

## OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER

### WHAT DOES AN OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER DO?

An Operating Department Practitioner supports operating theatre staff and provides care to patients, before, during and after surgery. Their duties often include:

- preparing the operating theatre and equipment, such as drips, instruments, dressings and swabs
- ensuring that specialist equipment is available for specific procedures
- monitoring theatre cleanliness
- ordering and rotating single or multiple use items of stock and drugs
- providing the surgical team with items required during an operation
- monitoring instruments
- keeping accurate records.

Their work may also involve assessing patients before allowing them to join a surgical ward and reviewing the care they have received at each stage.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Applicants for Operating Department Practitioner courses and jobs will need to demonstrate that they have:

- good practical skills
- good levels of concentration
- the ability to work in a busy specialist team
- a reliable, friendly and reassuring manner
- good organisational skills
- the ability to learn quickly, act calmly and maintain concentration
- a flexible approach to work
- effective communication skills
- the ability to motivate, train and mentor other health professionals and trainees
- an understanding of issues surrounding patient confidentiality
- awareness of health and safety issues, particularly infection control

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- A Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) or an undergraduate degree in Operating Department Practice that has been approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC): <http://www.hpc-uk.org/>
- Registration with, and membership of, the College of Operating Department Practitioners (CODP): <http://www.codp.org.uk/> and registration with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- Applicants will need to pass a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Check entry requirements and course content with individual course providers.

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

There are 3 universities in the West Midlands which offer higher education courses in Operating Department Practice: Birmingham City University, Coventry University and Staffordshire University. Some offer the Diploma in Higher Education: Operating Department Practice and some offer a BSc (Hons): Operating Department Practice. One example of each course is shown below.

**Diploma in Higher Education: Operating Department Practice:** Birmingham City University (<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/>)

**Length of study:** 2 years full-time

**Entry requirements - qualifications:** GCSE at Grade 4/C or above in English Language, Mathematics and Science. Passes in the following qualifications are also acceptable: Functional Skills Level 2 (English and Maths), Key Skills Level 2 (Application of Number or Communication), and City and Guilds Level 2 Certificates (Adult Literacy/Adult Numeracy).

An Access to HE Diploma full award (60 credits) of which a minimum of 45 must be at Level 3 - including 18 at Merit or Distinction of which a minimum of 12 must be in a Science or Health-related subject - and 15 at Level 2, which must include Mathematics and English Language GCSE equivalents if not already achieved.

The university accepts various *BTEC* qualifications – please check the entry requirements on the university’s webpage for this course.

**Entry requirements - work experience:** None specified.

**BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice:** Birmingham City University (<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/>)

**Length of study:** 3 years full-time

**Entry requirements - qualifications:** A minimum of three GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above, which must include English Language, Mathematics and Science (or equivalent qualifications).

An *Access to HE Diploma* in a Health and Social Care subject at full award (60 credits), of which a minimum of 45 must be at Level 3 (including 24 at Merit or Distinction, of which a minimum of 18 must be in a science or health-related subject) and 15 at Level 2 which must include Mathematics and English Language GCSE equivalent if not already achieved. If an applicant is studying an Access qualification or has already achieved an acceptable Level 3+ qualification, but is missing an acceptable Level 2 qualification, then they will be asked to complete Functional Skills Level 2 Maths and/or English Language (as applicable) by the end of July alongside the GCSE they are studying.

The university accepts various *BTEC* qualifications – please check the entry requirements on the university’s webpage for this course.

**Entry requirements - work experience:** None specified.

**NB** Please check with individual course providers as entry requirements can change.

### **EMPLOYMENT SECTORS**

Operating department practitioners usually work in an NHS or private hospital as part of an anaesthetic, surgical or recovery team. They also work in accident and emergency, intensive care, day surgery clinics, maternity units and resuscitation teams. The armed forces also employ some Operating Department Practitioners.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

Operating Department Practitioners usually work 37.5 hours a week on a shift system that covers evenings, nights and weekends. Overtime and on-call duty is also common. Part-time work may be possible.

Operating Department Practitioners wear surgical clothing and a mask, and mainly work in sterile conditions in pre-operative anaesthetic areas, operating theatres and recovery rooms. These areas are clean and light but can be warm. Working in an operating theatre can be emotionally and physically demanding and involves standing for long periods of time.

Temporary work is available through agencies. In addition, NHS Trusts maintain lists of trained staff ready to be called in for weekend or holiday cover, and during major emergencies.

### **SALARY**

Operating Department Practitioners are paid £22,000 to £35,000 per year.

**NB** These figures are only a guideline: see NHS pay scales, and job advertisements, for up-to-date information

### **LABOUR MARKET DATA**

In May 2018, there were 13,639 Operating Department Practitioners registered with the HCPC.

### **INFORMATION SOURCES**

- Association for Perioperative Practice: <http://www.afpp.org.uk>
- College of Operating Department Practitioners: <https://www.unison.org.uk/at-work/health-care/representing-you/unison-partnerships/codpl>
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC): <http://www.hpc-uk.org/>
- National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
- NHS Business Services Authority: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx>
- NHS Careers: <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/>
- Prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>
- UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/>

### **VIDEO CLIP**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPbP7rToi7c> (please note that this video clip was created by Edge Hill University)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXrBMZ-CjpU> (an NHS video)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySMpyz52r6Y> (an Army video)