

## Florida O&P Licensure Law

### 64B14-4.003 Documentation of Eligibility for Licensure.

(1) In order to establish eligibility for licensure as an orthotist or prosthetist under Section 468.803(3)(a) or (b), F.S., the applicant must provide:

(a) An official transcript from the accredited institution at which the applicant's Bachelor of Science degree was awarded, indicating the degree awarded.

(b) If the applicant's bachelor's degree was not awarded in orthotics and prosthetics, certification of completion of an orthotics or prosthetics program, as applicable, recognized by the CAAHEP.

(c) If the applicant completed a residency program certified by NCOPE, an original letter from the head of the residency program attesting to successful completion of the program.

(d) If the applicant completed an internship, a patient log signed by the applicant's qualified supervisor(s), including the types of patients treated, the types of treatment provided, and the number of hours worked, that demonstrates compliance with Rule 64B14-4.100, F.A.C.

(2) In order to establish eligibility for licensure as an orthotic fitter under Section 468.803(3)(c), F.S., the applicant must provide at a minimum:

(a) A high school diploma or a certified GED certificate.

(b) An original or certified copy of a certificate of completion of the Trulife Healthcare or the Surgical Appliance Industries orthotics course and examination.

(c) Verification of Employment Form(s) demonstrating two years supervised experience in orthotics that meets the requirements of paragraph 64B14-4.110(1)(b), F.A.C., signed by the applicant's qualified supervisor(s).

(d) Certification of completion of an 8 hour course in casting custom-molded shoes.

(3) In order to establish eligibility for licensure as an orthotic fitter assistant under Section 468.803(3)(d), F.S., the applicant must provide at a minimum:

(a) A high school diploma or a certified GED certificate.

(b) An original or certified copy of a certificate of completion of the Trulife Healthcare or the Surgical Appliance Industries orthotics course and examination.

(c) Certification of completion of an 8 hour course in casting custom-molded shoes.

(4) In order to establish eligibility for licensure as a pedorthist under Section 468.803(3)(e), F.S., the applicant must provide at a minimum:

(a) A high school diploma or a certified GED certificate.

(b) An original letter from the head of a training program(s) approved by the Board for Certification in Pedorthics, attesting to the inclusion of training as provided in paragraph 64B14-4.110(3)(a), F.A.C.

(c) A patient log signed by the applicant's qualified supervisor(s), including the types of patients treated, the types of treatment provided, and the number of hours worked.

(5) Each applicant, as a condition to initial licensure, shall attend and provide proof of attending, a Board approved two-hour course relating to the prevention of medical errors. The course must include a study of root-cause analysis, error reduction and prevention, and patient safety.

*Specific Authority 468.802 FS. Law Implemented 456.013(1), (7), 468.803 FS. History—New 12-10-98, Amended 11-11-02, 11-1-05, 9-21-06.*

### 64B14-4.001 Approved Examinations.

(1) The board accepts the examination results of the following nations standards organization in lieu of administering a state examination:

(a) Orthotist, prosthetist, prosthetist/orthotist – the ABC examination

(b) Pedorthist – the BCP examination.

(c) Orthotic Fitter, Orthotic Fitter Assistant – Surgical Appliance Institute and Trulife Healthcare examinations.

(2) The board approves the following examinations for licensure pursuant to Section 468.805, F.S.:

(a) Orthotist prosthetist, prosthetist/orthotist – the written and written simulation modules of the ABC examination.

(b) Pedorthist – the BCP examination

*Specific Authority 456.017(1)(c), 468.802, 468.803(2) FS. Law Implemented 456.017(1)(c), 468.803(2) FS. History—New 11-1-99, Amended 9-21-06.*

#### **64B14-4.0035 Incomplete Applications for Licensure.**

Any application submitted for licensure which is not made complete within one year from the date of the original submission shall expire. A new application with applicable fees shall be required for any applicant who still seeks to be licensed after expiration of an application.

*Specific Authority 468.802 FS. Law Implemented 456.013(1), 468.803, 468.805, 468.807 FS. History—New 6-22-99.*

#### **64B14-4.110 Requirements for Orthotic Fitter, Orthotic Fitter Assistant and Pedorthist.**

(1) Requirements for Licensure as an Orthotic Fitter. The applicant must demonstrate:

(a) Successful completion of the 32-hour Trulife Healthcare or the 32-hour Surgical Appliance Industries orthotics course and examination, and completion of an approved eight hour course in custom-molded shoes.

(b) Two years experience in orthotics under the direct supervision of a Florida licensed orthotist. Candidates licensed by the Board as an orthotic fitter assistant may earn the two years of experience under the direct supervision of a Florida licensed orthotic fitter. Experience in orthotics earned outside of Florida may also be earned under the direct supervision of an ABC certified orthotist. This paragraph shall not be construed to authorize any person to supervise, assist or engage in the unlicensed practice of orthotics, prosthetics or pedorthics. The education required by paragraph (1)(a) above shall be completed prior to earning the experience required by this paragraph, except that the required custom molded shoe course may be completed no less than one year prior to the end of the two year period of orthotics experience the applicant relies on to qualify for licensure. This paragraph shall not be construed to authorize any person licensed by the Board to practice beyond the scope of their license, unless supervised pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 468 Part XIV, F.S., and rules of the Board.

(2) Requirements for Licensure as an Orthotic Fitter Assistant. The applicant must demonstrate successful completion of the 32-hour Trulife Healthcare or the 32-hour Surgical Appliance Industries orthotics course and examination, and completion of an approved eight hour course in custom-molded shoes.

(3) Requirements for Licensure as a Pedorthist.

(a) The minimum 120 hours of training must meet the following requirements:

1. The training must take place in a program approved by ABC.  
2. The training must include the five major domains: pedorthic assessment, techniques and applications, patient management, practice management and professional responsibility.

(b) The internship must consist of 80 hours of pedorthic work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed orthotist, licensed pedorthist, an orthotist certified by ABC, or a pedorthist certified by ABC.

*Specific Authority 468.802, 468.803 FS. Law Implemented 468.803 FS. History—New 11-1-99, Amended 1-16-06, 9-21-06, 8-13-08.*

#### **64B14-4.100 Requirements for Prosthetic or Orthotic Residency or Internship.**

(1) To meet the requirements for licensure as an orthotist or prosthetist, the applicant must document an internship that meets the requirements of this rule, or must complete a residency program accredited by NCOPE. An applicant for combined licensure as a prosthetist/orthotist must document a discrete internship or residency in each field.

(2) An internship must consist of orthotic or prosthetic clinical experience practicing under the supervision of a licensed or ABC-certified orthotist or prosthetist, respectively. The internship must consist of a minimum of 1900 hours and may not exceed 2700 hours. The intern is eligible to take the approved licensure examination upon completion of 1900 hours. If the intern has not taken and passed the applicable licensure examination at the expiration of 2700 hours of clinical experience, the intern may not practice as an orthotist or prosthetist in the state.

(3) Internships must be completed at facilities primarily engaged in providing orthotic and prosthetic patient care. Interns must provide direct patient care, but only under the supervision of a licensed orthotist or prosthetist; the educational mission must not be

compromised by an excessive reliance on residents to fulfill facility service obligations. Students should progress from observing to actually providing direct patient care. Sufficient amounts of lab and technical experience must accompany the clinical training.

(4) The internship must require the intern to meet the following objectives:

(a) Clinical Assessment. Determine the orthotic or prosthetic needs of the patient by integrating the information obtained from history, examination, measurement and observation; develop a treatment protocol for the patient through review of patient data in order to formulate an orthotic or prosthetic recommendation and treatment plan.

(b) Patient Management. Apply a properly fitting prosthetic/orthotic device by using accepted prosthetic/orthotic techniques to achieve optimum outcomes; inform the patient of the various procedures to be performed by using appropriate communication skills; provide continuing patient care and periodic evaluation to ensure proper fit and function of the prosthetic/orthotic device.

(c) Professional Responsibility. Select the most appropriate course of action when faced with patient-related problems while adhering to the laws and rules applicable to practice in Florida and the standards of care of the profession.

(d) Practice Management. Demonstrate proper documentation of a patient's history and financial records by using established record-keeping techniques and demonstrate an understanding of the facility's financial and safety policies and procedures.

(e) Technical Implementation. Interpret patient data and modify a patient model to ensure optimal fit and function; demonstrate the ability to fabricate or repair a prescribed device, selecting appropriate materials and components based on patient criteria to ensure optimum strength, durability and function.

(5) The objectives must include experience in the acute, rehabilitative and chronic phases of the care of pediatric, adult and geriatric populations, and shall include experience in lower and upper extremity and spinal orthoses or lower and upper extremity prostheses.

(6) Each intern shall keep a daily patient log, subject to review by the Board. Each intern shall be evaluated by his/her supervising practitioner on a quarterly basis and at the conclusion of the internship.

(7) Clinical experience in prosthetics and orthotics, to satisfy the requirements of internship or to satisfy the experience requirements of Section 468.803(4), F.S., may not be achieved concurrently.

*Specific Authority 468.802, 468.803 FS. Law Implemented 468.803 FS. History—New 11-1-99, Amended 7-2-07.*

#### **64B14-4.0015 Security and Monitoring Procedures for Licensure Examination.**

The Board adopts by reference Department of Health Rule 64B-1.010, F.A.C., effective September 7, 1998 as its rule governing examination security and monitoring.

*Specific Authority 456.017(1)(d) FS. Law Implemented 456.017(1)(d) FS. History—New 5-23-99.*