



Elevate to Educate Scholarship Program

Overview

The Elevate to Educate Scholarship supports orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) educators and faculty pursuing advanced academic degrees to strengthen the future of the profession. By investing in educators, this program enhances training quality, supports evidence-based instruction, and ultimately improves patient outcomes.

- **Award Amount:** \$7,500 (non-renewable; option to reapply in future cycles)
- **Funding Type:** Scholarship (educational support, qualified expenses only)
- **Payment:** Direct to institution or reimbursement with documentation

Objectives

1. Strengthen the academic and clinical preparation of O&P educators
2. Increase faculty with doctoral or advanced academic credentials
3. Advance evidence-based teaching and curriculum development
4. Improve long-term workforce quality and patient care outcomes
5. Support leadership development within O&P education

Eligibility

Applicants must be

- A U.S. citizen
- A Certified Orthotist, Prosthetist, and/or Orthotist/Prosthetist in good standing
- Employed at a US-based accredited (CAAHEP/NCOPE) academic Orthotics and Prosthetics Master's Program
 - O&P educator, faculty member, program director, and/or clinical instructor
- Be currently enrolled OR accepted into an advanced academic program:
 - Doctoral (PhD, EdD, DHSc, DSc, etc.)

Application Materials

1. Application Form

- Name, credentials, certification(s)
- Institution/employer
- Current role and teaching responsibilities



- Selected/enrolled degree program details (institution, degree type, timeline)
- Data use
- Headshot, quote, media release

2. Personal Statement (750-1000 words)

Address the following:

Career Journey & Commitment to Education: Describe your career trajectory in orthotics and prosthetics (O&P), with a focus on your involvement in education, training, and mentorship.

Professional Vision & Goals: Outline your short- and long-term professional goals, including your 5-year and 10-year outlook. How do you envision your role evolving within O&P education and the broader healthcare landscape?

Program Selection & Relevance: Explain why you have chosen this specific degree or program. How is it uniquely suited to support advancements in O&P education, training, and workforce development?

Alignment with Career Goals: Describe how this degree will help you achieve your professional goals and expand your leadership, teaching, or research capabilities.

Impact on Education & Patient Care: How will this training enhance your effectiveness as an O&P educator? In what ways will your development contribute to advancing O&P education, strengthening the workforce, and ultimately improving patient care and outcomes?

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

5. Letter of Support

- Program Director, Department Chair, or Academic Supervisor

Letter should address the following:

- The applicant's current role and contributions to education and training in orthotics and prosthetics
- Your support for their continued professional and academic development
- The anticipated impact of the proposed degree on the applicant's effectiveness, as well as on your institution and the broader O&P community



6. Proof of Enrollment or Acceptance

- Acceptance letter OR current enrollment verification (transcript etc...)

7. Budget & Plan

- Tuition and total program cost
- How the funds will be used for qualified educational expenses

Allowable Use of Funds

Restricted to qualified educational expenses directly related to the recipient's enrolled academic program:

- Tuition (primary use)
- Mandatory academic fees (e.g., registration, program fees)
- Required books and instructional materials
- *Required course-specific supplies*

Non-Allowable Expenses

Funds may NOT be used for:

- Travel (including conferences, commuting, or lodging)
- Living expenses (housing, food, childcare, etc.)
- Salary support or lost wages
- Research costs or project funding
- Technology purchases (unless explicitly required by the program and documented)
- Conference registration or professional development events

Post-Award Expectations & Impact Reporting

The Elevate to Educate Scholarship is designed to support your advanced training and ensure that learning translates into meaningful improvements in orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) education, workforce development, and patient care.

- As a recipient, you are expected to maintain enrollment and good academic standing until completion of the academic program
- Submit proof of program completion
- Apply what you learn and demonstrate its impact over time.



1. Plan Your Impact (3-6 Months Post Award)

Submit a brief plan outlining:

- What you aim to gain from your academic program
- How you intend to apply this learning to:
 - Teaching methods
 - Curriculum or training experiences
 - Learner assessment or mentorship
- 2–3 specific goals for implementation

2. Show Progress (6-12 Months Post-Award)

Provide a short update on:

- What you've learned so far
- Early efforts to apply that learning
- Initial observations (e.g., student engagement, course changes)
- Any challenges and adjustments

3. Demonstrate Impact (12-18 Months Post-Award)

Highlight:

- Changes you've implemented in your educational practice
- Early outcomes (e.g., learner performance, feedback, engagement)
- A brief example of impact on a student, cohort, or program

4. Final Impact Summary (At Program Completion)

Submit a final report summarizing:

- Key changes made to your teaching or program
- Measurable or observed outcomes
- Broader contributions to O&P education and workforce development
- How your training enhances patient care through improved education

Examples include:

- Implementing new evidence-based teaching strategies
- Developing or revising curriculum or coursework
- Improving student competency, engagement, or outcomes



- Enhancing clinical training experiences
- Sharing innovations with colleagues or across programs

*Reports are designed to be brief and practical (typically 1–2 pages or equivalent), focused on real-world application, not administrative burden.

Our Commitment to You

We view this as a partnership. The O&P Foundation may:

- Highlight your work and impact
- Share innovations across the O&P community
- Support broader dissemination of your contributions

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: June 1st 2026

Program Closes: July 15th 2026

Notifications: August/September 2026

Questions

For questions regarding the Elevate to Educate Scholarship, contact info@oandpfoundation.org or The O&P Foundation Education Committee Chair directly at education@oandpfoundation.org.