

# OPHTHALMIC DISPENSING



*Ophthalmic dispensers work as professional members of the eye care team to achieve the best visual acuity for their patients, assist in the selection of frames and fit and dispense spectacle or contact lenses to meet the needs of the ophthalmic patient.*

## OPHTHALMIC DISPENSING

**Degree:** Associate in Applied Science

**HEGIS Code:** 5212

**Curriculum Code:** 0549

**Campus Location:** North

**Health Sciences Division**

**Pre-Admission Recommendations:** 2 years math

**Recommended High School Courses and/or Experiences:**

Math II, Gen. Science

**Career Opportunities/Further Education:** opticians, optometrist, large and small independent offices, health maintenance organizations, wholesale sales

## Program Description

Ophthalmic dispensers (opticians) are licensed professionals who dispense eyeglasses and/or contact lenses to the public from prescriptions written by eye doctors.

With the increase in the nation's population and the aging of the baby boomer generation, the demand for ophthalmic dispensing services and a trained corps of ophthalmic professionals has risen. This demand exists in private businesses, health maintenance organizations, nationwide chain store opera-

tions, professional eye care offices and in other areas including ophthalmic sales, supply and laboratories.

The Ophthalmic Dispensing Program's goals are to provide the necessary theoretical and practical training to enable students to successfully complete the American Board of Opticianry Examination, National Contact Lens Examination and New York State licensing exams in Ophthalmic Dispensing and Contact Lenses.



Classroom lecture and laboratory training involves the careful selection, measuring and fitting of eyewear and lenses unique to each person. Laboratory skills also include the actual fabrication of eyewear. In the case of contact lenses, the use of sophisticated instruments and evaluation techniques are used to design and dispense contact lenses to each individual.

Students will be trained in the use of computers to maintain patient histories and prescription requirements. To complement their classroom and laboratory training, students will participate in an externship at participating doctor's offices and dispensing facilities. Second year students gain purposeful clinical experience through supervised participation in the community eye clinic which offers eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses to those in need in the community.

Upon graduation of the program students participate in credentialing exams administered by the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners and state licensure exams through the Office of Professions, New York State Education Department.

### Accreditation

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation  
PO Box 592  
Canton, NY 13617  
director@COAccreditation.com  
703-468-0566 voice; 888-306-9036 fax

### Special Admission Requirements/Prerequisite

- Applicant must be a high school graduate.
- Advance transfer credit for general education or professional courses in which a "C" or above was earned may be arranged when course descriptions match ECC courses.
- In addition to tuition, students will be responsible for paying for a set of ophthalmic tools, liability insurance and a name tag for use in off-campus clinical work.
- Students are responsible for providing transportation to off campus fieldwork sites utilized for general dispensing practice course.
- Exceptions to the above criteria may be made for returning adult students and for those currently working in the field.

### Scholarships

*The following scholarships are awarded to the Ophthalmic Dispensing student population annually:*

- NYSSO Student Scholarship, sponsored by the New York State Society of Opticians;
  - NFOS College Bowl Accommodations Award; sponsored by National Federation of Opticianry Schools;
  - Lenscrafters Scholarships sponsored by Lenscrafters, Inc.;
  - Richard Terry Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by friends of Dick Terry;
  - Corky Fratello Scholarship, sponsored by the Optical Society of WNY
  - Eyewear by ROI Scholarship, sponsored by Eyewear by ROI; and
- Students are encouraged to participate in additional academic scholarship award contests provided on a local and national basis. Scholarships are available to matriculated students only.*

### Program Competencies

*Upon graduation with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing, the graduate will be able to:*

- determine patient needs, make frame and lens type recommendations and illustrate and demonstrate the use and application of the appropriate ophthalmic products to fulfill the patient's visual requirements;
- detect and verify prescription irregularities by applying knowledge of ophthalmic terminology and principles of refraction;
- perform ophthalmic and medical history taking and basic ophthalmic screening procedures demonstrating proper utilization of ophthalmic instrumentation and procedures;
- demonstrate eyewear fabrication laboratory skills within American National Standards Institute standards;
- use instrumentation and other empirical methods to determine appropriate contact lens type and lens design ensuring ocular integrity, patient comfort and good visual acuity;
- conduct a diagnostic contact lens evaluation based on patient's prescription and keratometric readings and determine the need for modification of lens design;
- conduct oneself in a professional and ethical manner by adhering to ethical standards, being courteous, demonstrating proper manners and professional demeanor;
- participate in the New York State licensing examination for Ophthalmic Dispenser and Contact Lens Fitter and the National American Board of Opticianry Certification Exam and the National Contact Lens Examiners Registry Exam; and
- comply with all safety and environmental regulations relative to fabrication, dispensing, contact lens laboratories and clinics.



## CURRICULUM

*Total Degree Credits: 63.5*

### First Year, Fall Semester

- OD 100 Ophthalmic Dispensing I (2 cr)
- OD 110 Ophthalmic Lenses I (3 cr)
- OD 133 Introduction to Contact Lens Laboratory (1 cr)
- OD 140 Ophthalmic Assisting (2 cr)
- EN 110 College Composition (3 cr)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Science Elective (3 cr) \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Liberal Arts Elective (3 cr)

### First Year, Spring Semester

- OD 141 Assisting and Refraction Lab (2 cr)
- OD 142 Contact Lenses I (2 cr)
- OD 143 Lab for OD 142 (2 cr)
- OD 150 Ophthalmic Dispensing II (3 cr)
- OD 160 Ophthalmic Lenses II (3 cr)
- EN 111 Composition and Interpretation of Literature (3 cr)
- PH 170 Computer Applications in Optics I (3 cr)
- PH 171 Lab for PH 170 *Credit Hours: Included in the 3.0 credit hours for PH 170*

### Second Year, Fall Semester

- OD 232 Contact Lenses II (1.5 cr)
- OD 233 Lab for OD 232 (2 cr)
- OD 240 Ophthalmic Dispensing III (3 cr)
- OD 245 Ophthalmic Fabrication I (2 cr)
- OD 246 Ophthalmic Dispensing Lab I (3 cr)
- BI 254 Anatomy of the Eye (2 cr)
- PH 172 Computer Applications in Optics II (3 cr)
- PH 173 Lab for PH 172 *Credit Hours: Included in the 3.0 credit hours for PH 172*

### Second Year, Spring Semester

- OD 243 Contact Lens Clinic Practice (1 cr)
- OD 250 Ophthalmic Dispensing IV (2 cr)
- OD 255 Ophthalmic Fabrication II (1 cr)
- OD 256 Ophthalmic Dispensing Lab II (3 cr)
- OD 261 General Dispensing Practice (1 cr)
- OD 264 Ophthalmic Practice Management (2 cr)
- BI 255 Physiology of the Eye (2 cr)

Note:

Electives: OD 283

\* i.e. AN 102, PS 100, HU 100, SO 100.

The student must also demonstrate proficiency in algebra at the level of MT 013.

*NOTE: This is a recommended sequence. Student should consult his/her academic advisor prior to registering.*