

**IPRO 309**

**Spring 2009**

**Education and Technical Support of Prosthetics and Orthotics Education in Latin America and the United States**

**Abstract**

Interprofessional Project 309 Human Orthotics and Prosthetics Education, H.O.P.E., is a continuing venture spanning seven semesters at Illinois Institute of Technology. H.O.P.E is constantly working toward the goal of developing and supporting the first Category III Orthotics and Prosthetics educational program in Latin America to be accredited by the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) and Joliet Junior College (JJC) Orthotics and Prosthetics Technology program. H.O.P.E. organized into sub-teams categorized by the age groups: pediatric, adult, and geriatric. Focus later shifted towards sub-teams for each age group divided between each institution involved throughout the prosthetic treatment process inclusive of the patient, physician, orthotic and prosthetic technician, finances, and therapist. The summation of this semester's studies involved creating three fictional case studies covering real life injuries and diseases leading to above and below knee prosthetic treatment and how the overall patient care progresses throughout treatment process. The three case studies involved a topic concerning real concerns that need to be improved upon for the pediatric, adult, and geriatric in each profession. It established a broad educational base for training orthotic/prosthetic technicians in Bogotá and at JJC, while making sure not to overwhelm them with too much information.