



**Operating
Department
Practice**



What is operating department practice?

Operating department practice (ODP) is an integral part of healthcare, providing support and resilience in operating theatres. ODP practitioners are part of a multi disciplinary team caring for patients at each phase of the perioperative process.

ODPs play an important role in three phases of perioperative care:

ANAESTHETIC PHASE

- > preparing specialist equipment and drugs, ensuring the patient is safe during anaesthesia
- > assisting the anaesthetist with local and general anaesthesia of the perioperative patient
- > safely transferring and supporting the patient's transfer into and theatre and the post anaesthetic unit

SURGICAL PHASE

- > preparing the surgical environment, equipment and instruments relevant to procedures from a variety of surgical specialities
- > assisting the surgical team, maintain a surgical field, aseptic technique, providing the relevant surgical instruments
- > supporting the scrub practitioner and team during surgical procedures

RECOVERY PHASE

- > assessing, monitoring and responding to the patient's vital signs, airway, breathing, fluid balance, pain management and haemodynamic status in the post-surgical phase, and preparing them for safe discharge



Am I the right kind of person to become an ODP?

You need to be caring and compassionate to be an effective ODP – you are one of the last people a patient sees before their operation and one of the first people they see when they recover from the anaesthetic.

You also need to be calm, careful, and thorough, and you'll need to be able to work in a highly technical theatre environment with a multidisciplinary team.

ODPs come from all backgrounds. If you have the right skills, characteristics and drive, you're the right person for the job.

I'm good with people

I'm a strong team worker

Scenes of surgery and blood don't worry me

I'm an excellent communicator

I am calm

I'm very thorough and careful

I'm able to concentrate for long periods of time

I'm compassionate and care about others

I'm prepared to work hard for my qualification

I'm good at reassuring others and making them feel safe

I'm punctual and reliable

Excellent organisation is important to me

I can work conscientiously in stressful situations

I'd be happy working in a hospital setting

ODPs work in some really interesting areas ...

- > robotics
- > neurology
- > ophthalmic
- > cardiothoracic
- > orthopaedics

... in really inspiring roles

- > teaching, training and mentoring
- > clinical leadership and management

You may specialise and/or go on to work as a ...

- > surgical care practitioner
- > physician assistant – anaesthesia
- > university lecturer



What do I need to become an ODP?

- A degree in operating department practice approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- To get a place on an ODP degree at university you usually need GCSE passes at grade 4 (grade C) or above, in English and maths, as well as 96 UCAS points from A Levels, or equivalent.
- If you don't have the qualifications needed to get onto an ODP degree, you can complete them at a local college. Contact us if you need advice about entry requirements.

BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice Studies – what’s the course like at Teesside University?

UCAS CODE: B990 BSc/ODPS

This patient-centred course gives you the knowledge, skills and understanding to ensure that you can contribute fully to healthcare delivery in a dynamic and fast-moving surgical environment.

This course leads to the achievement of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency for ODP.

On successful completion of the course, you are eligible to apply for registration with HCPC as an ODP.



BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice (Apprenticeship)

We also offer an apprenticeship route, which means that you can study a degree in ODP whilst being employed.

To access the apprenticeship you must be employed in an appropriate healthcare setting and have full support from your employer.

For more information tees.ac.uk

Diary of an ODP student

| MONDAY (in uni today) | | FRIDAY (in practice today) | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 9:30AM | lecture – anatomy and physiology for perioperative care | 7:50AM | get in early to change into scrubs |
| 11:00AM | break – meet Alex for coffee at The Garden on campus | 8:00AM | meet mentor and set up theatre |
| 11:30AM | group work, discussion and feedback on legal ethical and professional concepts in perioperative care | 9:00AM | scrub for surgical procedure, set up trolley and surgical instruments |
| 12:30PM | lunch – meet course friends in SU | 9:30AM | ★ assist surgeon and ODP mentor with surgical procedure <i>amazing!</i> |
| 1:30PM | 😊 simulation session (using the mannequins) ★ | 11:30AM | clean up and prep theatre |
| 2:30PM | break – write up notes in library | 12:00PM | go for lunch in canteen |
| 3:00PM | simulation session and feedback | 12:30PM | assist with set up for surgical procedure |
| 4:30PM | home | 1:00PM | circulate for surgical team and assist with procedure, counts and support |
| * * | * Work on poster presentation tonight 😊 | 3:00PM | assist with transfer of patient to recovery, clean and restock theatre |
| | | 4:00PM | <i>home time ***</i> |

A degree in ODP – what can it lead to?

A job with the NHS, a private hospital or the armed forces

A successful career in healthcare

An interesting and varied career in the operating theatre

A specialism in surgery, anaesthetics or post-anaesthetic care

A great CV, full of varied work experience and transferrable skills

Christopher Lloyd

Christopher is now a surgical care practitioner

After speaking to the course leader I knew I wanted to study operating department practice. I completed my application straight away and have never looked back.

My course blended theory and practice. The theory provided the underpinning knowledge which was then put into practice during my placement experience. After completing the training I was mentally and physically prepared for the rigors of the role.

For my placement I worked at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust in a range of specialist areas.

My placement involved providing care for a variety of patients, adult and paediatric, for elective and emergency surgery across specialities including orthopaedics, trauma, colorectal, ear, nose and throat, gynaecology, urology, ophthalmic, obstetrics and general emergencies. I rotated between the different roles and specialities every six weeks which gave me a well-rounded experience within the health sector.

Since graduating I joined County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust as an anaesthetic practitioner and continued studying some short courses at Teesside including contemporary anaesthesia, core skills in critical and high dependency unit care, and research methods. I was then promoted to Surgical First Assistant in Orthopaedics, assisting surgeons in theatre.

I now perform surgical interventions such as carpal tunnel decompressions, removing metalwork, intra-articular steroid injections and suturing surgical wounds. Alongside my current role I run a post-arthroplasty service looking after the long-term care of patients who have had knee and hip replacements. I also organise and deliver orthopaedic and trauma training days with students and qualified theatre practitioners across the region to ensure we continue to deliver the highest standards of patient care.

Without Teesside University I wouldn't have the qualifications I need to do my job today and for that I am so grateful.



Pete Brown

senior lecturer in operating department practice, Teesside University

I qualified as an ODP at Teesside University and began my career in general theatres at James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough and the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

During my time in practice I also worked at the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Central Manchester and the Trafford General and North Manchester Hospitals. I've completed a diploma, degree, PgCE and a master's. I'm currently working towards a doctorate in education

My work involved caring for surgical patients pre, intra and post-operatively in the ODP anaesthetic, scrub and recovery roles. I helped to provide individualised holistic care throughout the patients' journey in the operating theatre – from minor elective procedures to major trauma. The three roles involve working alongside an array of multi-skilled staff such as anaesthetists, surgeons, perioperative practitioners, healthcare support workers and clinical teams outside the theatre department.

As a result of my experiences in many different hospitals, I've had opportunities to work in many different surgical fields and specialities, including ear, nose and throat, urology, cardiothoracic, orthopaedics, vascular, liver and kidney transplantation, neurology, general, emergency, A&E, obstetrics and maxilla-facial.

I thoroughly enjoyed my role in practice and the range of clinical areas afforded to it. For me, having the opportunity to care for patients having surgery was a privilege and a unique opportunity to help people in a time of need.

During my time in practice I was heavily involved in mentoring students and teaching. This eventually led to my role as senior lecturer here at Teesside University. I really enjoy teaching a subject I am very passionate about – it's so great to have the chance to pass on my knowledge to the ODPs of the future.



Facilities and support

Teesside University's ODP students engage in simulation practice in our replica theatre suite with scrub sinks, anaesthetic machines, surgical instruments, sutures, airways, intubation equipment and use of SimMan.

SimMan is an advanced patient simulator that can display neurological and physiological symptoms. It is simple to engage with and features technology such as drug recognition, it can even be intubated and ventilated.



More information

Teesside University tees.ac.uk/schools/soh

College of Operating Department Practitioners unison.org.uk

Health and Care Professions Council hpc-uk.org

nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

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