

Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for orthotic and prosthetic technician roles typically combine a conversation about your technical skills with a practical assessment or workshop tour. Employers want to see that you can follow specifications precisely, work safely with tools and materials, and collaborate with clinicians.

- **Technical and practical:** Questions about fabrication techniques, tool use, CAD/CAM software, and materials handling.
- **Safety:** How you manage workshop hazards, use personal protective equipment, and handle chemicals and power tools.
- **Process:** How you approach a job from cast to finished device, including quality checks and problem solving.
- **Behavioural:** Examples of teamwork, attention to detail, and resolving issues with clinicians or patients.
- **Scenario:** Judgement questions about dealing with a difficult modification, a tight deadline, or an unexpected fit issue.

The interview may start with a phone screen, then an in-person interview at the workshop. You might be asked to demonstrate a task, such as modifying a plaster mould or using a vacuum former. There may be a panel including a senior technician, an orthotist or prosthetist, and a practice manager. Expect a mix of technical questions and behavioural questions about working in a team.

1. Walk me through how you would fabricate a custom ankle-foot orthosis from a plaster cast to a finished device.

Why they ask

Tests your technical process knowledge and ability to follow a sequence accurately.

How to structure your answer

Walk-through: describe each step in order, from receiving the cast to final quality check.

Example answer

"First, I would receive the cast and prescription from the orthotist. I would check the measurements and any specific requirements. Then I would modify the positive mould by adding or removing plaster to create the correct contours. After that, I would vacuum form a thermoplastic sheet over the mould, ensuring even pressure and no air bubbles. Once cooled, I would trim the edges, smooth the surfaces, and attach any straps or closures. Finally, I would check the alignment and fit, and make any adjustments before sending it back to the clinician for fitting."

2. Tell me about a time when you had to adjust a device because the initial fit wasn't right. How did you handle it?

Why they ask

Assesses problem solving, attention to detail, and your approach to patient comfort.

How to structure your answer

STAR: describe the situation, the task, the action you took, and the result.

Example answer

"In my previous role, I was asked to make a below-knee prosthesis for a patient who was very active. After the initial fitting, the patient reported some discomfort at the socket brim. I reviewed the

alignment and found that the socket was pressing on the fibular head. I removed the liner, heated the area, and re-shaped it slightly. I then re-laminated the section and refinished it. The patient came back for a second fitting and reported that the discomfort was gone. I learned to always double-check pressure points before final assembly."

3. What steps do you take to ensure safety in the workshop when using power tools and chemicals?

Why they ask

Shows your commitment to workplace safety and knowledge of correct procedures.

How to structure your answer

List your standard safety practices, giving examples of equipment and procedures.

Example answer

"When using power tools and chemicals, I always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, and a respirator when working with resins or solvents. I check that the ventilation is working and that the workspace is clear of clutter. I follow the safety data sheets for each chemical and store them correctly. I also inspect tools before use and report any damage immediately. If I am unsure about a procedure, I ask a supervisor rather than taking a risk."

4. Describe a situation where you had to work with a clinician to resolve a discrepancy between the prescription and the patient's measurements.

Why they ask

Tests collaboration, communication, and your ability to handle conflicting information.

How to structure your answer

STAR: outline the discrepancy, how you raised it, the discussion, and the outcome.

Example answer

"I was once working on a wrist-hand orthosis where the prescription called for a specific angle, but the patient's measurements suggested a different angle would be more comfortable. I brought this to the attention of the orthotist before proceeding. We discussed the options and decided to adjust the design slightly to accommodate the patient's range of motion. I documented the change and the rationale, and the final device fit well. This taught me the importance of clear communication and not making assumptions."

5. How do you stay organised when managing multiple jobs with tight deadlines?

Why they ask

Assesses time management, prioritisation, and ability to work efficiently in a busy workshop.

How to structure your answer

Describe your system or process, giving a concrete example of how you apply it.

Example answer

"I use a simple priority system. At the start of each day, I review all jobs and note their deadlines. I break each job into stages, such as casting, modification, lamination, and finishing. I then schedule the stages so that I can work on multiple jobs efficiently, for example by letting one laminate cure while I work on another job's finishing. I also keep a whiteboard in the workshop to track progress and ensure nothing is missed. If a deadline is at risk, I flag it early with my supervisor."

6. What interests you about working as an orthotic and prosthetic technician, and how do you see your skills fitting into our team?

Why they ask

Explores your motivation and cultural fit, and whether you understand the role's purpose.

How to structure your answer

Personal narrative: connect your interests and skills to the role and the employer's context.

Example answer

"I have always been interested in how things are made and how they can help people. When I learned about orthotic and prosthetic technicians, I realised it was a perfect mix of craft skills and healthcare. I enjoy the precision of working with plaster and thermoplastics, and I find it rewarding to see a patient walk more comfortably because of something I built. I am keen to join a team that values quality and patient care, and I am eager to learn from experienced technicians and contribute to your workshop."