

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT INFORMATION SESSION

TRINITY RIVER EAST CAMPUS

**TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE
DISTRICT**



AGENDA FOR OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT INFORMATION SESSION

1. Introduction to Ophthalmic Assistant Program
2. Introduction to Ophthalmic Assistant 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 ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Introduction

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

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

Program Content

Program consists of 5 sequential courses with synchronous class meetings for 1-2 evenings weekly along with additional distance learning requirements. There are NO prerequisite courses required for admission.

Starting Salaries

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

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

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT PROFESSION

Ophthalmic Assistants 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 Assistants Certification:

- May take the national certification examination to earn the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) administered by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) with the following:
 - Successful completion of the TCC Ophthalmic Assistant Program
 - Complete 500 hours of work experience in ophthalmology clinic

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.

APPLICATION PERIOD

For Fall Admission

- Complete online application on the Tarrant County College Ophthalmic Assistant Webpage.
- Applications will be taken until **September 1st** or until classes are filled.

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT PROGRAM SEATS & COST INFORMATION

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

The Ophthalmic Assistant program currently accepts up to 12 students per application period. Those selected will begin classes in the fall semester, starting September 15th.

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

Tuition: \$1,385, for a total of 5 courses.

Books: \$100 (subject to change)

Students can apply for TPEG (Texas Public Education Grant). 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 letter and/or phone call to notify of acceptance into the program.

- **Selection Into Program**

- The top 12 candidates are invited to register for the first course: OPTS 1011 The Visual System that begins on September 15, 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

- Complete Admission Application
 - Include:
 - Driver's license or government issued ID
 - High school diploma or GED
- Successful completion of TSI or Adult Basic Education (TABE) test; OR college transcripts accepted to waive test above
 - Official or unofficial scores/transcripts accepted
- Must be at least 18 years of age at the start of the program.
- Review the Ophthalmic Assistant Information Session

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Coursework in the program

- OPTS 1011 The Visual System begins September 15th, 2021.
- OPTS 1019 Vision Care Office Procedures begins November 3rd, 2021.
- OPTS 2041 Ophthalmic Techniques begins January 5th, 2022.
- OPTS 1015 Basic Contact Lenses begins March 9th, 2022.
- OPTS 2045 Advance Ophthalmic Techniques begins May 4th, 2022.

The Ophthalmic Assistant Program will begin in mid-September. Courses are completed in the sequence order listed above. The final course will conclude at the end of June 2022.

FAQ

**If you have any questions, please
contact:**

TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu



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