



Saskatoon Health Region Orthoptic Program  
Saskatoon City Hospital  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Saskatoon Health Region Orthoptic Program is one of three orthoptic schools in Canada. Students are enrolled every second year, and there are up to 3 students in attendance at one time.

An outline of the course, a syllabus, and a copy of the National Orthoptic Skills Competency Profile will be provided for students at the beginning of the course. The Saskatoon program is designed to prepare students to practice as entry level orthoptists, as governed by the Canadian Competency Profile.

The course is divided into two twelve-month sections. The first year begins July 1, with the American Academy of Ophthalmology home study course for Ophthalmic Assisting. Students typically begin attendance on site in August. The remainder of the year consists of lectures and concurrent clinical practice, student journal presentations, academic half day attendance, and presentations at Grand Rounds. The schedule alternates between periods of time where there is a more concentrated lecture schedule, and those where the emphasis is clinical participation, although both clinical and lecture occur simultaneously throughout the course. A weekly schedule is provided one week in advance.

The second year continues with lectures in the first six months, followed by review, update, and expansion of topics discussed in the first year. Second year students will continue to attend and give presentations at academic half day, student journal presentations and Grand Rounds, and clinical experience will be emphasized. At least one major research project will be undertaken during schooling in conjunction with an orthoptist, ophthalmologist and/or resident.

Examinations are given throughout the course. A minimum of 70% is expected on **all** exams and assignments.

In January of the second year, the student will apply for the national examination set by the Canadian Orthoptic Council. This exam has three components (written, practical and oral). The student must attain a minimum of 70% on the written exam in May to be invited to continue on to the practical/oral exam in June. Successful candidates use the designation OC(C) after their name to indicate Canadian Certification as an Orthoptist. More information about the exam can be found on the COC website [www.orthopticscanada.org](http://www.orthopticscanada.org).