

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OPTOMETRIST, AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST, AND AN OPTICIAN?

Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and opticians each play a role in your eye care and visual health needs. Learn more about each position below.

Optometrist



An optometrist is a primary eye care provider that specializes in eye care and visual health. Optometrists evaluate and treat vision conditions, detect and diagnose eye diseases, prescribe eyeglasses and contact lenses, provide low vision care, conduct vision therapy, and provide pre- and post-operative care.

Optometrists

earn a **Doctor of Optometry** degree from a four year college of optometry program.

Ophthalmologist



An ophthalmologist is a medical doctor who focuses on the surgical and medical care of the eye. Ophthalmologists can perform eye exams, identify and treat eye disease, prescribe medications, and conduct ocular surgery.

Ophthalmologists

earn a **medical degree (MD)** after 4 years at medical school and 4 years of residency training.

Optician



An optician is a professional who fits and grinds lenses and dispenses glasses.

Opticians

follow state licensing and certification requirements and often complete a 1-2 year degree certification.



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