

Objective of education summit: To clarify the issues involved in moving the professional education of orthotists and prosthetists from the current certificate and baccalaureate level to the master's degree level.

Assumptions:

1. The profession, as a whole, takes the responsibility of expanding/advancing the level of basic education, for entry into the professional ranks, to the master's degree. It is expected that this move will benefit the profession and the patients who receive services.
2. The current O&P education programs have the ability to and desire to transition to a master's curriculum.
3. The body of knowledge and scope of practice upon which professional practice is based has changed and expanded in the last 15 years.
4. The core competencies that support professional practice are in need of updating.
5. The master's degree, as the entry level requirement has the possibilities of attracting more students; keeping the profession on a level playing field with its fellow allied health professions; and increase the numbers of qualified practitioners, academicians and researchers.
6. The residency program will need to be revamped if it is to become a formal part of the overall master's degree program.