J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
School of Nursing and Allied Health

OPTICIANRY

Information Package

A.A.S. Degree Program
&
Opticians Apprentice Career Studies Certificate

A Program Leading to a
Rewarding Career in Vision Care

WELCOME TO J. SARGEANT REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S OPTICIANRY PROGRAM

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Opticianry Program at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. We hope you will find the following information beneficial. This packet contains information about the field of Opticianry and specific information concerning the Opticianry Programs we offer. Use this to familiarize yourself with the opticianry programs and the optical profession. This Opticianry information packet also contains information about the Virginia Opticians Board licensing requirements.

General information about J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, financial aid and admissions can be found at the college website www.reynolds.edu

The Opticianry program offers courses **on campus during the day and on the internet.** Courses are offered in both the associate degree program and the opticians apprentice career studies certificate program. The courses from the career studies certificate are transferable into the degree program. **Note: Students interested in taking the courses via the internet must have at least a part-time job in the field or complete there clinical courses on campus.** All theory courses are offered online for your convenience.

The faculty wishes you much success in your academic pursuit of an associate degree or career studies certificate in Opticianry. If you need assistance of any kind, do not hesitate to contact the program director. Directions to our campus may be found on the college website.

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Becoming a licensed optician in the State of Virginia

According to the Virginia Board of Opticians Rules and Regulations:
Part 1 Entry 18 VAC 100-20-10 section 5.

An applicant has to complete one of the following education requirements to sit for the opticians state board exam:

1. An approved two-year course in a school of opticianry, including the study of topics essential to qualify for practicing as an optician; or
2. A three-year apprenticeship with a minimum of one school year of related instruction or home study while registered in the apprenticeship program in accordance with the standards established by the State Department of Labor and Industry Division of Apprenticeship Training and approved be the Virginia State Board for Opticians

The apprentice related instruction for Virginia Optician Apprentices comes in three forms. All 3 methods are approved by the State Board for Opticians and the State Apprenticeship Council. They are:

1. Instruction at the local technical center operated by the state.
2. Home study courses offered by the National Academy of Opticianry.
3. Apprentice Career Studies Certificate from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College via the internet or on campus classes.

Students must still register with the department of labor as an apprentice. The college has no control over the required hours of on the job training.

SNAH Program Course Offerings

The college offers this program in affiliation with the healthcare agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves. The college relies on its community affiliates to provide clinical education opportunities for its students, expert clinical preceptors, and course instructors for many courses. The often rapid changes in healthcare law, standards of practice, technology, and content of credentialing examinations increasingly necessitates sudden changes in the program's course content, policies, procedures and course scheduling.

As a result the college cannot guarantee every student continuous and uninterrupted clinical and course instruction as outlined in the printed catalog curriculum for this program. Circumstances beyond the control of the college may necessitate the postponement of course offerings or changes in the sequencing and/or location of scheduled courses or clinical assignments. Additionally the college may have to change the instructor for courses after instruction has started.

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Opticianry Program 804 -523-5415
Department of Labor Apprentice Training 804 -371-3104 ext 126
Virginia Board for Opticians 804-367-8505

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation. J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Opticianry Program is a member of the National Federation of Opticianry Schools. The Opticianry program is designed to prepare individuals in the art and science of all phases of the making and fitting of eyeglasses and contact lenses.

Graduation from the program may lead to one of the following occupational goals: optician, private practitioner, ophthalmic dispenser, optical laboratory manager, contact lens technician, branch manager, optical laboratory technician, ophthalmic sales representative, ophthalmic research technician, instructor in ophthalmic dispensing.

Completion of the Opticianry degree program results in the conferring of the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Opticianry and prepares the student for the licensing examinations required in Virginia and most other states. Completion of the Opticians Apprentice Certificate satisfies the related instruction component of the Virginia apprenticeship program. The courses give a basis for many different employment opportunities in the optical field, but are designed to provide the education needed to have a successful career as a **LICENSED OPTICIAN**.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Opticianry Program is to provide quality training and instruction in the profession of Opticianry resulting in an Associate in Applied Science Degree. As an equal opportunity institution, JSRCC welcomes all and encourages its students to seek excellence in their studies. The program further encourages the students to learn to conduct an ethical professional practice of Opticianry in order to provide a superior standard of care for the people of the State of Virginia.

PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Opticianry Program were developed in concert with the program's philosophy and the mission and goals of the college.

1. To upgrade the profession of Opticianry through formal opticianry education. Adding to the profession men and women who are well qualified to interpret prescriptions, fabricate eyewear, dispense spectacles and contact lenses, communicate effectively, utilize sales techniques, and are self confident to serve the visual needs of the public.
2. To stimulate growth and development of the Opticianry student into a responsible, competent, enthusiastic, professional who maintains environmental and ethical standards, and works well with other professionals in his/her field.
3. To prepare graduates for entry level employment in the optical field.
4. To prepare Opticianry students for successful completion of national certification and/or state licensing exams.

OVERVIEW OF THE OPHTHALMIC PROFESSIONS

OPTICIAN - a professional who has the responsibility for the dispensing of eyewear, including spectacles, contact lenses, low-vision aids, and accessories. The optician may fabricate, verify, and fit eyeglasses, contact lenses and other optical devices upon the written prescription of a medical doctor or doctor of optometry. Once presented with this prescription, an optician is responsible for analyzing and interpreting the prescription to determine the lenses that are best suited to the patientσ lifestyle and visual needs. Frame selection, including size and material, is then chosen. The optician takes measurements to insure proper lens placement in the frame, and must verify the accuracy of the finished product. The glasses are adjusted to the patient by the optician at the time of delivery. Other duties include occasional adjustments to retain proper fit, replacements, and repairs of lenses and frames.

OPTOMETRIST - Doctors of Optometry (O.D.) are the primary health care professionals for the eye.
Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST - A Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) specializes in examining and treating any disease of the eye. In addition to writing prescriptions for spectacles and contact lenses, the Ophthalmologist treats eye diseases with drugs and surgery.

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN - A certified ophthalmic technician is a professional who performs pre-test, pre-screening, medical history, and office management for the Ophthalmologist.

OPTOMETRIC ASSISTANT - The optometric assistant is a person trained to assist an Optometrist. Their duties consist of office skills, data collection, help in various pre-tests, fit and adjust the doctor’s patient’s eyeglasses.

DISPENSING OPTICIANS

Significant Points

- Training requirements vary by State. If the state requires licensure the dispensing opticians must receive training through apprenticeships lasting 2 to 4 years or earn the degree.
- Employment of dispensing opticians is expected to increase as fast as the average for all occupations through 2008 as demand grows for corrective lenses.

Training, Other Qualifications, and Advancement

Employers usually hire individuals with no background in opticianry or those who have worked as ophthalmic laboratory technicians and then provide the required training. Training may be informal, on-the-job or formal apprenticeship. Some employers, however, seek people with postsecondary training in opticianry. Knowledge of physics, basic anatomy, algebra, geometry, and mechanical drawing is particularly valuable because training usually includes instruction in optical mathematics, optical physics, and the use of precision measuring instruments and other machinery and tools. Dispensing opticians deal directly with the public so they should be tactful, pleasant, and communicate well. Manual dexterity and the ability to do precision work are essential.

Large employers usually offer structured apprenticeship programs, and small employers provide more informal on-the-job training. In the 21 States that offer a license to dispensing opticians, individuals without postsecondary training work from 2 to 4 years as apprentices. Apprenticeship or formal training is offered in most States as well.
Apprentices receive technical training and learn office management and sales. Under the supervision of an experienced optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist, apprentices work directly with patients, fitting eyeglasses and contact lenses. In the 21 States requiring licensure, information about apprenticeships and licensing procedures is available from the State board of occupational licensing.

Formal opticianry training is offered in community colleges and a few colleges and universities. In 1999, there were 25 programs accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation that awarded 2-year associate degrees in ophthalmic dispensing or optometric technology. There are also shorter programs of one year or less. Some States that offer a license to dispensing opticians allow graduates to take the licensure exam immediately upon graduation; others require a few months to a year of experience.

Dispensing opticians may apply to the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners for certification of their skills. Certification must be renewed every 3 years through continuing education. Many experienced dispensing opticians open their own optical stores. Others become managers of optical stores or sale representatives for wholesalers or manufacturers of eyeglasses or lenses.

AAS Degree OPTICIANRY CURRICULUM

COURSE		TITLE	LEC. HRS.	LAB. HRS.	CRS. CRE.
SDV	100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
MTH	120	Introduction to Mathematics	3	0	3
OPT	150	Optical Laboratory Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	152	Optical Laboratory Clinical I	0	6	3
OPT	121	Optical Theory I	3	0	3
___	___	Health or Physical Education Elective	0-2	0-4	2
		Total	10-12	6-10	15
ITE	115	Basic Computer Literacy	3	0	3
OPT	151	Optical Laboratory Theory II	3	0	3
OPT	153	Optical Laboratory Clinical II	0	6	3
OPT	122	Optical Theory II	3	0	3
ENG	111	College Composition I	3	0	3
		Total	12	6	15
OPT	154	Optical Business Management	3	0	3
OPT	160	Optical Dispensing Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	165	Optical Dispensing Clinical I	0	4	2
OPT	273	Contact Lens Theory I	3	0	3
		Total	9	4	11
ENG	112	College Composition II	3	0	3
OPT	260	Optical Dispensing Theory II	3	0	3
OPT	271	Optical Dispensing Clinical II	0	12	3
OPT	274	Contact Lens Theory II	3	0	3
OPT	105	Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Eye	3	0	3
		Total	12	12	15
OPT	253	Current Optical Trends	2	0	2
OPT	280	Contact Lens Clinical	0	6	3
OPT	272	Optical Dispensing Clinical III	0	12	3
___	___	Social Science Elective	6	0	6
		Total	8	18	14
Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in Opticianry					70

Students who receive a final grade lower than "C" in any of the optiianry courses must obtain permission from the program director to continue the major in opticianry.

Opticians Apprentice Career Studies Certificate

Purpose: Successful completion of the Opticians Apprentice Career Studies Certificate will prepare students for employment in the eye care field throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. This program is designed to develop basic essential knowledge and performance skills necessary to function as an optician.

Occupational Objectives: Students who successfully complete this career studies certificate program and complete the 6000 hours of on-the-job training, as a registered apprentice will be eligible to sit for the licensure examination to become a licensed optician in the State of Virginia. Students must register with the department of labor as an apprentice optician. The college doesn't do this. Contact the Virginia Department of Labor Apprentice Training.

Program Notes: In addition to the general college curricular admission requirements, an interview with the Opticianry program head is required before beginning the curriculum. Students must be registered as an Apprentice Optician with the Virginia Department of Labor. This career studies certificate program may be completed in three years. To be awarded the Opticians Apprentice Career Studies Certificate, students are required to complete 2000 hours of on-the-job training per year, for a total of 6000 hours, along with the required courses.

CURRICULUM					
		.	LEC.	LAB.	CRS.
COURSE		TITLE	HRS.	HRS.	CRE.
OPT	150[1]	Optical Laboratory Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	121	Optical Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	152	Optical Laboratory Clinical I	0	6	3
OPT	122	Optical Theory II	3	0	3
OPT	160[2]	Optical Dispensing Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	165	Optical Dispensing Clinical I	0	4	2
OPT	105	Anatomy, Physiology, and Path of Eye	3	0	3
OPT	143	Optical Business Topics	1	0	1
OPT	260	Optical Dispensing Theory II	3	0	3
___	___[3]	Approved General Education Elective	3	0	3
		Total	22	10	27

[1]OPT 150 is the introductory course for finishing and surfacing laboratory work. This course is required to be taken in conjunction with Opt 152 (Optical Laboratory Clinical I).

[2]OPT 160 is the introductory course for all ophthalmic dispensing work. This course is required to be taken in conjunction with OPT 165 (Optical Dispensing Clinical I).

[3]Selection of a course to fulfill the general education elective requirement must be approved by the academic division administering the program.

4 Steps to Become Accepted into the Opticianry Program

1. **Complete the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College online application** form. (There is no fee for applying)

   www.reynolds.edu

2. **Send transcripts** from high school and any prior colleges attended to JSRCC Admissions and Records office.

3. **Take placement examinations in Math & English.** (only required if you have never taken a college level Math or English before) Applicants who indicate less than acceptable skills will be required to take developmental courses. To arrange for placement exams call the Placement Testing Center at (804) 523-5470.

   Students whose primary language is not English *must either complete the college's English language proficiency testing or submit required documentation for a waiver of these tests prior to registration. Non-native speakers may be restricted to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and will be expected to complete these before progressing to Math and English Placement tests and most other classes. For additional information, please schedule an appointment with an ESL Advisor in Building B, Room 364, Parham Road campus by calling 804.523-5020.*

4. **Have an interview with the Program Director.** Interviews can be arranged by contacting Ms. Ostrom directly via phone or email.

Once all 4 of these items have been completed, the applicant's folder is coded complete and acceptance is granted (space permitting).

OPTICIANRY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

OPT 121 Optical Theory I (3 cr.)
Introduces theory and application of ophthalmic lenses. Presents history, basic manufacturing and quality standards of ophthalmic lenses, propagation of light, refraction and dioptric measurements, true power, surface power, nominal lens formula. Explains lens makers' equation, boxing system, spherical lens design, fundamental aspects of cylindrical lenses, sphero-cylinder lens design, and flat and toric transposition. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 122 Optical Theory II (3 cr.)
Explores the development of multifocal lenses, application of multifocal lenses, survey of current ophthalmic lens, the properties of spherocylinder lenses, and an in-depth analysis of the optics of ophthalmic prisms. Prerequisite: OPT 121. Lecture 3 hours per week

OPT 143 Optical Business Topics (1 cr.)
Introduces the student to the management aspect of the optical industry. Topics include inventory purchasing, pricing theories, personnel issues, record keeping, ethics, and legal issues facing the optical industry. Lecture 1 hour per week. (offered online only)

OPT 150 Optical Laboratory Theory I (3 cr.)
Introduces the student to the terminology, instruments, lens, frames, and materials used in the surfacing and finishing of optical prescription eyewear. Presents personal and environmental safety issues. Corequisite: OPT 152. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 151 Optical Laboratory Theory (3 cr.)
Covers making eyeglasses with advanced prescriptions and frames. Includes verification and neutralization techniques for single vision lens and bifocals, frame repair, accomplishing prescribed prism by decentration, verification and neutralization, semi-rimless glasses, and multifocal glasses. Prerequisites: OPT 150 and OPT 152 or equivalent. Corequisite: OPT 153. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 152 Optical Laboratory Clinical I (3 cr.)
Provides the clinical component of Optical Laboratory Theory I. Provides students the opportunity to learn clinical skills in fundamental optical laboratory tasks at the entry level under the direction and supervision of a preceptor. Emphasizes accuracy and attaining skills that meet acceptable professional standards. Corequisite: OPT 150. Laboratory 6 hours per week.

OPT 153 Optical Laboratory Clinical II (3 cr.)
Provides the clinical component of Optical Laboratory Theory II. Presents students with an opportunity to learn clinical skills for optical laboratory tasks at the advanced level under the direction and supervision of a preceptor. Emphasizes accuracy and the attainment of skills that meet acceptable professional standards. Prerequisites: OPT 150 and OPT 152 or equivalent. Corequisite: OPT 151. Laboratory 6 hours per week.

OPT 154 Optical Business Management (3 cr.)
Covers basic management and leadership skills necessary for a successful eye care office. Teaches the analysis, creative thinking, judgment, planning strategy, and implementation skills necessary for today's optical business challenges. Lecture 3 hours per week. (offered online only)

OPT 160 Optical Dispensing Theory I (3 cr.)
Introduces the student to the skills necessary for becoming a dispensing optician. Includes the history of the profession, patient/client measurements, frame and lens materials, frame and lens selection, prescription analysis, and adjustment techniques. Prerequisite: OPT 121 or equivalent. Corequisite: OPT 165. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 165 Optical Dispensing Clinical I (2 cr.)

Provides the student with an opportunity to develop the skills necessary for becoming a dispensing optician. Covers patient/client measurements, frame and lens materials, frame and lens selection, prescription analysis, and adjustment techniques. Serves as the clinical component of Optical Dispensing Theory I. Prerequisite: OPT 121 or equivalent. Corequisite: OPT 160. Laboratory 4 hours per week.

OPT 253 Current Optical Trends (2 cr.)

Presents current trends in the optical profession. Examines the impact of new materials, new health care issues, and medical advances as they relate to the visual needs and wants of society. Prerequisite: OPT 260 and OPT 271 or equivalent. Lecture 2 hours per week.

OPT 260 Optical Dispensing Theory II (3 cr.)

Focuses on the development and refinement of the skills necessary for students to become a licensed dispensing optician, including patient/client measurements, frame and lens materials, frame and lens selection, prescription analysis, and adjustment techniques. Prerequisites: OPT 160 and OPT 165 or equivalent. Corequisite: OPT 271. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 271 Optical Dispensing Clinical II (3 cr.)

Focuses on the development and refinement of the skills necessary for students to become a licensed dispensing optician, including patient/client measurements, frame and lens materials, frame and lens selection, prescription analysis, and adjustment techniques. Serves as the clinical component of Optical Dispensing Theory II. Prerequisites: OPT 160 and OPT 165 or equivalent. Corequisite: OPT 260. Laboratory 9 hours per week, 4 of the hours per week will be done at a clinical rotation site.

OPT 272 Optical Dispensing Clinical III (3 cr.)

Focuses on the development and refinement of the skills necessary for students to become a licensed dispensing optician, including patient/client measurements, frame and lens materials, frame and lens selection, prescription analysis, and adjustment techniques. Prerequisites: OPT 260 and OPT 271 or equivalent. Laboratory 9 hours per week, 4 of the hours per week will be done at a clinical rotation site.

OPT 273 Contact Lens Theory I(3 cr.)

Introduces basic concepts and techniques of contact lens fitting, contact lens design, contact lens materials, and contact lens nomenclature. Covers contact lens insertion and removal techniques, and basic slit lamp and keratometry skills. Prerequisites: NAS 176 or OMP 105 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 274 Contact Lens Theory II (3 cr.)

Explores soft spherical and gas permeable contact lens fitting philosophies, tolerances, and designs. Develops the student's patient evaluation skills, patient training skills, and skills for evaluating the fit and verification of contact lenses. Prerequisite: OPT 273 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

OPT 280 Contact Lens Clinical (3 cr.)

Promotes the development of clinical skills in fundamental contact lens tasks at the entry level under the direction and supervision of a preceptor. Emphasizes professional standards. Prerequisite: OPT 274 or equivalent. Laboratory 6 hours per week.

OPT 105 Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Eye (3cr)

This course will include fundamentals of various body systems and principles of human physiology, methods of drug delivery including the advantages and disadvantages of drops, ointments, sustained release systems, systemic use of medications, basic characteristics of common external and internal diseases of the eye, and ocular emergencies. (previously titled OMP 105 – offered online only)