

Key Skills

- knowledge of medicine and health conditions that can affect sight
- customer service skills
- knowledge of biology
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- excellent verbal communication skills
- sensitivity and understanding
- analytical thinking skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- thinking and reasoning skills

Salary

£33,706 - £65,262

Working hours

36-38
per week
evenings/ shifts

Optometrist

University

To become an optometrist you'll need to:

- get a degree in optometry, approved by the General Optical Council (GOC)
- complete a pre-registration work placement which takes 1 year and you'll be supervised by a registered optometrist
- pass the GOC final assessment to qualify

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, Maths and science or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including at least 1 science

Volunteering

You'll find it helpful to get some work experience in healthcare before you apply for a course.

You could also contact high street opticians directly for information on work experience schemes.

Restrictions and Requirements

You'll need to pass enhanced background checks as you may work with children and vulnerable adults.



Post 16

Universities will ask you for a minimum of three A Levels, including Maths and at least one science subject.

It would be a good idea to take Maths, Physics, Biolog or Chemistry at A Level:

Work

If you're working as a dispensing optician, you could retrain to become an optometrist. You'll need to complete an approved optometry degree and pre-registration year.

Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities. With experience you could specialise in an area like contact lenses, sports vision, low vision or working with children. You could study for a postgraduate master's degree in optometry or train further in prescribing drugs for certain eye problems or working with specific conditions like diabetes or glaucoma

Day to Day tasks:

In this role you could:

- use precision instruments and vision measuring and testing tools
- diagnose and give advice
- discuss the suitability and shape of frames
- refer clients to specialists or ophthalmologists (eye surgeons)
- prescribe, fit and supply glasses or contact lenses

Working conditions

You could work at a store, in an NHS or private hospital, at a GP practice or in a laboratory.



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Ophthalmic opticians

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£990	£51,480
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
26h	£38

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth	Replacement
5.3%	52.1%

The workforce is projected to grow by 5.3% over the period to 2027, creating 1,300 jobs.
In the same period, 52.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 12,300 job openings.

You might find this job in
Retail trade

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Dispensing opticians

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£460	£23,920
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
32h	£14

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth	Replacement
5.5%	48.7%

The workforce is projected to grow by 5.5% over the period to 2027, creating 400 jobs.
In the same period, 48.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 3,200 job openings.

You might find this job in
Retail trade

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Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£410	£21,320
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
33h	£12

Workforce Change (projected)

Contraction	Replacement
-2.1%	62.4%

The workforce is projected to contract by -2.1% over the period to 2027, losing 1,700 jobs.
In the same period, 62.4% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 52,500 job openings.

You might find this job in
Retail trade
Health
Architectural & related
Public admin. & defence

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Ophthalmic opticians

Ophthalmic opticians test patients' vision, diagnose defects and disorders and prescribe glasses or contact lenses as required.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines eyes and tests vision of patient, identifies problems, defects, injuries and ill health;
- prescribes, supplies and fits appropriate spectacle lenses, contact lenses and other aids;
- advises patient on proper use of glasses, contact lenses and other aids, and on appropriate lighting conditions for reading and working;
- refers patient to a specialist, where necessary;

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Dispensing opticians

Dispensing opticians supply, fit and service spectacles, contact lenses and other optical aids in accordance with a prescription from an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Common tasks in this job:

- interprets prescription and measures patient's face to determine distance between pupil centres, height of bridge of nose, etc.;
- advises patient on lens type and choice of spectacle frames;
- prepares detailed instructions for workshop;
- ensures that completed spectacles conform to specification and fit the patient correctly and comfortably;

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Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants

Pharmacy and other dispensing assistants work under the supervision of pharmacists or other relevant health professionals to dispense drugs and medicines, issue pre-packaged prescriptions, sell over-the-counter medication, dispense spectacles and contact lenses and other related products.

Common tasks in this job:

- checks received prescriptions for legality and accuracy and confirms patients' or customers' details;
- maintains records of prescriptions received and drugs issued;
- checks stock levels, rotates stock, orders new stock from supplying companies and ensures that products are stored appropriately;
- arranges displays of merchandise;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Useful Websites

[Optometrist | Health Careers](#)

[What to study and where | GeneralOpticalCouncil](#)

[A career in optometry - College of Optometrists \(college-optometrists.org\)](#)

[Optometry \(ucas.com\)](#)

[About our Sixth Form – Bourne Academy](#)

<https://join.specsavers.com/uk/explore-careers/apprenticeships-and-future-talent-at-specsavers/stem-careers-in-optometry-with-specsavers/routes-into-optometry/>

A day in the Life



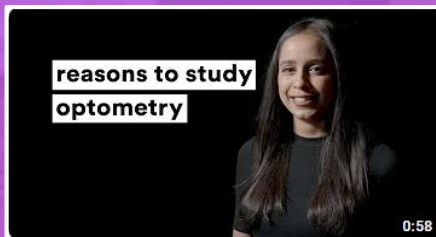
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6XJkfuEsBs&pp=ygUYb3B0aWNpYW4gZGF5IGlulHRoZSBsaWZl>

Becoming a Optometrist



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHEfxD5yXbg&pp=ygUVC3R1ZHlpbmcb3B0b21ldHJ5IHVr>

Study Optometry



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9basrCixi7l&pp=ygUVC3R1ZHlpbmcb3B0b21ldHJ5IHVr>

Optometry at ARU



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOMsb_foqIQ&pp=ygUVC3R1ZHlpbmcb3B0b21ldHJ5IHVr