

# Careers in Eye Care



An eye care professional is an individual who provides a service related to the eyes or vision. It is any **healthcare worker involved in eye care**, from one with a small amount of post-secondary training to practitioners with a doctoral level of education.



## What are common careers in eye care?

- Doctor of Optometry/Optometrist (OD)
- Ophthalmologist (MD or DO)
- Vision Therapist
- Optician
- Certified Ophthalmic Assistant or Technician
- Ophthalmic Laboratory Technician
- Certified Paraoptometric Technician
- Ophthalmic Scribe
- Ocularist

## What is Optometry?

While there are a variety of positions within eye care, becoming a doctor of optometry is an excellent career choice.

- A Doctor of Optometry is a primary health care professional for the eye.
- **Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures.** They also identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.



## What do Optometrists do every day?

- Optometrists perform examinations of both the inside and outside of the eye.
- They examine, diagnose and manage diseases and disorders of the eye as well as detect non-eye related diseases.
- Many also manage their own practices, becoming business owners.
- Eye care professionals enjoy a relatively flexible schedule.
- Eye doctors help patients with their most important sense...sight!

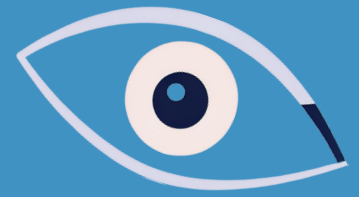
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## How much education is required?

After four years of undergraduate college, students must **successfully complete an additional four-year accredited graduate degree program** at an optometry institution - including one at The Ohio State University.

To prepare for optometry school, undergraduate college students should take biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, general physics, microbiology, English, college mathematics, and other social science and humanities courses.

## What can I expect?

Careers in eye care can be **rewarding professions** because of their impact on patient health and wellness. **Optometrists can earn a median income of \$168,000.**

Optometrists and other eye care professionals **work in a variety of settings** including private practice, hospitals, research, and teaching institutions. As populations age and technology demands more of our eyes, **eyecare remains an important field and one where demand will increase.**



## What skills are needed?

- The desire to make an impact on people's lives through better vision
- Problem-solvers with a good work ethic
- Communicators who are focused on STEM courses

**If you think a career in eye care or optometry is right for you, here are next steps you could take:**

- Shadow a local optometrist
- Focus on science and math courses
- Contact a local optometry school for more information



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