

Medical Appliance Technician



What do they do?

Medical Appliance Technicians create, maintain and repair medical and surgical appliances. These appliances may include: braces, joints, and artificial limbs. They work with healthcare professionals by following specific directions to help patients in need of these special devices.

Where do they work?

Most Medical Appliance Technicians work in hospital and clinic settings.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Medical Appliance Technicians is \$38,620.



Education:

A high school diploma or GED is required to become a Medical Appliance Technician while additional knowledge comes from on-the-job training. On-the-job training will pair trainees with professional Medical Appliance Technicians who teach the steps and procedures involved in the creation and maintenance of medical devices.

Room for Advancement:

Medical Appliance Technicians who specialize in orthotics and prosthetics could choose to pursue an associates degree program.

A.S. training programs:

Century College, Minnesota:

www.century.edu

Joliet Jr. College, Illinois:

www.jjc.edu

Baker College of Flint: Michigan:

www.baker.edu

Skills:

A medical appliance technology career requires skills to perform manual tasks using your hands, excellent problem-solving skills and a concern for helping others.

Certification:

It is possible to earn additional training through certifications, however, certification programs are rare. Some technical or vocational schools offer programs for medical appliance technicians.

Professional Associations:

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

www.opcareers.org

American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics

www.abcop.org



Accreditation:

Associate degree programs for Medical Appliance Technicians specializing in orthotics and prosthetics are accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education.

www.ncope.org



Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Medical Appliance Technicians is expected to grow about 12 percent between 2020-2030, which is faster than average for all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, www.bls.gov/ooh/production/dental-and-ophthalmic-laboratory-technicians-and-medical-appliance-technicians.htm (visited September 08, 2021).

