



## Access to Care | Workforce Development Scholarships

### Program Overview

As Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics (OP&P) clinics across the country face growing clinical staffing shortages, the Access to Care, Workforce Development Scholarships expand opportunities for emerging professionals to access high-quality education and training pathways that strengthen the pipeline of skilled clinical staff entering the profession.

Through targeted investment in workforce development, The O&P Foundation aims to improve patient access to care and support the long-term sustainability of orthotic, prosthetic, and pedorthic services. Financial support through these scholarships helps remove barriers, accelerate entry into critical clinical roles, and ensure that more patients receive timely, high-quality, evidence-based care.

### Scholarship Tracks

#### O&P Assistant Scholarships

This annual program offers (2) \$5,000\* scholarships to individuals pursuing certification as a Certified Orthotic Assistant (COA), Certified Prosthetic Assistant (CPA), or Certified Orthotic-Prosthetic Assistant (CPOA) through one of the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC) [three approved assistant pathways](#).

[Scholarship funds may be used to support:](#)

- Pre-certification educational expenses
- Academic coursework
- Stipends associated with completion of required clinical hours

#### Pedorthics Scholarships

This annual program offers (2) \$5,000\* scholarships to individuals pursuing certification as a [Certified Pedorthist \(CPed\)](#) through the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC).

[Scholarship funds support expenses associated with:](#)

- Pre-certification pedorthic education
- Training requirements from ABC-approved Pedorthic programs



- Travel expenses to attend pedorthic training

*\*These awards are treated as taxable income by the IRS and must be reported because they are not exclusively supporting qualified educational expenses*

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be actively pursuing certification as an O&P Assistant (COA, CPA, or CPOA) or Certified Pedorthist (CPed) through ABC
- Demonstrate commitment to entering or advancing within the OP&P clinical workforce

## Application Materials

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

1. Completed online application form
2. Personal statement (500 words max)
  - Describe professional goals and interest in orthotics and/or prosthetics, or pedorthics
  - Outline how the scholarship will support entry or advancement within the clinical workforce
3. Professional plan
  - Brief outline the plan/pathway for certification, anticipated timeline, and employment goals
4. Resume
5. One (1) professional letter of recommendation

## Awardee Requirements & Post-Award Deliverables

Within six (6) months of award distribution, recipients must submit:

- Proof of certification progress or completion, as applicable
- Verification of employment status or planned employment within the OP&P field
- Confirmation that funds were used for approved educational or training expenses



## 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 Access to Care | Workforce Development Scholarships, contact [info@oandpfoundation.org](mailto:info@oandpfoundation.org) or The O&P Foundation Education Committee Chair directly at [education@oandpfoundation.org](mailto:education@oandpfoundation.org).