WHAT GIVES YOU YOUR CHARGE?

Get after it through a career in optometry

futureeyedoc.org
Optometrists are doctors who preserve eye health. This includes:

- Diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the eye
- Performing minor surgical procedures
- Providing pre- and post-operative care to patients undergoing ophthalmologic surgery
- Detecting critical health issues like diabetes, hypertension, and even thyroid disease
- Visual correction, including glasses or contact lenses
THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF OPTOMETRY YOU CAN EXPLORE, INCLUDING:

+ Family Practice Optometry
+ Geriatric Optometry
+ Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation
+ Community Health Optometry
+ Primary Eye Care
+ Cornea and Contact Lenses
+ Low Vision Rehabilitation
+ Refractive and Ocular Surgery
+ Pediatric Optometry
+ Ocular Disease
+ Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation
IF YOU’RE A STUDENT INTERESTED IN CHALLENGING YOURSELF AND PROVIDING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY, YOU SHOULD BECOME A DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY.
Whether he’s detecting a serious health issue, or fitting lenses to help patients see their world, Dr. Lewis believes optometry is about being the best he can be and giving that to everyone else. He loves that optometry gives him the financial security and time to run an event planning business on the side as well as spend lots of time with family and friends. To him, being able to fulfill all his passions in life is a happiness that can’t be bought.
Opportunities that come with a career in optometry.

1. Strong Patient Relationships

Doctors of Optometry protect a sense that directly impacts quality of life. This creates a special opportunity to build solid relationships through meaningful interactions with patients as you help them maintain their view of the world.

“The relationships that I develop with my patients are unique and special because I get to provide them with the highest quality of care for what arguably is the most important sense.”
- Dr. Jeffrey Lewis

2. Earning Potential

According to the American Optometric Association, optometry offers an average net income of $140,013. That’s just the average. Depending on your path of employment, area of expertise and location, you could earn more than that.

“The earning potential is empowering. It gives you freedom to do so many things while changing lives.”
- Dr. Muriel Martinez
As an optometrist, you can have control over so many aspects of your career. From your modality to location, it’s up to you whether you want to:

- Practice in a city, suburb or rural setting
- Work independently at your own practice or choose employment in a clinical, academic, military, government or public health sector setting
- Pursue primary eye care or a specialty practice

Plus, the average work week of an optometrist is under 40 hours, but in many instances, you can decide if you want to work more or less than that.

“You are in complete control of your future and your success. Not many professions give that to you.” – DR. MIKI LYN ZILNICKI
AT THIRTY YEARS OLD, I HAVE EVERYTHING I COULD EVER ASK FOR.
Dr. Zilnicki works with everyone from kids with binocular vision disorders, lazy eyes, eye turns, or reading issues to adults with traumatic brain injuries, post-stroke or post-concussion vision syndrome. Plus, she still has time to help out on her husband’s family farm, spend time with her daughter, go for family walks on the beach, and do yoga to clear her mind.
Get your career in optometry going.

There are a few things you’ll need to do before you start pursuing a Doctor of Optometry degree:

**Earn**

a bachelor’s degree with a strong background in sciences and laboratory experience from a four-year college or university.

**Find**

a school that aligns with your goals. There are 23 schools and colleges of optometry across the United States. Get started at futureeyedoc.org

**See**

what admission requirements there are based on the optometry institution you’re applying to. Some require you to take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) while others permit you to take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

**Talk**

to, or job shadow, a Doctor of Optometry to get a feel for the career and if it’s something you can imagine yourself doing.
I love this profession. It means a lot to me.
MY QUALITY OF LIFE IS AWESOME. I CHANGE LIVES DURING THE DAY AND I DANCE SALSA AT NIGHT.
I’VE ADVOCATED FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

I’VE EDUCATED FUTURE EYE DOCTORS

AND I’VE DOMINATED SALSA DANCING COMPETITIONS

Being an optometrist gives me life

DR. MURIEL MARTINEZ
Houston, Texas / Pediatric Optometry / Optometric Education

Through pediatric optometry, Dr. Martinez is able to be the voice for those who don’t have a voice—especially children with special needs. She can detect that they’re having vision troubles, then advocate for them and tell their parent(s) whether they need eyeglasses, vision therapy or another treatment option. She also teaches future eye doctors as a professor at an optometry institution. While optometry has fulfilled her, salsa dancing makes her feel alive. She dances competitively and practices four or five nights a week.
23 Schools and Colleges of Optometry

So where can you get the Doctor of Optometry degree needed to become an optometrist? At any of the following schools and colleges across the United States.

Schools are listed alphabetically by State:

ALABAMA
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry
Birmingham, Alabama
www.uab.edu/optometry

ARIZONA
Midwestern University — Arizona College of Optometry
Glendale, Arizona
www.midwestern.edu/programs-and_admission/az_optometry.html

CALIFORNIA
Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
Fullerton, California
www.ketchum.edu

University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry
Berkeley, California
optometry.berkeley.edu

Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry
Pomona, California
www.westernu.edu/optometry

FLORIDA
Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
optometry.nova.edu

ILLINOIS
Chicago College of Optometry at Midwestern University
Downers Grove, Illinois
www.midwestern.edu/programs-and_admission/il_optometry.html

Illinois College of Optometry
Chicago, Illinois
www.ico.edu

INDIANA
Indiana University School of Optometry
Bloomington, Indiana
www.optometry.iu.edu

KENTUCKY
University of Pikeville — Kentucky College of Optometry
Pikeville, Kentucky
www.upike.edu/KYCO

MASSACHUSETTS
MCPHS University School of Optometry
Worcester, Massachusetts
www.mcphs.edu/academics/school-of-optometry/optometry/optometry-od

New England College of Optometry
Boston, Massachusetts
www.neco.edu

MICHIGAN
Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University
Big Rapids, Michigan
www.ferris.edu/mco

MISSOURI
University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry
St. Louis, Missouri
www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry

NEW YORK
State University of New York College of Optometry
New York, New York
www.sunyopt.edu

OHIO
The Ohio State University College of Optometry
Columbus, Ohio
optometry.osu.edu

OKLAHOMA
Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
optometry.nsuok.edu
18% by 2026 is the expected job growth in optometry—a much faster growth rate than other occupations.


OREGON
Pacific University College of Optometry
Forest Grove, Oregon
www.pacificu.edu/optometry

PENNNSYLVANIA
Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
www.salus.edu/optometry

PUERTO RICO
Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry
Bayamón, Puerto Rico
www.optonet.inter.edu

TENNESSEE
Southern College of Optometry
Memphis, Tennessee
www.sco.edu

TEXAS
University of Houston College of Optometry
Houston, Texas
www.opt.uh.edu

University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry
San Antonio, Texas
uiw.edu/optometry
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