

Alternative Careers in Healthcare

Regulated: Non-clinical Jobs

Orthoptist

Overview	Orthoptists are allied health professionals who specialize in the non-surgical treatment of ocular motility and visual development disorders such as amblyopia, strabismus and diplopia. The orthoptist is the front line in the assessment and diagnosis of these disorders, and works with the ophthalmologist in formulating and implementing treatment plans. Orthoptists work under an ophthalmologist. They prescribe treatment such as eye exercises or patching regimens. Learn more				
NOC Code	Other professional occupations in health diagnosing and treating (3125)				
Alias Job Titles	N/A				
Qualifications Required	Completion of a two-year accredited post-graduate training program in Orthoptics are required.				
Salary Range	Average hourly \$35.32	Range hourly \$19.52 - \$49.36	Average yearly \$68,874	Range yearly \$38,066 - \$96,250	
Job Demand	High Employment outlook is mostly good across provinces. More information is available here.				
Growth Opportunity	Orthoptists may also be trained as ophthalmic technicians or technologists.				
Years' Experience Required	0-1 year				
Training Options (if available)	There are only 3 accredited programs in Canada. <u>BC Children's Hospital</u> <u>Dalhousie University</u> (Master's in Clinical Vision Science; with thesis/Graduate				

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	Diploma; without thesis) <u>Saskatchewan Health Authority</u>			
Personal Qualities	The ability to study and interpret customer issues, the ability to focus on details, patience and perseverance, organizational, interpersonal and communications skills, multitasking, analytical skills, ability to interpret scientific data, teamwork			
Notes/Other Information	Certification with <u>Canadian Orthoptic Council</u> required. They usually work on day shifts. Orthoptists may work in the public sector in hospital based orthoptic clinics, medical/eye-health related educational centers, private ophthalmology office, alongside other ophthalmological staff and allied health care personnel.			
Steps towards capacity building to become competitive for this job	Enrolling into an orthoptist program at one of the three available courses in Canada. Getting the respective licensure.			
References and resources	 i. Alberta Learning Information Service ii. Job Bank Canada iii. National Occupation Classification ESDC iv. Neuvoo v. Indeed 			