



**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
July 26, 2010  
Contact: Robin Seabrook  
Tel. 703-836-7114 ext. 225  
Email: rseabrook@ncope.org

### **Master's Level Standards for O&P Approved by CAAHEP**

Alexandria, VA – The National Commission for Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) is pleased to announce that the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) approved the revised *Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation of Educational Programs in Orthotics and Prosthetics* at its July 23 meeting in New Orleans, La.

NCOPE has been fully committed to revising the standards and bringing the minimum education level for the orthotic and prosthetic profession to a master's degree since its April 2005 Education Summit meeting. NCOPE worked closely with education consultants and educators during this five year project. NCOPE also acknowledges the generous support and funding from the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists through its Department of Education grant monies.

This extensive process included:

- The creation of new level master's curriculum
- Public comment by the O&P communities on the master's level draft curriculum
- Draft approval by sponsors, the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics (ABC) and the Academy
- Announcement and posting of revised draft standards on CAAHEP web site
- Open hearing for public and written comments

According to Robin Seabrook, NCOPE Executive Director, "NCOPE is very proud of the CAAHEP acceptance of the revised standards for the master's level O&P curriculum. Educators and those in the profession have long felt that this is a much needed move and a positive step in the evolution of this profession."

The new standards are effective immediately for any new programs seeking accreditation and all currently accredited programs will transition to the new standards by the end of 2012. Certificate

level programs may continue to enroll and graduate students that are extending their education to the other discipline until the end of 2014.

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

###

*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.*