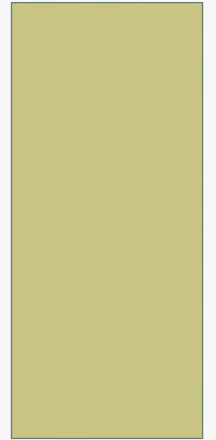
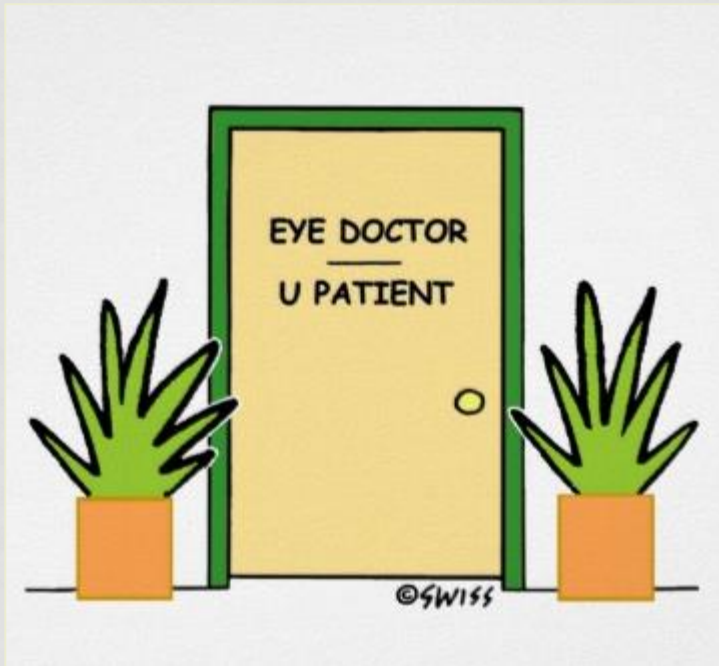


DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

THE OCULUS DOCTOR (O.D.)



WHAT IS A DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY?



The American Optometric Association defines Doctor of Optometry as the independent primary health care professionals for the eye.

Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.

Doctors of Optometry prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical procedures.

Optometrists counsel their patients regarding surgical and non-surgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations, and lifestyle.

“THAT’S WHAT OPTOMETRISTS DO”

INSPIRING TRUE STORIES, COMPILED BY ASCO



“Today I added 100 points to a young player’s batting average.”

That’s what optometrists do.

ASCO
ASSOCIATION of
SCHOOLS and COLLEGES
of OPTOMETRY

- “Today I returned the joy of bird watching to a homebound senior.”
- “Today I helped save the life of a young mother.”
- “Today I gave a hockey player another shot at the Stanley Cup.”
- “Today I showed a baby a world full of small wonders.”
- “Today I shortened a wounded warrior’s road to recovery.”
- “Today I made sure a working man would keep working.”
- “Today I kept a survivor’s hope from dimming.”

Read *[True Stories](#)* to find out how!

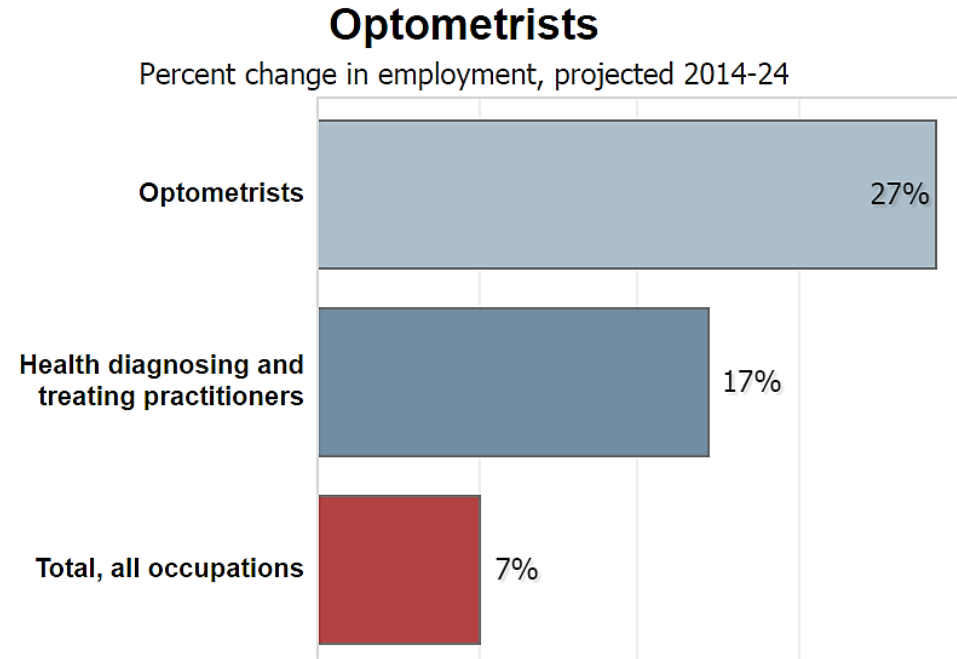
WHAT DO OPTOMETRISTS DO?

Optometrists typically do the following:

- Perform vision tests and analyze results
- Diagnose sight problems, such as nearsightedness or farsightedness, and eye diseases, such as glaucoma
- Prescribe eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other visual aids, and if state law permits, medications
- Perform minor surgical procedures to correct or treat visual or eye health issues
- Provide treatments such as vision therapy or low-vision rehabilitation
- Provide pre- and postoperative care to patients undergoing eye surgery—for example, examining a patient's eyes the day after surgery
- Evaluate patients for the presence of other diseases and conditions, such as diabetes or hypertension, and refer patients to other healthcare providers as needed
- Promote eye and general health by counseling patients

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: 2014-24

- Employment of optometrists is projected to grow 27 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- Optometrists held about 40,600 jobs in 2014. About 49 percent of optometrists worked in stand-alone offices of optometry. Optometrists may also work in doctors' offices and optical goods stores. About 1 in 6 optometrists were self-employed in 2014.



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

PREREQUISITES FROM POPULAR SCHOOLS

School	Biology w/ lab	Gen Chem w/ lab	Orgo W/ lab	Biochem	Physics w/lab	Microbio	Math	English	Others?
<u>Western U of Health Sciences, CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>Nova Southeastern U CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem	calc	1 yr	1 sem Anat/Phys
<u>Illinois CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	REC	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>New England CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>PA CoO at Salus U</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr*	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats*	1 yr	Psyc
<u>Southern CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc/soci al science
<u>SUNY CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	REC	1 yr	REC	calc + stats	1 tr	psyc/soci al science

yr = year; sem = semester; REC = Recommended; * = see site for additional options

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY (MOST POPULAR SCHOOL, 2012)

1st Year

Basic science classroom and laboratory curriculum
Clinical observations in the Primary Eyecare Service of the Illinois Eye Institute
Private Practice Clerkship
Patient Advocate Program

2nd Year

Clinical science classroom and laboratory curriculum
Clinical training: observations, evaluations, dispensing and screenings
Patient Advocate Program
Early patient care experiences in Primary Eyecare

3rd Year

Diagnosis and treatment of advanced ocular systemic diseases
Weekly patient care in the Primary Eyecare Service of the Illinois Eye Institute
Early patient care experiences in Advanced Ophthalmic Care, Cornea/Contact Lens, and Pediatrics/Binocular Vision

4th Year

Three externship rotations with at least one VA Hospital setting
Mandatory areas of focus: Advanced Ophthalmic Care, Cornea/Contact Lens, Low Vision Rehabilitation, and Pediatrics/Binocular Vision, and Primary Eyecare

THE OPTOMETRY ADMISSION TEST

What is the Optometry Admission Test (OAT)?

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information.

What subjects does the OAT cover?

The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **American Academy of Optometry:** aaopt.org
- **American Optometric Association:** aoa.org
- **Assoc. of Regulatory Boards of Optometry:** arbo.org
- **Assoc. of Schools and Colleges of Optometry:** opted.org
- **National Board of Examiners in Optometry:** optometry.org
- **Optometry Admission Testing Program:** ada.org/oat/
- **Optometry Centralized Application Service:** optomcas.org

