Ophthalmic Technology Information Session

Trinity River Campus

Tarrant County College District

AGENDA FOR OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SESSION

1. Introduction to Ophthalmic Technician Program & Ophthalmic Assistant Programs

2. Introduction to Ophthalmic Assistant & Technician Profession

3. Requirements for Patient Safety and Welfare

4. Application Period

5. Competitiveness and Costs

6. Selection Notification / Eligibility

7. Length of Program

8. FAQ

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN & OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Introduction

Ophthalmic Assistants & Ophthalmic Technicians are involved with direct patient care and are responsible for testing and measuring eye functions under the direct supervision of an ophthalmologist. The program prepares students for entry-level into the eye care profession.

Career Opportunities

Ophthalmic Assistants & Ophthalmic Technicians are in demand with a projected growth of 25% in the next 10 years in the DFW area.

Employment opportunities for ophthalmic assistants and ophthalmic technicians include large hospital and university eye clinics and large and small private practice eye clinics.

Starting Salaries

Ophthalmic Assistants starting salaries are approximately $31,000 - $37,000.*

Successful completion of Certified Ophthalmic Assistant & Certified Ophthalmic Technician Examination administered by IJCAHPO may improve starting salary range. Additional work experience may also improve starting salary range.

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGY

Program Options

Ophthalmic Assistant I * Level 1 Certificate of Completion or Continuing Education Certificate	**Ophthalmic Assistant II** Level 2 Certificate of Completion	**Ophthalmic Technician** Associate of Applied Science
Non-clinical assistant level	Clinical assistant level	Technician level
15 semester hours (304 contact hours, didactic/classroom only)*	32 semester hours (400 didactic contact hours and 576 clinic practicum hours)	60 semester hours (784 didactic contact hours and 1,248 clinic practicum hours)
Duration: 12 months (3 semesters)	Duration: 12 months (3 semesters)	Duration: 21 months (5 semesters)

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Program Options

There are two options for the Tarrant County College Ophthalmic Assistant Program:

- Ophthalmic Assistant Level 1 Certificate / Ophthalmic Assistant Continuing Education Course

- Ophthalmic Assistant Level 2 Certificate

Ophthalmic Assistant Level 1 Certificate / Ophthalmic Assistant Continuing Education Course

Program consists of 5 sequential courses with synchronous class meetings for 1-2 evenings weekly along with additional distance learning requirements during 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, and Summer). There are NO prerequisite courses required for admission. Volunteer clinic hours or current employment in an ophthalmology office is helpful during the program. Clinical rotations are NOT part of the curriculum. *Enrollment in the Level 1 Certificate course rather than the continuing education course may allow for different financial aid opportunities and ability to apply for additional undergraduate courses for the Level 2 Certificate if desired.*

Ophthalmic Assistant Level 2 Certificate

Program consists of the same 5 sequential courses during the 3 semesters, or 12 months, for the Level 1 Certificate above **plus** 2 clinical rotation courses. Clinical rotation courses require attendance at approved eye clinics for 20-24 hours weekly from 8 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday, starting in January through mid-August for a total of 576 clinical hours.

Successful completion of the Level 2 clinical rotations will satisfy the required clinical contact time to apply for the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) Examination administered by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) at the successful conclusion of the program.

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Ophthalmic Technician, Associate of Applied Science

Program consists of 60 total semester credit hours during 5 semesters, or 21 months. A total of 4 clinical rotations, 9 ophthalmic classroom courses delivered in blended format generally 1-2 evenings per week from 6 PM-9 PM with an additional 5-6 hours of distance learning requirements per week, and 18 semester credit hours of general education courses comprise the program.

Required clinical learning experience occurs in the 2nd – 5th semesters of the program (January 2024 – May 2025) for 20-24 clinical rotation hours each week, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM for a total of 1,248 clinical hours. Students need to commit to part-time evening only schedule for the first 4 months for classroom learning the 1st semester. For the 2nd – 5th semesters, students need to commit to part-time daytime schedule of 20-24 weekday hours for clinical rotations for the remainder of the program.

Successful completion of the Ophthalmic Technician Program will satisfy the required clinical contact time to apply for the Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT) Examination administered by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) at the successful conclusion of the program.

Part-time daytime classroom option may be available for semesters 4 & 5 during the final year of the program based on student interest.

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSION

Ophthalmic Assistants & Technicians in the Eye Clinic:

- Obtain visual and medical histories.
- Acquire measurements of the eyes' optical system for basic corrections for deficiencies of near- or far-sightedness.
- Utilize diagnostic instruments such as ultrasound for measurements, and ophthalmic photography and imaging instruments to document lesions of the retina and cornea.
- Provide a summary of measurements and findings to the physician to aid in patient diagnosis and management.

Ophthalmic Assistant & Technician Certification:

- May take the national certification examination to earn the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) or the Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT) administered by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO)

  COA Examination Requires:

  - Successful completion of the TCC Ophthalmic Assistant Program
  - Complete 500 hours of work experience in ophthalmology clinic on your own for the Level 1 Certificate / Continuing Education Program
  - Complete 2 clinical rotations during the Level 2 Certificate program

  COT Examination Requires:

  - Successful completion of the TCC Ophthalmic Technician Program
  - Complete 4 clinical rotations during the AAS program

PATIENT SAFETY AND WELFARE
ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- Communicate in oral and written form to interact with patients and other health professionals.

- Speak, hear, and observe patients in order to ascertain information and perceive nonverbal communication.

- Maintain adequate physical condition to stand, walk, and sit for prolonged periods of time.

- Have good manual dexterity and motor function to operate ophthalmic equipment.

- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize information under busy working conditions in the clinic.

Accepted applicants will be required to complete the Pre-Enrollment Physical Exam form with a licensed medical practitioner prior to starting the program.

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APPLICATION PERIOD

For Fall Admission

Complete applications accepted starting

March 1st until August 3rd, 2023; or until class reaches capacity. No late applications accepted.

Application

For step-by-step instructions for all ophthalmic technology programs, see [How to Apply to Ophthalmic Technician](#).

OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGY SEATS & COST INFORMATION

- **How many seats per application period?**

Ophthalmic Technology currently accepts 15 students per application period by August 3rd each year.

- **How much does the program cost?**

Tuition:

	Ophthalmic Assistant I Level 1 Certificate or Continuing Education Certificate	**Ophthalmic Assistant II** Level 2 Certificate	**Ophthalmic Technician** Associate of Applied Science
Approximately	$1,000	$2,050	$3,850

Books: $100 (subject to change)

Scrubs: $140 (for Ophthalmic Assistant II & Ophthalmic Technician pathways only)

The Ophthalmic Programs are being reviewed for financial aid options for the future. Please contact Trinity River Campus' Financial Aid Office for more information.

SELECTION NOTIFICATION: CANDIDATES AND SELECTION INTO PROGRAM

When Will I Be Notified?

- Applicants will be notified approximately 1 to 2 weeks after completing application process.

How Will I Be Notified?

- After complete application, acceptance email and/or phone call to notify of acceptance into the program.

Selection Into Program

- The top 15 candidates are invited to register for the first course: OPTS 1011/1311 The Visual System that begins on August 23, 2023.

ELIGIBILITY

- Complete Admission Application

  Include:

  - Driver's license or government issued ID

  - High school diploma or GED

- Successful completion of Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements; OR college transcripts accepted to waive requirements above

  - Official or unofficial scores/transcripts accepted

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the start of the program.

- Review the Ophthalmic Technology Information Session

  Applicants with complete admission application will be invited for an interview with the program.

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT I PROGRAM

Course	Title	Start Date
OPTS 1011/1311	The Visual System	8/23/2023
OPTS 2041/2341	Ophthalmic Techniques	10/18/2023
OPTS 1019/1319	Vision Care Office Procedures	1/17/2024
OPTS 1015/1315	Basic Contact Lenses	3/20/2024
OPTS 2045/2345	Advanced Ophthalmic Techniques	5/29/2024

The Ophthalmic Assistant I Program will begin August 23, 2023. Courses are completed in the sequence order listed above. The final course will conclude August 2, 2024.

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT II PROGRAM*

Course	Title	Start Date
OPTS 1311	The Visual System	8/23/2023
OPTS 2341	Ophthalmic Techniques	10/18/2023
OPTS 1366	Clinic Practicum I (20-24 hrs each week, scheduled M –F from 8 AM –5 PM)	1/16/2024
OPTS 1319	Vision Care Office Procedures	1/17/2024
OPTS 1315	Basic Contact Lenses	3/20/2024
OPTS 1266	Clinic Practicum II (20-24 hrs each week, scheduled M –F from 8 AM –5 PM)	5/28/2024
OPTS 2345	Advanced Ophthalmic Techniques	5/29/2024

The Ophthalmic Assistant II Program will begin August 23, 2023. Courses are completed in the sequence order listed above. The final course will conclude August 2, 2024.

*Additional courses required to complete the Ophthalmic Assistant II (Level 2 Certificate) include:

ENGL 1301 Composition I, MATH 1314 College Algebra, and choose 6 semester credit hours from Core Curriculum in Creative Arts/Language, Philosophy and Culture.

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OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM*

The Ophthalmic Technician Program will follow the same schedule as the Ophthalmic Assistant II Program for Year 1. The schedule for Year 2 is listed below.

Course	Title	Start Date
OPTS 2366	Clinic Practicum III (20-24 hrs each week, scheduled M –F from 8 AM –5 PM)	8/19/2024
OPTS 1305	Geometric Optics	8/21/2024
OPTS 1492	Ophthalmic Seminar	10/14/2024
OPTS 2335	Advanced Contact Lenses	10/14/2024
OPTS 2367	Clinic Practicum IV (20-24 hrs each week, scheduled M –F from 8 AM –5 PM)	1/21/2025
OPTS 2350	Ophthalmic Surgical Techniques	1/22/2025

The Ophthalmic Technician Program will begin August 19, 2024. Courses are completed in the sequence order listed. The final course will conclude May 9, 2025.

*Additional courses required to complete the Ophthalmic Technician (AAS degree) include:

HUMA 1301 Introduction to Humanities I, PSYC 2301 General Psychology, and all classes listed for Ophthalmic Assistant II.

FAQ

If you have any questions, please contact:

TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu

Academic Advisor: janette.keen@tccd.edu

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!

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