

Optometric Assistant

■ Job Description

An optometric assistant schedules patients, handles correspondence and records, assists the optometrist in performing lab work and exams, educates patients in the use of glasses and contact lenses, adjusts and repairs frames, assists in visual and developmental training, and helps patients select frames.

■ Job Settings

Optometrist's offices, clinics, retail outlets, and optical laboratories

■ Projected Need

The employment outlook is good, as more optometrists are using optometric assistants and the demand for eye care is increasing due to the rapid growth of the elderly population. Opportunities will be best for individuals with some experience or formal training.

■ Salaries

According to a 2002 American Optometric Association survey, annual salaries ranged from less than \$12,000 to more than \$30,000. More than half (53.8%) of those surveyed reported annual salaries greater than \$20,000.

■ Related Careers

Optician, ophthalmic medical personnel, medical assistant, nurse assistant, occupational/physical therapist assistant, dental assistant, and chiropractic assistant

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[Optometric Technology](#)

■ Credentials

The designation Certified Paraoptometric Assistant (CPOA) is awarded to individuals who have passed the written exam of the American Optometric Association Paraoptometric Section.

■ Resources

American Optometric Association
243 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63141
Phone: 314.991.4100
<http://www.aoanet.org>