

**Orthotics & Prosthetics
Pre-Professional Program
2025-2026**

Nature of Work: Orthotists and Prosthetists, also called O&P professionals, may work in both orthotics and prosthetics, or they may choose to specialize in one. Orthotists are specifically trained to work with medical supportive devices, such as braces and inserts. Prosthetists are specifically trained to work with prostheses, such as artificial limbs and other body parts. An O&P professional may work in small, private offices, hospitals, federal government, and medical equipment and supplies manufacturing companies.

Professional Training: Orthotists and prosthetists need at least a master's degree in orthotics and a one-year residency before they can be certified.

Job Outlook: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), "Employment of orthotists and prosthetists is projected to grow 17 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 1,000 openings for orthotists and prosthetists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. The large baby-boom population is aging, and orthotists and prosthetists will be needed because both diabetes and cardiovascular disease, two leading causes of limb loss, are more common among older people." The demand for orthotic devices, including braces and orthopedic footwear, is also expected to increase because older people often utilize these support devices. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings: In their May 2021 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for orthotists and prosthetists as \$75,440 per year, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than \$41,730 and the highest 10 percent earning more than \$124,040. Salary will vary by work setting and region. (See www.bls.gov)

Note: Work Experience: A documented minimum of 80 work/observation hours under the supervision of a CPO practitioner are required.

**PRE-PROFESSION:
ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS**

Winter Education Complex
(509) 527-2476

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

[Pre-Profession: Orthotics & Prosthetics](#)

Faculty

Advisor
[Tom Ekkens](#)

Professional Organizations

[American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association](#)

Suggested Degree Path

Entry requirements vary according to the professional school. For admissions, most schools require that all students have completed a 4-year degree from an accredited college or university.

It is the students' responsibility to contact the school of their choice & to meet the requirements for that school.

[See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.](#)

Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
*Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 121)	4
Intro to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
General Studies	9
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
*Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 122)	4
General Psychology (PSYC 130)	4
*Intro to Statistics (MATH 106) OR Biostatistics (BIOL 250)	4
Intro to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
General Studies	1
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
*Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 123)	4
Fundamentals of Speech Comm. (SPCH 101)	4
General Studies	8
Total	16

Fall Courses	Hours
*Chemistry Option (CHEM 141 & 144)	4
Physics Option (PHYS 211 & 214 OR 201 & 204)	(4)
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
General Studies	5-9
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
*Chemistry Option (CHEM 105)	5
General Studies	11-16
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Psychology Option (PSYC 215 OR 492)	4
General Studies	12
Total	16

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only

*Individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree only require these prerequisite courses

Sophomore Year

Office of Academic Advisement

Canaday Technology Center, Room 311 • (800) 558-2132 • (509) 527-2132