

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



OPTICIANRY

Information Package

A.A.S. Degree Program

&

Opticians Apprentice Career Studies Certificate

**Programs Leading to a
Rewarding Career in Vision Care**

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



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. **Clinical courses completed via distance education can be done at an assigned clinical site in your area or at your current place of employment if applicable.** All theory courses are completely 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.

Kristina Green MS, ABOM, FCLSA
Program Director
PO Box 85622
Richmond, VA. 23285-5622
kgreen@reynolds.edu
Office: 558 Downtown campus
Phone: 804-523-5415

How to become 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 opticianry 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 (the AAS degree program);**

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 by the Virginia State Board for Opticians**
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.

The related instruction for Virginia Optician Apprentices may be completed in 3 ways.

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.

SNAH Program Clinical 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 127

Virginia Board for Opticians 804-367-8569

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 State 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 patient's 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.) examine, diagnose, and treat vision problems, eye diseases and related systemic conditions, and prescribe eyeglasses, contact lenses, and medications to treat eye disorders. They cannot perform surgery, but they often provide patients with pre- and postsurgical care. Sometimes ophthalmologists and optometrists work in the same practice and co-manage patients.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST - An ophthalmologist is a physician who specializes in the medical and surgical care of the eyes and visual system and in the prevention of eye disease and injury. They provide a full spectrum of care including routine eye exams, diagnosis and medical treatment of eye disorders and diseases, prescriptions for eyeglasses or contact lenses, surgery, and management of eye problems that are caused by systemic illnesses. Ophthalmologists can be medical doctors (M.D.) or doctors of osteopathy (D.O.).

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.

Steps to follow to become accepted into the Opticianry Program

1. **Complete the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College online application form.** (There is no fee for applying) The link is under “**Future Students**”.

www.reynolds.edu

2. **Send transcripts** from high school and any prior colleges attended to JSRCC Admissions and Records office. There is a form to use for your convenience on the college website under the “**Online Forms**” link.
3. **Apply for any Financial Aid if needed.** You can apply for Aid on the college website also. Aid applications usually take at least 2 months to process. It is **very important** to get it done immediately if you are dependent upon the results for enrollment.
4. **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.

5. **Have an interview with the Program Director.** Interviews can be arranged by contacting Mrs. Green directly via email or phone.

Once all 5 of these items have been completed, the applicant's folder is coded complete and acceptance is granted (space permitting).

New class cohorts typically start in the Fall semester, however if enrollment is strong enough, we do offer Spring semester starts with our online courses.

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
—	—	Personal Wellness Elective	<u>0-2</u>	<u>0-4</u>	<u>2</u>
Total			10-12	6-10	15
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ITE	115	Intro to Computer Applications & Concepts	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	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total			12	6	15
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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	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total			9	4	11
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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	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total			12	12	15
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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
—	—	Humanities Elective	3	0	3
—	—	Social Science Elective	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total			8	18	14
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Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in Opticianry

70

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

Opticians Apprentice Career Studies Certificate

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 3 years, for a total of 6000 hours, along with the required courses.

CURRICULUM					
Course	Course	.	LEC.	LAB.	CRS.
Prefix	Number	TITLE	HRS.	HRS.	CRE.
OPT	150	Optical Laboratory Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	151	Optical Laboratory Theory II	3	0	3
OPT	121	Optical Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	122	Optical Theory II	3	0	3
OPT	160	Optical Dispensing Theory I	3	0	3
OPT	105	Anatomy, Physiology, and Path of Eye	3	0	3
OPT	154	Optical Business Management	3	0	3
		Total	21	0	21

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 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.

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.

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 (3 cr)

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. (offered online only)