

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIANS

AN OVERVIEW

Ophthalmic Technicians are specialized medical assistants who help ophthalmologists provide eye-care to patients. These professionals use sophisticated equipment and measurement techniques to provide information to ophthalmologists used to make eye diagnoses and treatment plans. Additionally, ophthalmic technicians educate patients on how to use and care for contact lenses, instill medicines, apply eye dressings and assist ophthalmologists in surgery. Ophthalmic technicians also perform various clerical duties including supervising. Most often these professionals work M-F, day hours and are employed in eye clinics, hospitals, and surgery practices.

NECESSARY SKILLS

- Ability to teach/instruct
- Ability to operate equipment & obtain accurate measurements
- Use math & science to solve problems

REQUIRED COURSEWORK & DEGREE

- Many obtain an associate degree as an Ophthalmic Technician. Certification is offered at three levels: COA, *COT, COMT. CSC coursework prepares students for the COT exam.
- Coursework includes:
- Optics, glasses & contact lenses
 - Ocular Anatomy & Physiology
 - Eye Disease

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS & INTERESTS

- Social, like to teach, help or otherwise be of service to people
- Conventional, like work activities that follow set procedures and enjoy working with data and details

PATIENT CONTACT

90% of total time

JOB OUTLOOK & WAGES

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, expected to grow much faster than average through 2014

Entry-Level Salary: Approximately \$38,000 annually

Want to know more? Go to:

www.jcahpo.org, www.bls.gov/oco/, www.stkate.edu (department website)