

Ophthalmic Assisting, One Year Certificate

The Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, in keeping with its mission to educate students in technology that will allow them to build careers that are fulfilling both financially and professionally, is very excited to offer a one-year certificate program in Ophthalmic Assisting.

The Ophthalmic Assisting program is supported by members of the Massachusetts Board of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. It is a unique program in that it offers a full one-year certificate curriculum and combines didactic academic studies with clinical experience within many of the most prestigious eye health medical centers in the Boston area.

The Ophthalmic Assisting program serves as the educational gateway for students of all ages, including adult learners and medical assistants. With a vibrant eye health medical profession, and continued need for qualified and skilled eye care professionals, there exists a tremendous opportunity for technically skilled and highly knowledgeable ophthalmic assistants.

Medical Assisting is projected to be one of the fastest-growing fields, especially for those with formal training or experience, along with certification. One branch of medical assisting, Ophthalmic Assisting, is an exciting field with numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Graduates of the program will be able to provide and care for patients, while assisting ophthalmologists and optometrists in providing quality medical eye care. Students entering this field will learn valuable skills such as taking a patient's medical history, doing diagnostic tests on patients, assisting during in-office procedures, and maintaining examination, diagnostic and surgical instruments and devices.

BFIT's curriculum is designed to prepare students for entry into the field of ophthalmic assisting with a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on experience.

Graduates of the program will be qualified to work in many different environments, ranging from private practices and multi-specialty clinics to academic practices that include research.

Personal qualifications for working as an Ophthalmic Assistant include enjoying helping people, having a desire for a career that supports professional growth and development, having an interest in working with technology, equipment, and computers, having a fascination for the medical world and having a desire to work in a professional setting that offers something different and exciting every day.

Graduates will have a foundation of knowledge and hands-on clinical skills that will prepare them for the certifying exams once they have completed the qualifying home study test and a minimum of six months full time work under a licensed ophthalmologist. Many of today's senior-level technicians have advanced to higher levels of the profession and have attained even higher salaries. Employment opportunities include positions in private practice, multi-specialty clinics and academic practices, including research work. Many graduates find careers as Ophthalmic Technicians or seek advanced degrees in healthcare management or in business. This program follows all federal regulations regarding gainful employment.

Curriculum

The one-year curriculum is comprehensive in design and has been modeled after Ophthalmic assisting accredited programs from across the country.

Facilities

The college facilities include a "state-of-the-art" refracting lane, as well as an instrumentation laboratory.

Hands-on laboratory and clinical observations will be conducted at nearby Boston area Ophthalmology practices, allowing students the opportunity to learn their skills and technical knowledge, using the most advanced diagnostic instrumentation available to eye health professionals.

Program Goals

Ophthalmic Assistants provide support services to the Ophthalmologist.

The Ophthalmic Assistant is an important member of the eye care team, supplying vital information to the physician who is treating the patient. Upon successful completion of the Ophthalmic Assisting program, the student will be able to:

- Take a general medical and ophthalmic history.
- Take basic anatomical and functional measurements.
- Test ocular functions (e.g. visual acuity and basic color vision tests).
- Verify eyeglass prescriptions.
- Administer topical ophthalmic medications under physician direction.
- Instruct the patient in personal eye care.
- Care for and maintain ophthalmic instruments and equipment.
- Care for, maintain, and sterilize surgical instruments.

Faculty

Department Chair: Blair Wong, LDO, ABOM, M.Ed.

Faculty: Ellen Adams, John Bell, Ashley Briot, Patricia Healy, Christine, Kiernan, Karen Murphy, Carolyn Shea, Jane Shulman, Jennifer Tourtellot, Sharon Weihrauch, Darlene Winn

Certificate Requirements: Ophthalmic Assisting

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: NONE

TECHNICAL COURSES: 29 CREDITS

FIRST SEMESTER, 14 CREDITS

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Lab</u>
OAI11	History Taking I	3	3	0
OAI13	Instrumentation I	2	2	0
OAI14	Medical Ethics, Legal & Regulatory	1	1	0
OAI15	Medical Terminology & Knowledge I	3	3	0
OAI16	Professional Observation	1	0	2
OAI18	Ophthalmic Patient Services & Edu. I	3	3	0
OAI19	Visual Fields & Assessment	1	1	0

SECOND SEMESTER, 15 CREDITS

OAI25	Medical Terminology and Knowledge II	3	3	0
OAI28	Ophthalmic Patient Services & Edu. II	1	1	0
OAI29	Ophthalmic Skills	1	1	0
OAI30	Refractometry	2	2	0
OAI31	History Taking II	1	1	0
OAI32	In-Office Surgical Procedures	1	1	0
OAI33	Instrumentation II	1	1	0
OAI36	Ocular Imaging	2	2	0
OAI37	Ocular Pharmacology	1	1	0
OAI40	Clinical Externship (60 to 120 Hours)	2	0	2