

Orthotist and Prosthetist

Design, build and fit artificial limbs and braces. A degree, a rare 2-year diploma, then a 2-year paid residency. Tiny profession, steady work.

TYPICAL PAY

\$58,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$44k to \$83k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

8 to 9 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Rehab hospitals, private orthotic and prosthetic clinics, children's t...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Physics, biology, math and shop or tech classes. This job is engineering, anatomy and craftsmanship at once.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Any field, but kinesiology or a science degree with anatomy, physiology, physics, statistics and psychology is preferred.
- 3 Prosthetics and orthotics diploma** 2 years
Two programs in Canada: BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology) in Burnaby and George Brown College in Toronto. BCIT takes about 15 students every second year, only from the four western provinces, after interviews.
- 4 Residency** 2 years
A 2-year paid residency in a clinic, in prosthetics or orthotics. You find the position yourself. Residencies are overseen by Orthotics Prosthetics Canada, the national certifying body.
- 5 Certification exam** After the residency
Pass the national exam to become a CO(c) (Certified Orthotist) or CP(c) (Certified Prosthetist). Many clinicians later do a second residency to hold both.

Pros and cons

- + You literally help people walk again
- + Mix of clinic, workshop and engineering
- + Paid residency and near-certain employment
- Eight or nine years from high school to certification
- Only two schools, and one of them limits who can apply
- Job Bank pay figures look modest until you are certified

Good to know

Two schools for the whole country

Canada trains all of its orthotists and prosthetists at just two programs: BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology) in Burnaby and George Brown College in Toronto. BCIT admits a class only in eve...

West coast school, west coast students

BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology) restricts its prosthetics and orthotics program to residents of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Everyone else in Canada applies to Geo...

Optional boosts

Dual certification. Pediatrics. Clinic ownership. Digital design and 3D printing.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Prosthetist-orthotist, wages (updated Nov 2025)
BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology): Prosthetics and Orthotics diploma
Alberta ALIS: BCIT Prosthetics and Orthotics program listing

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/orthotist-prosthetist>



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