

EYEING THE ROLE OF AN OPTICIAN

If you enjoy STEAM-related skills and helping others, then opticianry might be the career for you. Read the information below and view the videos that your teacher shares. Then follow the prompts to write reflections on the information that you learn.

AN OPTICIAN'S MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Improve people's vision by properly fitting glasses and contact lens prescriptions given by optometrists and ophthalmologists.
- Advise on eyeglass frames, lenses, and coatings based on a person's needs, preferences, and occupation.
- Adjust eyeglass frames that have become uncomfortable or crooked.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Opticians may get experience through an apprenticeship, on-the-job-training, a 1-year certificate program, or college, such as a 2-year associate degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing.

If you're interested in becoming an optician, consider taking these classes in high school:

- Science (biology, chemistry, physics) – to understand human biology and vision science
- Math (algebra I & II, geometry) – precision and measurement are key in fitting eyewear
- Additional recommendations – business/marketing, public speaking, computers

TYPES OF OPTICIANS

- Dispensing opticians
- Contact lens opticians
- Ophthalmic laboratory technicians
- Fashion opticians
- Low-vision opticians

WHERE OPTICIANS WORK

- Optical retail stores
- Optical stores independently owned
- Healthcare settings such as optometrist or ophthalmologist offices or eye clinics
- Television and movie production sets

LEARN MORE

Check out these resources to find out more about careers in optometry:

- Career Explorer: careereexplorer.com/careers/optician
- ExploreHealthCareers.org: explorehealthcareers.org/careers/technologists-and-technicians/optician-dispensing
- OpticianEDU.org: opticianedu.org
- United Optician Association - Requirements by state to become an optician: opticians.quorum.us/InYourState/

THINK ABOUT IT!

On the back of this sheet:

1. List five skills you think a successful optician needs.
2. Provide one aspect of the career that sounds fun.
3. Provide one aspect of the career that sounds challenging.

OPTICIAN CAREER SPOTLIGHT

"As an optician, I have the privilege of changing lives in the simplest yet most powerful way, by helping people see. There's nothing more rewarding or meaningful than that."

— Tyjia Sherman, Optician and Development Coordinator, Vision To Learn



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