



OP&P Healthcare Quality Fellowship

Program Overview

The O&P Healthcare Quality Fellowship is a targeted funding initiative designed to support orthotics, prosthetics, and pedorthics (OP&P) professionals pursuing formal training and recognized credentials in healthcare quality and process improvement.

As the healthcare landscape continues to shift toward value-based care, quality measurement, and outcomes accountability, OP&P professionals must be equipped with the skills and credentials needed to lead meaningful improvement efforts. Through strategic investment in professional development, the Fellowship aims to strengthen care delivery, elevate clinical outcomes, and advance patient-centered, value-driven practice across the OP&P profession.

This program builds a growing network of OP&P leaders prepared to champion quality, efficiency, and innovation within clinical practice, education, research, and healthcare systems.

Fellowship Awards

The OP&P Healthcare Quality Fellowship offers two funding tracks:

Professional Credential Award – Up to \$2000

Supports OP&P professionals pursuing recognized credentials in healthcare quality or process improvement, such as quality management, patient safety, Lean Six Sigma, or related methodologies.

Award funds may be used for:

- Tuition/enrollment fees
- Required program materials
- Credentialing or examination fees

Examples of eligible Credentials

NHRQ- National Association for Healthcare Quality

HQ Principles- Eight-hour, certificate program. Gain fundamental knowledge of healthcare quality through this online, self-paced program. *HQ Principles: Across the Continuum* is appropriate for those new to healthcare quality, or anyone seeking to refresh and improve their understanding of basic healthcare quality concepts.



CPHQ Certification- The CPHQ is a certification and validation of knowledge and competency against the industry-standard for delivering excellence in healthcare Quality & Safety. The only accredited certification in healthcare Quality.

CPHQ Prep Package- this is the package that Joint Commission Surveyors are using to prepare for the exam. We also have current CPHQ's use these materials as refresher and the book is often seen as a desk reference for many quality tools.

ASQ - American Society for Quality

CQIA- The Certified Quality Improvement Associate (CQIA) is ideal for professionals who support quality improvement projects but do not necessarily come from a traditional quality role. This certification demonstrates your foundational knowledge of quality tools, methods, and teamwork.

CMQ/OE- The Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence Certification is a professional who leads and champions process-improvement initiatives - everywhere from small businesses to multinational corporations - that can have regional or global focus in a variety of service and industrial settings.

CSSYB- The Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certification will be aimed at those new to the world of Six Sigma who have a small role, interest, or need to develop foundational knowledge. Yellow belts can be entry level employees that seek to improve their world or executive champions who require an overview of Six Sigma and DMAIC. This certification will adopt the approach of advancing the concept and potential of using Six Sigma tools and methodologies within an organization

CSSGB-The Six Sigma Green Belt operates in support of or under the supervision of a Six Sigma Black Belt, analyzes and solves quality problems and is involved in quality improvement projects. A Green Belt is someone with at least three years of work experience who wants to demonstrate his or her knowledge of Six Sigma tools and processes.

CSSBB- The Certified Six Sigma Black Belt is a professional who can explain Six Sigma philosophies and principles, including supporting systems and tools. A Black Belt should demonstrate team leadership, understand team dynamics and assign team member roles and responsibilities. Black Belts have a thorough understanding of all aspects of the DMAIC model in accordance with Six Sigma principles. They have basic knowledge of Lean enterprise concepts, are able to identify non-value-added elements and activities and are able to use specific tools.

Certificate or Graduate-Level Program Award – \$5,000

Supports enrollment in an accredited certificate or graduate-level program focused on healthcare quality, quality improvement, outcomes research, patient safety, or healthcare systems improvement.



The Award funds must be used for qualified educational expenses:

Some Examples of Eligible Certificates and Degree Programs:

Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety Certificate, Northwestern University

HealthCare Quality and Safety Certificate, Sam Houston State University

Healthcare Quality and Safety Certificate, Thomas Jefferson University

Safety, Quality, Informatics and Leadership Certificate, Harvard Medical School

Quality, Patient Safety and Outcomes Research Certificate, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Healthcare Quality Improvement Certificate, The University of Tennessee

Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Quality, George Washington University

MS in Health Sciences in Health Care Quality, George Washington University

Master's in clinical quality safety and leadership, Georgetown University

Masters of Applied Science in Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Award funds must be used for qualified educational expenses such as tuition, mandatory fees, and required books or materials necessary for enrollment in an eligible academic program at an accredited educational institution

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be an OP&P professional (orthotist, prosthetist, pedorthist, technician, researcher, educator, or administrator)
- Be in good standing if credentialed
- Demonstrate active and/or desired engagement and leadership potential in healthcare quality and/or improvement efforts
- Be pursuing or planning formal training or credentials in healthcare quality or process improvement
- Be eligible to enroll in the proposed credentialing, certificate, or graduate-level program



Application Materials

Applicants must submit the following through The O&P Foundation Application Portal:

1. Statement of Intent (500 words max)

- Describe professional goals and interest in healthcare quality and improvement.
- Outline anticipated incorporation into professional activities and potential impact on OP&P patient care

2. Intended Use of Funds, Budget & Timeline

- Applicants must briefly describe how award funds will be used, provide a high-level budget, and outline a realistic timeline for program enrollment, completion, and key milestones. Submissions should demonstrate clear alignment with the Fellowship's goals and the applicant's professional development.

3. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)

4. One (1) Professional Letter of Recommendation

- The letter of recommendation should speak to the applicant's current role, demonstrated strengths, and potential for leadership within their organization. It should also address the applicant's capabilities in implementing healthcare quality and process improvement initiatives, including examples of measurable impact or demonstrated success.

Awardee Requirements & Post-Award Deliverables

Fellowship recipients are expected to demonstrate continued engagement through the following deliverables:

6-Month Progress Report

A brief progress update documenting enrollment status and training progress. Submissions should include proof of enrollment, relevant receipts or documentation of expenses, and a short reflection on coursework completed to date and early applications of learning to professional practice.

12-Month Progress Report

A final progress report confirming completion or status of training or certification. The report should include a reflection on lessons learned and the impact of the



Fellowship on professional practice, leadership development, or patient care. Fellows should also describe any current or planned quality or process improvement initiatives within their practice and indicate their willingness to share experiences and outcomes from these initiatives with The O&P Foundation.

Program Goals

Through this Fellowship, The O&P Foundation seeks to:

- Facilitate education and training pathways in healthcare quality and process improvement for OP&P professionals
- Develop a pipeline of leaders equipped to lead and sustain healthcare quality initiatives within OP&P practice settings
- Strengthen evidence-based, patient-centered care through the practical application of quality improvement frameworks
- Support the design and implementation of quality initiatives that advance value-based care and measurable outcomes across the OP&P profession

Submission & Key Deadlines

Applicants are responsible for ensuring all required materials are submitted through [The O&P Foundation portal](#) by the posted deadline at 5pm (CST).

Program Opens: May 5th 2026

Program Closes: June 2nd 2026

Notifications: July 2026

Questions

For questions regarding the OP&P Healthcare Quality Fellowship, please contact info@oandpfoundation.org