

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
FALL 2025 OPHTHALMIC DISPENSING PROGRAM
Ophthalmic Dispensing Program Selection Criteria

Qualified applicants must have successfully attended Health Programs Orientation, meet a Health Programs Advisor and complete Limited Entry Application Workshop within 2 years from application deadline date. Applicants will be ranked and selected through the following point system:

PREVIOUS EDUCATION:

Associate degree (2 points)

bachelor's degree or higher (4 points)

A.A.S. Degree in Ophthalmic Optics from COA accredited school (8 points)

- Points awarded for the A.A.S. Degree in Ophthalmic Optics from a COA accredited school are not to be combined with points for individual optical courses. Points in this category are awarded in lieu of earning points for each individual optical course taken for the degree.

An unofficial transcript is required.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Six months optical related experience within the past two years*. Experience in a surfacing lab, finishing lab, as a dispenser, contact lens fitting, prosthetics, doctor assisting or any combination of the six. (2 points)

- **CSN form completed by employer indicating work responsibilities and length of employment must be supplied. The Ophthalmic Experience Documentation Form is available online at: https://www.csn.edu/csnmedia/documents/ophthalmic-technology-program/opht-experience_0322.pdf**

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Completed volunteer community service (excluding course curriculum requirements) within the past 12 months*. An additional 2 points will be given if the community service relates to Ophthalmic. Ophthalmic related community service through the Lion's Club International, Blind Center of Nevada Inc., Blind connect, Sight to the Blind, Inc. or M.E.D.I.C.O. will be considered valid.

25-49 hours (1 point)

50-99 hours (2 points)

100+ hours (3 points)

-**CSN form completed by the volunteer organization indicating type of volunteer work and number of hours must be supplied. The Ophthalmic Community Service Documentation form is available online at:**

https://www.csn.edu/csnmedia/documents/ophthalmic-technology-program/opht-commsvc_032022.pdf

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES AND/OR PRIOR OPTICAL COURSES

Any college level physics class completed with a minimum final grade of "C" or higher (2 points)

Certificate of Completion in Ophthalmic Dispensing at CSN. (12 points)

Completion of Gen Ed courses applicable to the program with C or higher (3points per course, see college catalog for required course)

Complete ALS 101 with C or above (3 points)

Completion of any prior optical courses with C or higher (2 points per course)

- Points awarded for any prior optical courses with a C or higher are not to be combined with points for A.A.S. Degree in Ophthalmic Optics from a COA accredited school stated above Previous Education section.

CERTIFICATION (must be current)

- National Opticianry Competency Examination Certificate by ABO (3 points)
- NCLE Contact Lens Technician Certificate by NCLE (3 points)
- Ophthalmic Assistant Certificate by JCAHPO (3 points)
- Ophthalmic technician Certificate by JCAHPO (3 points)
- CTE Program Completion in health care (CNA, dental assisting, sports med etc.) (2points)

NEVADA APPRENTICE OPTICIAN LICENSE (7 points)

CUMULATIVE GPA (Courses completed and are on CSN transcript)

- 2.0 - 2.5 (1 point) 3.1 - 3.5 (3 points)
- 2.6 - 3.0 (2 points) 3.6 - 4.0 (4 points)

MEET WITH PROGRAM DIRECTOR (4 points)

Meet with the program director of ophthalmic dispensing program within 12 month of application deadline.

-Official form completed by the program director must be supplied. The ophthalmic dispensing program student interest counseling worksheet is available online at: <https://www.csn.edu/csnmedia/documents/ophthalmic-technology-program/opht-advform032022.pdf>

LETTER OF INTENT (2 points)

- Providing a typed 300 to 500 maximum word essay answering a question.
- Why do I want to be an optician?

*The completion deadline date for application materials is used as the reference point for time frames. These guidelines are subject to change without notification. Please contact CSN Ophthalmic Dispensing Program for information.