

Accreditation. System and process of reviewing programs against certain quality standards for purposes of credentialing the program.

Assistant. An individual that supports the certified practitioner by assisting in orthotic and prosthetic patient care. Under the guidance and supervision of the certified practitioner, the assistant may perform orthotic and prosthetic procedures and related tasks in the management of patients. The assistant also fabricates, repairs and maintains devices to provide maximum fit, function and cosmesis.

Audiences. Individuals, groups, and agencies who have an interest in the evaluation receiving its results.

Body of Knowledge. Defines orthotics and prosthetics as a profession and gives it legitimacy.

Core Competencies. Core capabilities an orthotists or prosthetists must possess to be considered competent.

Criteria. Indicators of merit that delineate the characteristics of a successful program or implementation. Although sometimes implicit in the evaluation questions themselves, the criteria to be used for judging program worth should generally be made explicit.

Curriculum. In education, a **curriculum** (plural **curricula**) is all learning experiences provided by an institution such as a school or university.

Entry-level education. The minimum level of education required to pursue and participate in a profession.

Evaluation. The identification, clarification, and application of defensible criteria to determine an evaluation object's value (worth or merit), quality, utility, effectiveness, or significance in relation to those criteria.

Fitter. An individual trained and qualified to participate in the fitting and delivery of prefabricated orthotic devices and/or soft goods.

Fitter-Mastectomy. An individual trained and qualified to participate in the fitting and delivery of breast prostheses and mastectomy products and services.

Formative Evaluation. Any evaluation conducted to provide program staff with evaluative information useful in improving the program. It is most typically conducted while the program is being developed.

Goals. General aims or desired outcomes (more general than objectives).

Manpower. The number of personnel available for a task or tasks, also used when referring to such personnel as a resource (e.g. "a manpower shortage")

Master's Degree. the Master of Arts (Magister Artium) and Master of Science (Magister Scientiæ) degrees are the basic type in most subjects and may be entirely course-based, entirely research-based or a mixture. The Master's degree is intermediate between a bachelor's degree and a doctorate. In some fields, one customarily earns a masters before a doctorate.

Objectives. Specific intents. Objectives may be intended conditions, activities, processes, or results (either intermediate or ultimate results).

O&P Practitioner. An allied health professional who is specifically trained and educated to manage the provision of comprehensive orthotic and prosthetic care, based upon a clinical assessment and a physician's prescription, to restore physiological function and/or cosmesis. Comprehensive care includes patient assessment, formulation of a treatment plan, implementation of the treatment plan, follow-u[and practice management.

Paradigm. A philosophy or school of thought; a general conception of or model for a discipline or sub-discipline (Scriven 1991).

Performance. Actual observable behaviors or change in measurable variables. Performance is often compared to objectives to see whether there is a discrepancy between the two.

Research. Is an active, diligent and systematic process of inquiry in order to discover, interpret or revise facts, events, behaviors, or theories, or to make practical applications with the help of such facts, laws or theories. The term "research" is also used to describe the collection of information about a particular subject

Scope of Practice. The scope of a given activity or subject is the area or range that it covers within the practice of a profession.

Stakeholder. An individual who has a stake in or may be affected by the program to be evaluated or the evaluation's results.

Standards. Designated levels of performance the program must achieve on the criteria to be deemed a success. Standards may be absolute (e.g., specific numbers or proportions) or relative (e.g. better than a control or comparison group as demonstrated through statistical significance or effect size). Different stakeholders may have different expectations for the program and, consequently, define “success” differently. Thus, there may not be one set of standards that is the standard of performance.

Strategic Planning. An Organizational method designed to improve performance by defining the organization’s mission and constituencies and specifying organizational goals and objectives and strategies for achieving those objectives, The method is used by many public-sector organizations for long-range planning.

Summative Evaluation. Any evaluation conducted to provide program decision makers and potential consumers with judgments about that program’s worth or merit, in relation to important criteria, to determine adoption, continuation or expansion, or termination.

Technician. An individual that supports the certified practitioner by providing the technical implementation tasks and services associated with the support of patient care. The technician under practitioner supervision, fabricates, repairs and maintains devices to provide maximum fit, function and cosmesis.

Organizations:

AAOP – (the Academy) – American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

ABC – American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics

AMA – American Medical Association

AOPA – American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association

CAAHEP – Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Education

CHEA- Council for Higher Education Accreditation

EAC – Educational Accreditation Commission

ISPO – International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

NAPOE –National Association of Prosthetic and Orthotic Educators

NCOPE – National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education