



**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
May 12, 2011  
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### **Competency Based Residency Standards Approved by NCOPE**

Alexandria, VA – The National Commission for Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) announces that its board approved the *Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation for the Orthotic/Prosthetic Residency Program* at its March 15 meeting in Orlando, Fla.

NCOPE has been committed to revising the residency standards and converting them to an outcome based model since 2008. The move to elevate the minimum education from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree provided the catalyst to review and develop new residency training standards that compliment the overall education and training that future orthotists and prosthetists will need to provide O&P services.

A few highlights of the changes to the residency program include:

- The addition of an 18-month combined O&P residency program for residency sites that choose this type of program and meet the requirements
- Required **competencies** in patient management for specific orthoses or prostheses
- The addition of clinical competency evaluations
- Required **experiences** in patient management for specific orthoses or prostheses
- A two track professional activity requirement – Clinical **or** Research & Development
- O&P facility accreditation by an accrediting organization that has a Comprehensive Orthotic and Prosthetic Patient Care Services accreditation program *and* that requires a Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredited O&P education for orthotists and prosthetists
- Residency Director must possess a formalized O&P education and degree
- Residency Director must complete the NCOPE Residency Director Online Training Course

The new standards are effective January 1, 2012 for any new program seeking accreditation as a residency program and June 1, 2012 for any currently accredited program that registers a resident on and after June 1, 2012.

For more information on the new standards and the transition of current programs, contact Robin Seabrook at [rseabrook@ncope.org](mailto:rseabrook@ncope.org).

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*The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) is the accreditation body for the orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthic professions. As such, its primary mission and obligation is to ensure educational and residency programs meet the minimum standards of quality to prepare individuals to enter the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic profession.*