Opticianry (AS)

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 two-year Associate in Science Degree (A.S.) in Opticianry.

The Opticianry program is fully supported by the Opticians Association of Massachusetts. It is nationally recognized and the only program of its kind in Massachusetts, and one of only a few in all of New England.

The Opticianry program serves as the educational gateway for students of all ages, including adult learners and apprentice opticians. With a vibrant optical industry and continued need for qualified eye care professionals, there exists a tremendous opportunity for technically skilled and highly knowledgeable opticians.

The optical industry is experiencing tremendous growth, as well as expanded regulations and increasing requirements for becoming a licensed optician in Massachusetts.

The curriculum is designed to prepare the graduate to meet both the requirements for licensing in all states, including national and local certification exams and practical tests, as well as for entry into the profession of opticianry itself. Upon graduation, the student will be well versed and knowledgeable in all facets of opticianry, including spectacle design, fitting and dispensing, contact lens design and fitting, prescription and non-prescription fabrication and manufacturing, and special application optics.

The optical profession itself offers great diversity and versatility. Graduates will be able to work in many different environments ranging from HMO/medical offices to retail/ high fashion optical boutiques, corporate and chain optical conglomerates to independent ownership. Graduates will be well versed in all aspects of optics as it relates to opticianry. Graduates will be qualified for positions involving spectacle design and dispensing, contact lens design and dispensing, optical laboratory finishing and management, optical business management or independent ownership. Many graduates of the opticianry program seek advanced degrees and/or certification related to business, management, ophthalmic technology and health care management

Curriculum

The two-year curriculum is comprehensive in design and has been modeled after opticianry accredited programs from across the country. As a member of the National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS), the comprehensive curriculum is reviewed each year at the annual meeting.

Facilities

The college facilities include three dedicated classrooms for the opticianry program; a spectacle finishing lab, a contact lens fitting and dispensing clinic, and a prototype optical shop. The optical shop is open regular hours during the academic year and is operated by the opticianry students under the direct supervision of a licensed optician in order to serve the eyecare needs of the college community.

The finishing lab provides students with the opportunity to learn prescription spectacle fabrication, both as individual work projects and assignments, as well as the capability for conversion to a simulated high capacity wholesale optical laboratory..

The contact lens clinic serves as a model "working environment classroom". The contact lens lab provides the student an opportunity to work with contact lens related devices and instrumentation. In addition, the dispensing and fitting aspects of the laboratory will allow opportunities for contact lens related instruction and actual patient care.

Program Mission

The Opticianry program at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology prepares students for national certification, regional licensure, and a career as an optician.

Program Goals

The associate degree program in Opticianry will:

- Prepare students to complete successfully the American Board of Opticianry Examination, the National Contact Lens Examination, and the requirements for licensing in any state;
- Promote the highest technical and ethical standards in the practice and delivery of professional patient care;
- Provide students the opportunity to excel in all aspects of opticianry related to academic and practical knowledge, technical skill and professional level competence;
- Promote inter-disciplinary and cooperative patient care concepts in order to take advantage of the strengths of optometry and opticianry in solving patients' vision care concerns and issues;
- Practice global awareness and ethical responsibility, fostering in students a commitment to civic engagement & volunteerism, leadership, and life-long learning through community-based learning projects and involvement with professional organizations, events and associations; and
- Seek to eliminate hazardous waste and to reduce non-hazardous waste to the minimum levels economically and technically practical, and to be in full-compliance with all federal and state environmental regulations.

Program Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the degree, students will be able to perform the following professional responsibilities:

- Based upon a patient's prescription, vision needs and lifestyle and desires, visualize and design appropriate solutions pertaining to prescription glasses and/ or contact lenses.
- Design, fit and dispense prescription glasses and contact lenses
- Utilize and operate all forms of ophthalmic devices and instrumentation including keratometers, lenmeters, biomicroscopes, corneal topographers, pupilometers and digital image measuring devices.
- Utilize and operate all finishing lab equipment including edgers, heat treating units, safety beveling units, drop ball testing, chemical treating units, blocking and layout devices and rimless edging devices.
- Inspect and verify spectacle and contact lenses for optical precision, proper and comfortable fit, and proper aesthetics.
- Evaluate and troubleshoot patient's concerns and symptoms as they are related to the eyeglasses and contact lenses.
- Professionally and academically express optical technical skills and knowledge, both in an exam scenario, as well as in a clinical environment.

Faculty

Department Chair: Blair Wong

Faculty: George Bourque, Director - Optical Lab
John Deering, Director - Contact Lenses
Evangelina Laboy, Opticianry Service Lab
Kathryn Plante, Optical Clinic Director

Degree Requirements: Opticianry

TECHNICAL COURSES: 47 CREDITS

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Lecture	Lab
BS201	Small Business Management	3	3	0
OP105	Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye	3	3	0
OP110	Ophthalmic Optics I	3	3	0
OP115	Principles and Practices in Opticianry I	3	3	0
OP120	Ophthalmic Optics II	3	3	0
OP122/123	Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing I / Lab	4	3	2
OP125	Principles and Practices in Opticianry II	3	3	0
OP128	Low Vision Dispensing	2	2	0
OP 230/231	Contact Lens Theory I /Lab	4	3	2
OP232/233	Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing II / Lab	4	3	2
OP235	Principles and Practices in Opticianry III	3	3	0
OP 240/241	Contact Lens Theory II /Lab	4	3	2
OP243	Principles and Practices in Opticianry IV	3	3	0
OP245	Vision Assessment	3	3	0
OP281	Opticianry Technical Skills & Service Lab I	1	0	2
OP282	Opticianry Technical Skills & Service Lab II	1	0	2

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: 21 CREDITS

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Lecture	Lab
EN130	College Composition I	3	3	0
EN140	College Composition II	3	3	0
HU/SS	Elective	3	3	0
HU/SS	Elective	3	3	0
HU/SS	Elective	3	3	0
MA105	Technical Math	3	3	0
MA107	Optical Math	3	3	0

Typical Course Sequence for Opticianry

SEMESTER 1

EN130	College Composition 1
MA105	Technical Math
OP105	Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye
OP110	Ophthalmic Optics 1
OP115	Principles and Practices in Opticianry I
OP122/123	Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing I/Lab

SEMESTER 2

EN140	College Composition II
HU/SS	Elective
MA107	Optical Math
OP120	Ophthalmic Optics II
OP125	Principles and Practices in Opticianry II
OP232/233	Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing II/Lab

SEMESTER 3

BS201	Small Business Management
HU/SS	Elective
OP230/231	Contact Lens Theory I/Lab
OP235	Principles and Practices in Opticianry III
OP281	Opticianry Technical Skills & Service Lab I

SEMESTER 4

HU/SS	Elective
OP128	Low Vision Dispensing
OP240/241	Contact Lens Theory II/Lab
OP243	Principles and Practices in Opticianry IV
OP245	Vision Assessment
OP282	Opticianry Technical Skills & Service Lab II