by the O&P Technology Programs
Spokane Falls Community College

INTRO TO FABRICATING WITH HIGH CONSISTENCY SILICONE RUBBER

Friday, October 2, 2020

Registration Fee: Early \$295 until September 6; Late \$370 September 7 – September 29, 2020 (refreshments, lunch, parking pass)

HCR silicone rubber is a versatile material that is inert, very flexible, and suitable for prosthetic use. Available as a two-part system, this compound is mixed with the help of a two-roll mill and baked at a low temperature to achieve cured, durable rubber in several compatible formulations that produce different finished firmness. Add new power to your problem-solving capabilities with these adaptable, elastic, ultra-strong materials making liners, partial feet, and hand and finger appliances. All attendees will have the opportunity to make a silicone liner during the hands-on lab.

This course has been approved for 8 CEU credits ABC; 9.25 CEU credits BOC; 6 MCE credits OPC.

TECHNICIANS and CAD/CAM: Who, What, When, Whatever!

Friday, October 23, 2020

Registration Fee: Early \$245 until September 30; Late \$320 October 1 – October 21, 2020 (refreshments, lunch, parking pass)

A one-day continuing education course for O&P technicians focusing on their role and involvement with the CAD processes in a central fab or clinical practice. The one-day CE course will include 4-hours of education on prosthetic CAD processes and 4-hours on orthotic CAD processes establishing the role of the technician in the workflow. Each presentation will include descriptions of the entire CAD/CAM workflow and the extent of the tech's involvement and role. Demonstrations of vacuum forming and laminating over the foam models will be presented with time for questions and answers throughout the day.

This course is approved for 9 CEU credits ABC; 10 CEU credits BOC; 6 MCE credits OPC.

PEDORTHIC BOOT CAMP

Friday and Saturday November 20 - 21, 2020

Registration Fee: Early \$350 until October 31 or \$250 each for 2 or more from same practice; Late \$425 November 1 – November 18 (refreshments, lunch, parking pass)

This hands-on course will provide practitioners and participants with additional techniques and knowledge in the areas of clinical Pedorthic evaluation, general foot and ankle biomechanics, diagnoses specific orthotic modification, extrinsic posting, advanced shoe modification, and casting techniques. The course objective is to provide practical skills and knowledge that can be directly applied in the field by attending practitioners. Participants are required to bring a pair of old athletic shoes that will be used for the modification aspect of the course. **This course has been approved for 12.5 CEU credits ABC; 14 CEU credits BOC; 12 MCE credits OPC.**

ORTHOTIC FITTER Pre-Cert/CE Course

SFCC Campus Online begins 09/28/20; Ends 10/26/20

Lab October 30 – 31, 2020

Registration Fee: Early \$475 until August 31; Late \$ 525.00 September 1 – September 23 (refreshments, lunch, parking pass)

An orthotic fitter is an allied health professional specifically educated and trained in the provision of certain orthoses. This includes fitting, adjusting, or modifying devices that reflect the level of education and training received. This is a hybrid course with 25-hours online didactic and a 16-hour in-class fitting lab conducted in Spokane, Washington on October 30th and 31st, 2020. This course is intended as the pre-certification course required by the ABC and BOC and as a refresher course for experienced orthotic fitters. **This course has been approved for 32 Category II credits ABC; 40.25 CEUs (37.25 Scientific and 3 Business) BOC.**

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

ruthie.dearing@sfcc.spokane.edu (509) 533-3231

TECHNICAL PRACTICUMS FOR STUDENT O&P TECHNICIANS

Spokane Falls Community College offers the only orthotics-prosthetics technician program in the western U.S. with offices, classrooms, and a 9,000 square-foot lab in the Technical Arts Building at SFCC.

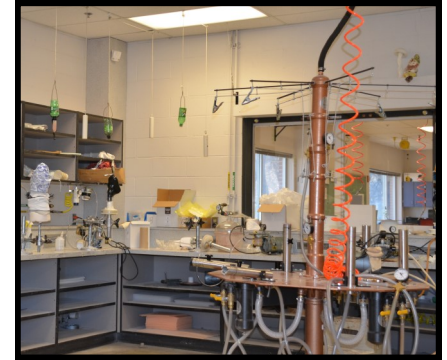
Training for each discipline (orthotics or prosthetics) includes three quarters of study and lab work in the O&P Lab on the SFCC campus. In addition, a five-week technical practicum is required at the end of each academic year. A student may choose a one-year certificate for either discipline or an associate in applied science (AAS) degree awarded upon completion of both disciplines (two years). To complete the program requirements, students take a variety of courses including English, math, and career preparation.

Students in the orthotics program take courses in the use of power and hand tools, materials, and human anatomy. They develop skills in fabricating lower limb orthoses, spinal orthoses, and upper extremity orthoses. In the fourth quarter, students complete a required 5-week practicum under the direct supervision of a credentialed technician or practitioner. Students in the prosthetics program also learn the proper use of hand and power tools and materials while taking courses in human anatomy, below knee and above-knee prosthetics, and below-elbow and above-elbow prosthetics. After completion of the academic studies, students complete a 5-week practicum in prosthetics. In both fields, many of the technical practicums take place outside the Spokane area and each student if required to identify and make arrangements for the practicum.

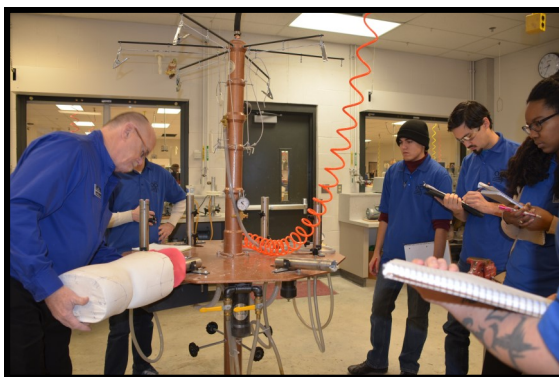
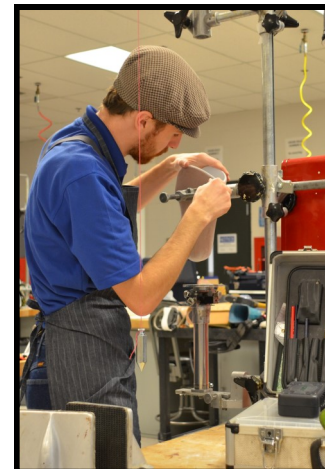
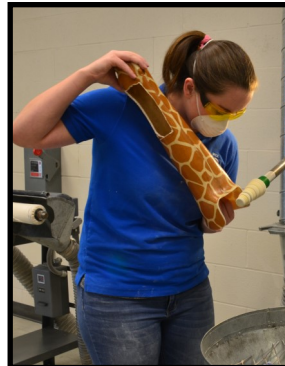
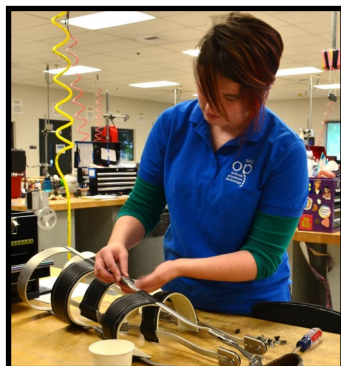
As noted, students must complete a 5-week technical practicum under the direct or indirect supervision of a credentialed technician or practitioner in either orthotics or prosthetics. For the practicum, students are required to purchase liability insurance and must comply with facility requirements that the sponsoring practice requires as a condition of acceptance. The practicum offers students an introduction to the real-life work environment and provides exposure to other fabrication techniques in a workplace environment. For the practice, the employer is given the opportunity to evaluate and assess the student as a potential employee for the practice.

During the practicum, the responsibilities of the credentialed supervisor at the sponsoring practice are minimal. An agreement, signed by the student, practice employer, faculty member, and dean, states that the student agrees to hold the sponsoring practice harmless in the event of a job-related accident or injury. The agreement outlines the required terms of the practicum that are required by the sponsoring practice. At the halfway point and at the conclusion of the practicum, a PDF evaluation form is sent electronically to credentialed supervisor of the practicum experience. Once completed, the evaluation form is returned to the O&P Technology Program for consideration in determining the student's final grade for the practicum. While completing the practicum, each student is contacted on a weekly basis to review his/her progress and address any issues that may arise. The technical practicum supervisor is also contacted during the 5-week practicum period to provide feedback regarding the student's performance.

If you are interested in providing a technical practicum for an O&P student, please let us know and a copy of the agreement will be forwarded to your practice. Thank you.



**OUR
LAB**



DEMAND

Continued from Page 1

Scheduled CE courses for fall 2020:

- Intro to Fabricating with High Consistency Silicone Rubber CE course offered on October 1st with Stefan Knauss providing instruction;
- Technicians and CAD/CAM: Who, What, When, Whatever! offered on Friday, October 23^d with Chad Eberhart and Celeste Stebe providing instruction;
- Pedorthic Boot Camp, taught by Jason Cavegn, will be offered on November 20th and 21st.

For more information about the CE courses, check the Continuing Education Opportunities Section listed at the bottom of the opening page on the website. The website link: <http://www.spokanefalls.edu/TechProf/OrthoticsProsthetics/Home.aspx?page=PV2&subpage=SPV5>

SPokane AREA

During those hours off and away from school, there is not a better place for some downtime than Spokane. Often referred to as a small-town city, Spokane is blessed with a unique combination of outrageous outdoor scenery and activities, incredible arts and music, a dynamic restaurant and brewery scene, and affordable living. Whatever you enjoy doing, it is probably available in Spokane and the surrounding area! Check out <https://www.visitspokane.com/>.

Spokane Falls Community College is dedicated to educating and training O&P Technicians. If you are in the O&P industry, we encourage you to offer a technical practicum in either orthotics or prosthetics for students completing the academic portion of their O&P education. The technical practicum provides a unique opportunity to meet, work with and evaluate a potential new employee for your practice. And, if you know someone interested in exploring the role of an O&P technician, please encourage them to contact us about our O&P Program.

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