



Residency Program FAQs

Orthotics Prosthetics Canada

Table of Contents

1. What are the benefits to Certification?.....	2
2. Where can I find relevant information about Residency?.....	2
3. What is the OPC Residency Program?	2
4. What is required for Residency application?	2
5. How do I apply for the Residency program?	3
6. Do students need to submit hard copies of diplomas and transcripts and signature pages or can these types of documents be scanned and sent to OPC?	3
7. What is the timeline for processing the Residency application? I.e. 1-2 weeks or 4-6 weeks?	3
8. What are the Residency fees?	3
9. Do they expect me to pay my Residency & associate fees at the time of my Residency application?	3
10. Can I pay with credit card or cheque? (is this done in the member portal the way dues are?).....	3
11. What are the Residency Hours Requirements?.....	3
12. What is the Typhon Program?.....	4
13. What are MCEs?.....	4
14. What is an off-site Residency?	4
15. What is the maximum number of hours that I can count each week?	4
16. How do I obtain Certification?.....	4
17. Is there any recognition towards completion of a post graduate program?	5
18. Why do transcripts need to be submitted on an annual basis in order to get hour credit for MSc. courses? Can this be done once prior to exams to reduce the cost of paying for transcripts?	5
19. Are MSc. courses accrued during the BCIT/GBC terms eligible for Residency credit hours? Can course taken after graduation (i.e. not concurrent with BCIT/GBC), be applied toward Residency hours?	5
20. What are GCEs?.....	5
21. If I've been deemed independent for certain tasks does that mean I can see patients when my supervisor is not in the office or on holidays?	5
22. What if I change Residency facility or Supervisor?.....	5
23. Do I have to do my entire Residency under one supervisor and/or at the same facility?	6
24. What happens if I/my supervisor falls ill or is absent?.....	6
25. When should you apply for off-site supervision through OPC?	6
26. If there is a 3 rd /4 th supervisor do they need to be registered with OPC and do they need a Typhon log in or can one of the other supervisors sign off on the hours? What if they are in a different facility and working part time in two spots? .	6
27. What am I liable for as a Resident?	6
28. What is the minimum time post-certification to be become a supervisor?.....	6
29. What is the expected salary of a Resident?	6
30. If I cannot find employment as a Resident, can I complete my Residency by volunteering?	6

1. What are the benefits to Certification?

- Connected to field
 - Updates on OPC activities, upcoming events, advocacy work, news about the profession
 - Subscription to Alignment magazine
- Professional recognition
 - Included in the public directory
 - Employability / job opportunities
- Financial
 - Discounts on OPC conferences, tech symposiums, & other events
 - Place of employment may offer an increase in pay with registration
 - Place of employment may offer to pay application/examination fees
- Continued learning

2. Where can I find relevant information about Residency?

- All Residency information and documents can be found on the [Residency & Internship page](#) of the OPC website.

3. What is the OPC Residency Program?

- The OPC Residency Program is a required stage of post-graduate experience to achieve the ability to become certified in Orthotics or Prosthetics. The Residency is completed under the supervision of a Certified Practitioner in good standing with the Corporation and may take place in a private or public facility. The 1725/3450-hour Residency must be performed in the appropriate discipline while employed as a Resident in an Orthotic or Prosthetic facility. Hours must be recorded and approved in the manner prescribed by OPC.
- Residents are Associate Members of OPC and must adhere to all conditions for membership, including the payment of annual fees, and conduct themselves within the [Canons of Ethical Conduct](#).
- Once you have become a member of the Residency program, the Resident is able to challenge the written exam at any time the exam is being held by OPC during their Residency. Once you have passed the written exam and your Residency hours are completed you are able to challenge the OSCE practical certification exam to a maximum of three attempts. This must be completed within the time allocation limits established, pending proper application and payment of fees and appropriate members' dues.

4. What is required for Residency application?

- The applicant must be fluent in English or French.
- The applicant must be a Canadian citizen or legal landed immigrant.
- Must have attended an officially recognized clinical prosthetic and orthotic school
- Foreign trained applicants must have their qualifications deemed equivalent to the current standards of the corporation.
- **Foreign trained applicants: Please refer to the document [Foreign Trained Assessment of Qualifications](#) to determine the course of action if you are looking to perform your residency in Canada but did not complete your schooling at an OPC accredited school**

5. How do I apply for the Residency program?

The Residency must be approved by OPC with a full payment prior to start date at the place of employment. Otherwise the hours will not count towards the Residency. Ensure that all supporting documents outlined in [Residency Application](#) are completed in full. If any documents are missing, they must be sent which may prolong the process.

- The application can be completed as soon as you know the terms of your employment
- Information includes name, address, employment information, previous education, information for primary and secondary supervisors, signatures

6. Do students need to submit hard copies of diplomas and transcripts and signature pages or can these types of documents be scanned and sent to OPC?

- Scanned copies of Residency Applications are preferred.

7. What is the timeline for processing the Residency application? I.e. 1-2 weeks or 4-6 weeks?

- If the application is submitted with a properly filled out form and payment, most are processed within 10 business days. Regardless of the processing time, as long as the application and payment is received, hours can be logged during this time. The date stamp on the application and payment is tracked internally, so if there is a delay, it will not affect the ability to begin the program.

8. What are the Residency fees?

- Fees for application to the Residency Program and annual Internship dues are outlined in the Residency Program Fee Schedule found on the [Residency & Internship](#) page of the OPC website. Certification Written and Practical examination fees are listed on the [Examinations page](#) of the OPC website.
- Residents must pay the annual membership fees in order to remain in the Internship program and remain in good standing with the corporation.

9. Do they expect me to pay my Residency & associate fees at the time of my Residency application?

- No, only the Residency application fee is due upon submitting a Residency application. The Annual Residency Fee will be invoiced at the dues renewal **the year following** acceptance into the Residency program.

10. Can I pay with credit card or cheque? (is this done in the member portal the way dues are?)

- Payment for applications and exams cannot be made through the member portal. We are working towards streamlining this process online but for now Residents must submit a payment form with their credit card information. A scanned copy is acceptable. If paying by cheque, it must be sent by mail with an attached payment form.

11. What are the Residency Hours Requirements?

- Detailed information is provided in the [Residency Program Handbook](#) available on the [OPC website](#) under the [Residency & Internship](#) tab.

12. What is the Typhon Program?

- Typhon is the Residency tracking program which keeps track of hours and logbooks during the Residency process. Upon acceptance to the Residency Program, you will receive an email from OPC National Office inviting you to register for the Typhon Program.
- Hours MUST be tracked using the Typhon online reporting system
 - Sign up and pay to use typhon
 - Watch tutorial - OPC specific
- Completing clinical information, case logs, clinical exposure is not required but can be beneficial
 - Provides proof of clinical experience
 - May highlight areas of deficiency/lack of experience prior to exam.

13. What are MCEs?

- MCEs are Mandatory Continuing Education Credits.
- Continuing education credits are not mandatory during the Residency period. However, Residents are permitted to attend pre-approved courses, conferences, tutorials, and other similar educational opportunities during the Residency period. Residents must apply to the OPC National Office for a ruling on the eligibility of such courses, conferences, tutorials or otherwise prior to attending. A set number of hours equal to the MCE credits for a given educational opportunity may be applied towards the total Residency hour commitment. Residents must submit confirmation of attendance of the pre-approved course to OPC National Office within two months of course completion.
- Continuing Education Hours are calculated separately from the Working Hours. Working Hours plus Continuing Education Hours combine to equal total Residency Hours.
- There is a maximum allowable number of hours that can be applied toward the Residency as Continuing Education Hours listed in the [Residency Handbook](#). A Resident may accumulate more than the maximum education hours, but any hours exceeding the limit stated in the handbook cannot be used towards the required Residency hours.
- Please refer to the [OPC website](#) for more information regarding MCEs.

14. What is an off-site Residency?

- This opportunity is available to Residents to gain exposure to other areas of expertise not seen at their current place of employment. The Resident must complete the [Off-site Residency Application Form](#) prior to attending the facility in order for the experience to be counted toward their hours.

15. What is the maximum number of hours that I can count each week?

- 48 hours

16. How do I obtain Certification?

- Detailed information is provided in the Certification Examination Handbook available on the [OPC website](#) under the [Residency & Internship](#) tab.
- [ABC certified practitioners](#) are required to submit a letter verifying good standing dated within two months of the application for the CBCPO certification exams in addition to their exam application and a supplemental declaration of identity.

17. Is there any recognition towards completion of a post graduate program?

- Yes, completing an MSc. can be applied for some Residency credit hours. See the policy in section 12.0 of the [Residency Handbook](#) for more information.

18. Why do transcripts need to be submitted on an annual basis in order to get hour credit for MSc. courses? Can this be done once prior to exams to reduce the cost of paying for transcripts?

- Yes, transcripts need to be received in advance of the Practical Exam. If you plan on challenging the Certification Practical Exam in the Spring, your transcripts **must** be received by January 31st. This deadline is also listed in section 12.2 of the Residency Handbook.

19. Are MSc. courses accrued during the BCIT/GBC terms eligible for Residency credit hours? Can course taken after graduation (i.e. not concurrent with BCIT/GBC), be applied toward Residency hours?

- Credits will only be eligible for MSc. education activities that take place during the Residency/Internship period. See the policy in section 12.0 of the [Residency Handbook](#) for more information.

20. What are GCEs?

- GCEs are Graduated Competency Evaluations. It is necessary that Residents **progress** through the Residency program with **increasing responsibility**, based on developing competencies. To capture this graduated progression and encourage feedback and discussion between Supervisors and Residents an online evaluation survey must be routinely completed.
- The Resident's primary Supervisor must complete OPC's online **Graduated Competency Evaluation (GCE)** on the Typhon platform **at a minimum of quarterly intervals during the months of January, April, July and September** of each year or more often if deemed necessary by the Supervisor.
- Primary Supervisors must log in to their Typhon account and complete the GCE by selecting the rating that best describe the Resident's abilities at the current time. Ideally, Primary and Secondary Supervisors should be present for the evaluation.
- Refer to the [Residency Handbook \(Section 7.3\)](#) for GCE Definition of Levels of Supervision.

21. If I've been deemed independent for certain tasks does that mean I can see patients when my supervisor is not in the office or on holidays?

- An Independent rating will be assigned when a Resident has consistently demonstrated competence and safe practices for the task. Onsite Supervisor presence is not required but the supervisor must be available for consultation if needed. Residents remain responsible for acting in accordance with OPC Ethical Conduct regulations and Supervisors remain responsible for the Resident's clinical performance and safety of patients.

22. What if I change Residency facility or Supervisor?

- The Residency can be changed to another supervisor or facility at any time by filling out a [Residency Change Form](#). This form is located on the OPC website under the [Residency & Internship section](#).

23. Do I have to do my entire Residency under one supervisor and/or at the same facility?

- No, you can have multiple supervisors as long as they are approved by OPC.
- You may change facilities by submitting a [Residency Change Form](#)
- You may also do an off-site Residency upon submission of an [Off-Site Residency Application](#).
- It is highly recommended to have more than one supervisor. It provides a cushion if your regular supervisor is away for any reason or if you do work in multiple sites. The Supervisor that is listed as Primary would be the most responsible.

24. What happens if I/my supervisor falls ill or is absent?

- Unsupervised hours cannot be counted towards total Residency hours. The Residency hours must be actual working hours, excluding any and all forms of absences from the job due to vacation, sickness, maternity/paternity leave, etc.

25. When should you apply for off-site supervision through OPC?

- Anytime you would like to claim hours for off-site clinical experiences.

26. If there is a 3rd/4th supervisor do they need to be registered with OPC and do they need a Typhon log in or can one of the other supervisors sign off on the hours? What if they are in a different facility and working part time in two spots?

- All supervisors who the Resident is logging hours with needs a Typhon login and must to be in good standing with OPC. If they are working in 2 facilities, we would manage that accordingly (so yes, they can have up to 4 supervisors on file).

27. What am I liable for as a Resident?

- Legal liability should be discussed with your employer. They would have liability insurance for their employees. From the perspective of OPC, the Supervisor is responsible for all work and activities of the Resident. Residents are responsible to follow and uphold the [Canons of Ethical Conduct](#), and all parameters of the Residency Program.

28. What is the minimum time post-certification to be become a supervisor?

- Currently there is no requirement but watch OPC Policy as there may be changes in the future

29. What is the expected salary of a Resident?

- This will vary from location to location. Compensation may include salary but also consider that flexible work hours, health benefits, fees (OPC and regional associations), and educational pursuits may be part of the entire package. There are many options.

30. If I cannot find employment as a Resident, can I complete my Residency by volunteering?

- No, a Residency must be paid employment. It is set up this way to protect graduates from having to volunteer in order to get credentialed.