

Optometric Assistant & Dispensing Optician

Health Services



Pre-requisites:

- ◆ High School Diploma or (GED)
- ◆ Demonstration of a minimum of 10th grade proficiency in reading, language, and math

This 24-week course of study prepares the student for an entry level position in an optical laboratory, as an optometric assistant, as a dispensing optician, or as an assistant in an ophthalmologist's office or clinic. The course covers the anatomy and physiology of the human eye, vision aids, common in-office surgeries, common conditions and diseases of the eye, optical law and ethics, and a core health class.

Additionally, the course covers methods for fitting hard and soft contact lenses, use of the keratometer, use of optical and ophthalmic equipment for making complete pairs of glasses, and optical math, including slab-off, powers in various meridians, and vertex math.

Low Cost Training

Requirements:

- Attend daily 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (90% minimum attendance)
- Complete all classes with a minimum grade average of 80% (B) or better.

Benefits:

- Graduates receive a Certificate of Completion as Optometric Assistant.
- Graduates can receive job placement assistance.
- Teachers providing vocational training have had work experience in related industry and/or business.
- All teachers are credentialed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Training Modules

Lab Optician

Makes glasses in a lab: cuts, edges, tints, and coats lenses.

Dispensing Optician

Takes doctor's prescriptions; helps patient select frames and lenses; dispenses contact lenses.

Optometric Assistant

Works with optometrist: does pretesting and general office duties.



The Assistant: A Profile

- Demonstrates initiative and responsibility.
- Treats all patients with compassion.
- Uses appropriate medical terminology.
- Takes medical histories.
- Works as team member
- Assists with pretesting
- Maintains confidentiality.
- Prepares patient for examination.
- Assists patient with frame selection.
- Follows federal, state and local legal guidelines.



Optical Assistant / Dispensing Optician
Initial Materials Fee: \$3491
Additional cost: Optional
24 week program

Initial Materials Fee/Books	Price
Materials Fee for Optical Assistant / Dispensing Optician Includes 2 White lab jackets	\$3491
Systems for Ophthalmic Dispensing (text)	\$110
The Ophthalmic Assistant (text)	\$100
**Stedman’s Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary	\$49
Total Approximate Cost {Including miscellaneous supplies}	\$3750
ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE	

**** This cost is paid for by the student in addition to other fees**
Students must provide a negative TB test or chest X-ray in order to register for the class (see your personal physician or choose provider from the list available in the office).

Charles A. Jones Career & Education Center
 5451 Lemon Hill Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95824
 (916) 433-2600 Ext. 1000 www.CAJ.edu
Nancy Compton, Principal; Brant Choate, Assistant Principal
Office Hours
 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday & Wednesday
 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Friday
 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

Optometric Assistant/Technician Program Details, Career Prospects & More

Job Description

Optometric assistants and optometric technicians perform a variety of tasks to allow the optometrists more time to devote to patient care. They often prepare patients for tests.

Assistants and technicians may put drops in the patient's eyes and/or seat the patient at the eye testing machines. They administer eye exercises and treatments to patients under the supervision of the optometrists. In some offices optometric assistants/technicians help people choose frames for their glasses and adjust them for proper fit. They also do clerical work such as bookkeeping, scheduling appointments, filling, and maintaining medical records.

Work Environment

Most optometric assistants/technicians work in modern, well-lighted offices and laboratories. Some work in health clinics or for government agencies. Still others may be employed by optical instrument companies. Work hours vary, but are usually about 40 hours a week including some evening and Saturday work.

Job Outlook

The employment outlook is excellent, as more optometrists are using assistants/technicians and the demand for eye care is growing.