# Optometric Technician

**Program Number:** 31-516-2

## One-Year Technical Diploma

Health Occupations Department  
Health, Human and Protective Services Division  
Program offered at the Madison Campus  
For information call: (608) 246-6065

## About the Program

An optometric technician works under the supervision of an optometrist or ophthalmologist and performs:

- Patient pre-testing such as visual acuity, color vision, depth perception, pupil testing, pressure inside the eye, corneal curvature, peripheral vision and blood pressure.

- Contact lens ordering, verification and patient education. The technician may also assist the doctor in the fitting of contact lenses.

- Eyeglass selection, ordering, verification and adjustment.

Established in 1978, the Optometric Technician Program is a one-year technical diploma program that may be completed in nine months of full-time study. The program accepts new students in August.

Instructors train students to work in eye care and emphasize the unique duties required of an optometric technician to provide quality vision care services to patients. The technical training includes optometric terminology, optical properties of light, patient pretesting skills, frame and lens selection, eyeglass adjustment, contact lens patient education, ocular anatomy and physiology, visual training and practice management. Clinical experience—working directly with doctors and patients—is an important part of the curriculum.

## Program Requirements

1) Physical exam and completed Personal History Form on file prior to beginning the clinical affiliation; and  
2) Written proof of Adult and Child CPR certification prior to beginning the clinical affiliation.

## Curriculum

**First Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Hrs/week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31-516-325</td>
<td>Optical Dispensing 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-301</td>
<td>Ophthalmic Pre-Testing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-305</td>
<td>Basic Optical Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-315</td>
<td>Ocular Anatomy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-509-303</td>
<td>Body Structure</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-339</td>
<td>Human Relations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-0</td>
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**Semester Total**  
14

**Second Semester**

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Hrs/week</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>31-516-326</td>
<td>Optical Dispensing 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-330</td>
<td>Contact Lenses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-335</td>
<td>Ophthalmic Specialty Testing</td>
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<td>3-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-340</td>
<td>Patient Relations and Practice Management</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-516-345</td>
<td>Preclinical</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-516-350</td>
<td>Clinical Experience*</td>
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<td>0-40</td>
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**Semester Total**  
15

*Clinical experience lasts six weeks and begins on week 15 of the second semester of study.

Note: A copy of the essential functions necessary to successfully complete the program of study is available upon request from the division office.

*Clinical experience lasts six weeks and begins on week 15 of the second semester of study.
Program Courses
31-516-301  Ophthalmic Pre-Testing  3 credits
Covers the history of optometry, relationships between optometry, ophthalmology and opticianry and various paraprofessional care in vision care. The course involves the study of and practical experience in patient pre-testing such as case history, visual acuity, color vision, pupil evaluation and depth perception as well as the specialized testing procedures such as keratometry and blood pressure.

31-516-305  Basic Optical Concepts  3 credits
Covers the properties of light and the function of a lens in vision correction. Included is a review of basic math needed in vision care and the physiological aspects of vision. This course begins the study of the neutralization and verification of spectacle lens powers, to include spherical, cylindrical and prism lenses.

31-516-315  Ocular Anatomy  2 credits
Familiarizes the optometric technician with the form and function of the human eye. The foundation of the lecture material is the anatomy of the eye, but we will discuss the physiology and function of the eye as much as possible. We will also discuss the actions and uses of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents, as their function is based on interference with normal ocular physiology. This course also covers optometric terminology as well as prescription translation.

31-516-325  Optical Dispensing 1  3 credits
Covers frame definition, parts and types of frames, measurement of frames and lenses, alignment of frames, inserting and removing lenses, introduction to dispensing of eyewear and frame repairs.

31-516-326  Optical Dispensing 2  2 credits
This course assists the student in developing a mastery of the alignment and adjustment of eyewear. It also covers the various lens materials, multifocal styles and lens tints. Prerequisites: 31-516-325 and 31-516-305.

31-516-330  Contact Lenses  3 credits
Gives the student in-depth exposure to the technical aspects of clinical contact lens practice. Lecture and laboratory experiences emphasize lens verification, patient education and evaluation. Prerequisites: 31-516-301, 31-516-305 and 31-516-315.

31-516-335  Ophthalmic Specialty Testing  3 credits
Provides the student experience and knowledge in areas of special vision care procedures: subjective refraction, visual field testing, slit lamp, Goldmann and non-contact tonometry, basic concepts of orthoptics and the treatment of eye diseases including instillation of eye medications and eye patching. Patient instruction and assistance are emphasized in laboratory sessions. Prerequisites: 31-516-301, 31-516-305, and 31-516-315.

31-516-339  Human Relations  1 credit
Introduces students to their personal and vocational responsibilities as an optometric technician. The development of communication skills one needs as an optometric technician are introduced. The ethical and legal responsibilities of an optometric technician are defined. Time management techniques will be presented. Basic concepts of stress and how it affects behavior, and stress management are discussed. The course also covers writing a job application letter and resume as well as interview techniques.

31-516-340  Patient Relations and Practice Management  2 credits
Provides a study of front office management techniques including telephone and appointment book management, filing, recall systems, bookkeeping and insurance claim processing.

31-516-345  Preclinical  2 credits
Prepares students for clinical affiliation by having them complete vision screenings on patients from the college. Class discussions are held analyzing the results of the screening as well as the students’ performance. Prerequisites: 31-516-301, 31-516-305 and enrollment in 31-516-335.

31-516-350  Clinical Experience  3 credits
Students participate 40 hours per week for six weeks of assigned clinical experience in an optometric or clinic setting. The student is expected to achieve specific educational objectives determined for this experience. Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of all first-semester courses plus enrollment in second-semester courses.

Required Related Course
31-509-303  Body Structure  2 credits

Internet-Based Courses
Internet-based courses are available for individuals already employed in eye care. For detailed information, see the Optometric Technician Program on the MATC Website at matcmadison.edu. From the homepage, click on “Programs of Study.”

Career Potential:
Optometric Technician
Duties may include preliminary testing procedures, dispensing of glasses and contact lenses and front office management.

Dispensing Optician
This person specializes in the fitting and dispensing of eyewear. They may be employed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist or clinic, or own their own optical dispensary.

Contact Lens Technician
Duties may include the ordering, verification and dispensing of contact lenses. The contact lens technician may also assist the doctor in chairside techniques of fitting contact lenses.

More detailed and updated information on this program may be available at: www.matcmadison.edu.
The college reserves the right to make changes in the regulations and courses announced in this publication without notice.
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