



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

Optician / Technician Program



Application and Guide

For

Prospective Students

www.opt.indiana.edu/opttech

Optician/Technician Program

Associate of Science Degree in Optometric Technology/Opticianry

Indiana University School of Optometry

The IU School of Optometry offers a two-year program in optometric technology and opticianry leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree. Students completing the program are qualified to begin careers as optometric technicians or opticians. This course of study offers an excellent entry point into one of the most interesting areas in the health care field.

Career Information

Opticians can function in a variety of positions within the ophthalmic community. They may fill eyewear prescriptions, take the order written by the eye doctor, produce the lenses with the correct prescription, and shape the lenses to fit the frame. Opticians may also select frames, take facial measurements, choose the best lens style for the patient, and adjust the frames to a correct fit. Additional employment areas are mentioned below.

Optometric technicians must know how to take facial measurements and how to select and adjust frames. In addition, they learn business procedures and may be responsible for managing the doctor's office. Optometric technicians work closely with the eye doctor as part of the eye care team. Their tasks include measuring visual acuity, color vision, depth perception, field of vision, and pressures within the eye. They assist in various contact lens procedures, and also teach contact lens patients to insert, remove, and care for their contact lenses.

Employment and Salaries

Career opportunities are abundant! Most opticians and optometric technicians are employed in the optical industry or by optometrists, opticians, and ophthalmologists. Some are employed as managers of optical dispensaries or laboratories. Graduates of the Optician/Technician Program may also work in an optical laboratory or for a lens, frame, contact lens, or optical instrument company.

The aging of the U.S. population means that more people will need help with their eyesight in the future, and that there will be an increase in the need for opticians and optometric technicians to help provide vision care. The School's Placement Service currently has more available positions than it can fill, and the U.S. Department of Labor has listed this job category as having excellent employment opportunities for the next several years.

Surveys reveal that optometric technicians and opticians are very satisfied with their jobs. It can be very rewarding to work in a private practice or clinic and be a valuable part of a health care team. Those who like traveling and sales can also enjoy a more independent work style.

Salaries for trained optometric technicians and opticians vary widely according to experience, geographic region, and practice or company size. The demand for skilled personnel in the ophthalmic field is very high. Graduates of the IU School of Optometry 2-year degree Optician/Technician program consistently report high levels of satisfaction with the flexibility the profession offers.

According to an April 2008 survey of Optician/Technician graduates, 71% of graduates who responded work for an "eye doctor" – an optometrist, an ophthalmologist, or both in a joint practice. These graduates average an annual salary of \$36,600 based on a 40-hour week. Other

graduates may work in optical labs, in retail sales, or in schools of optometry. If all areas of ophthalmic employment are considered, a number of alumni reported significantly higher salaries.

Location

The Optician/Technician program is offered at the IU School of Optometry, which is part of the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The school offers a full range of classrooms, laboratories, a library, electronic learning resources, study areas, and student support services—such as advising and job placement. Students can also check their electronic mail and access the Internet from computer clusters in the school.

Students receive individual attention in the classroom and in the laboratories, and have many opportunities to get hands-on experience. They use the same facilities and are often taught by the same faculty as students in the Doctor of Optometry program.

Indiana University is a large school with a total enrollment of over 36,000 students. Students enrolled in the Optician/Technician program have access to all of the recreational, educational, and cultural events that one would expect to find on such a large campus. This includes athletic events, indoor and outdoor sports, music, major concerts, lectures, theater, and numerous student groups and organizations.

The Indiana University campus is located in rolling, forested country about an hour south of Indianapolis. It is considered one of America's five most beautiful campuses, according to Thomas Gaines (*The Campus as a Work of Art*). It is surrounded by state parks and wilderness areas, which provide a great opportunity for outdoor recreation and relaxation.

Admission

Applicants must file an application with both Indiana University (if not currently enrolled at IU) and the Optician/Technician Program*. Program application forms, advising appointments, and tours of the school are available by contacting the following office:

Office of Student Administration
IU School of Optometry
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-3680
Phone: (812) 855-1917
Fax: (812) 855-4389
E-mail: iubopt@indiana.edu
Website: www.opt.indiana.edu

*See page 7 for Indiana University application information.

The School seeks qualified applicants of either sex from all racial and ethnic groups. Students should enjoy working with people, and should have good math skills. In most cases, current IU students with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above and who are in good standing can expect to be admitted to the program.

The Curriculum

Students can join this program after graduating from high school. It takes four semesters (two-years) to complete all the courses. A new group of students begins each fall. However, students who have already completed some college courses may be able to begin in the spring semester by taking one Optician/Technician course (V153 Ophthalmic Dispensing) and/or required general education courses. Early graduation is possible if the student chooses to attend summer sessions.

Like all students training to become health care professionals, optician/technician students need a variety of clinical experiences. Students at the Indiana University School of Optometry receive clinical education and training that earns national recognition.

The first year of the Optician/Technician curriculum includes course work in the anatomy and physiology of the eye, basic and ophthalmic optics, office procedures, ophthalmic clinical techniques, lens finishing, and ophthalmic dispensing.

The second year will emphasize clinical experience in ophthalmic dispensing, contact lenses and preliminary testing. The second year may also include practical experience in lens surfacing and finishing. Periods of service in the school's own campus clinics in Bloomington and Indianapolis provide our students with a broad range of clinical experience.

Students wishing to gain experience as laboratory opticians can take a group of courses called the Optician's Laboratory Concentration in place of some other courses in the Optician/Technician curriculum. The courses in the Optician's Laboratory Concentration provide education in the making and assembling of glasses, the finishing of lenses and other related topics.

Options for pursuing four-year degrees are available. Many students combine Optician/Technician courses with courses from other schools to obtain four-year degrees, for example: Continuing Studies, Bachelor of General Studies, Public and Environmental Affairs, Health Services Management, and School of Music degrees.

Graduation Options

Official Indiana University graduation ceremonies take place in December and May. Students can complete degrees in May, June, August or December. These four different graduation times mean that the program is very flexible. Students who already have some college course work and wish to attend during the summer can graduate in December. Those who need slightly longer to complete clinical education can graduate in June or August after the second year.

Placement

The Optician/Technician Placement Service, maintained by the School of Optometry's Office of Student Administration, is available to help students find employment. The Placement Service is located on the web at <http://www.opt.indiana.edu/news/jobs/placemnt/placemnt.htm>. The present demand for graduates is very high and students are encouraged to start reviewing the placement listings in the second year of the program.

OPTICIAN/TECHNICIAN PROGRAM CURRICULUM

Effective for Fall 2010 Entering Class

First Year

<u>First Semester</u>	Cr.
V111 Basic Optics	5
V151 Ophthalmic Procedures 1	4
V174 Office Procedures	4
V201 Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye	3
Total	16

Second Year

<u>First Semester</u>	Cr.
V232 Contact Lens Methods & Procedures P: V131	4
V254 Clinic Practicum 1 P: V121 and C- or above in V131 and V153	4
English W131 or Equivalent	3
*V210 Fabrication Practicum I P: V131 and C- or above in V121 (or C121 Public Speaking or C122; or Business Studies) ¹	3
Total	18

Second Semester

<u>Second Semester</u>	Cr.
V121 Ophthalmic Lens Finishing P: V111	4
V131 Ophthalmic Optics P: V111	5
V153 Ophthalmic Dispensing	4
V251 Ophthalmic Procedures 2 P: C- or above in V151	3
Total	16

<u>Second Semester</u>	Cr.
V255 Clinic Practicum 2 P: V121 and C- or above in V131, V151, V153 and V251	3
V256 External Clinics P: V121 and C- or above in V131, V151, V153 and V251	3
HPER H160 First Aid & Emergency Care ²	3
*V211 Fab. Pract. II (or Business Studies) P: V210	3
Social & Historical Studies Elective ³	3
Total	15

An optional Summer Session between 1st and 2nd years leading to early graduation includes Clinic Practicum and other requirements. There are 65 minimum total credit hours required for this A.S. degree.

*Optician's Laboratory Concentration courses (V210, V211 and V221)

Note: The curriculum is subject to ongoing revision in order to give our students the most up-to-date and best preparation possible.

All Optician/Technician V-lettered courses must be completed within 4 years of matriculation.

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1. Business studies courses should be chosen from list below:

Business A200 Foundations of Accounting	Business L100 Personal Law	Business X204 Business Communication P: 118
Business A201 Introduction to Financial Accounting	Business L201 Legal Environment of Bus.	Business X100 Business Administration
SPEA K300 Statistical Techniques	Business A202 Introduction Man. Acct.	Economics E201 Intro to Microeconomics
Mathematics K310 Statistical Techniques	Business F260 Personal Finance	Economics E202 Intro to Macroeconomics
Psychology K300 Statistical Techniques	Business K201 Computer in Business	
Mathematics K300 Statistical Techniques	Economics E370 Intro to Statistical Theory in Economics and Business	

 2. First Aid through the American Red Cross may be substituted for H160 with your advisor's approval. (A CPR course alone does not fulfill this requirement.) No credits are earned in the Red Cross Course. Consequently, students must complete 3 credit hours of general elective in order to achieve a total of 65 credit hours required for graduation. Substitution is granted after the student presents their Red Cross Certification card to the Office of Student Administration to be photocopied.
 3. Three credit hours may be selected from courses acceptable for social and historical studies requirement listed in the College of Arts and Sciences Bulletin. Please note that this requirement may be fulfilled concurrently by selecting either E201 Introduction to Microeconomics or E202 Introduction to Macroeconomics in the business studies group requirements. However, a minimum of 65 credit hours is required for graduation.
- Note:** The non-V-lettered courses may be taken before or after completing the V-lettered optician/technician courses.
Note: A grade of C- or above in V131, V151, V153, V251, V254, V255, and V256 is required for graduation. A grade of C- or above in V121 is a prerequisite for V210, but not required for graduation. Check course descriptions as a minimum grade of C- in some of these courses may be required for other higher level optician/technician courses.

Student Services and Student Life

Academic Advising and Counseling

Students may meet with a faculty/academic advisor at any time. They have one academic advisor their first year and another for their second year. Progress is carefully monitored, and students are made aware of their academic options. In addition, students are encouraged to ask for assistance in the Office of Student Administration. This office can provide students with information on university procedures, academic issues, and guidance with personal issues. Faculty and staff consistently strive to help students be successful and reach their goals.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

The IU Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) offers information and assistance concerning a variety of scholarships and other financial aid that is available to students. Options include Stafford Loans, National Direct Student Loans, and Work-Study Program grants. In addition, federal and state grants are available to students without a previous degree who meet financial need criteria. Application for scholarships and other financial aid should be made prior to March 1st for the academic year beginning in August, by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The IU Office of Student Financial Assistance is located in Franklin Hall Room 208, Bloomington, IN 47405. The telephone number is (812) 855-0321 and E-mail address is rsvosfa@indiana.edu. Students are encouraged to review the website at www.indiana.edu/~sfa for more detailed information on these programs. The IU School of Optometry has an in-house part-time financial aid counselor, making the financial aid process a lot more convenient for our students. Our financial aid counselor may be contacted at (812) 855-1917, or email at iuoptfa@indiana.edu.

Housing

Residential Programs and Services at Indiana University, recognized as outstanding among universities throughout the country, provides housing units for graduate and undergraduate, married and single students. When requesting housing, the student must enclose a non-refundable deposit with the application. For more information and for a housing application, please go to www.rps.indiana.edu and select "Future Students" or call (812) 855-5601.

Personal Safety

Both the Indiana University campus and the School of Optometry are very safe places for students. In addition, the campus is well illuminated at night, and employs a large network of emergency call boxes located along various paths. The School of Optometry itself has an emergency call system on each floor. Both the University and the School of Optometry take strong responsibility in helping to prevent any problems and to ensure the safety of our students.

Student Organizations

Students have many social and volunteer opportunities on campus. Listed below are optometry organizations available to Optician/Technician students within the School of Optometry.

- American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)
- Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO)
- Indiana University Optometric Student Association (IUOSA)
- National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)
- Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH)

All of these organizations promote education about eye care and service to others. In addition, the IU Optometric Student Association sponsors a number of all-school social events.

2009-2010 Cost Estimates Optician/Technician Program

Tuition: The average course load for each semester in the Optician/Technician Program is approximately 16 credit hours. Students enrolled in 12-17 credits pay a flat fee. Students taking fewer than 12 are charged by the credit hour.

Matriculants in Summer 2003 and later:

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
Flat Fee Rate per semester (12-17 credit hours)	\$3861.00	\$12,634.50
Per Credit Hour (less than 12 credit hours)	\$ 241.10	\$ 789.80
Per Credit Hour (more than 17 credit hours)	\$ 241.10	\$ 789.80

Matriculants before Summer 2003:

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
Flat Fee Rate per semester (12-17 credit hours)	\$3,194.00	\$11,882.00
Per Credit Hour (less than 12 credit hours)	\$ 199.40	\$ 742.70
Per Credit Hour (more than 17 credit hours)	\$ 199.40	\$ 742.70

Mandatory Fees: Assessed to all students based on the number of on-campus credit and/or audit hours.

http://bursar.indiana.edu/fee_schedule.php

Student Activity Fee	\$ 83.41/semester (enrolled in more than three credit hours)
Student Health Fee	\$109.36/semester (enrolled in more than three credit hours)
Technology Fee	\$196.23/semester (enrolled in more than six credit hours)
Transportation Fee	\$56.56/semester (enrolled in more than six credit hours)
	\$445.56/semester

Books/Equipment:

Books	\$400.00/semester
Equipment	\$350.00/1st academic year (AY)

Room & Board: This is based/estimated on living in the IU Halls of Residence, but may instead include rent, utilities and food for the 9 month academic year period for someone living off-campus. (A dependent student is one who is required to provide parent data on the FAFSA.)

Dependent Student	\$7,646.00/AY (\$850.00/month)
Independent Student	\$7,646.00/AY (\$850.00/month)
Dependent Student /Living with parents	\$1500.00/AY

Transportation: These estimated expenses are for general transportation: e.g. bus pass, 3 roundtrips home, or if for an independent student, the operation of a vehicle.

Dependent/Resident	\$ 768.00/AY
Independent	\$1,872.00/AY

Miscellaneous: This estimated category includes other personal expenses like laundry, toiletries, clothing, immunizations, etc.

Dependent	\$2,256.00
Independent	\$4,032.00

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. WHAT TO SEND TO THE OPTOMETRY OFFICE OF STUDENT ADMINISTRATION:

ALL STUDENTS: Need to complete an Optician/Technician Program Application Form. Optician/Technician applications are processed as received. Please submit your application as soon as possible.

OTHER INFORMATION MAY BE REQUESTED

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Please obtain an International Application Package and follow those instructions.

2. WHAT TO SEND TO THE IU OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS:

If you have not already applied to Indiana University, you will need to complete an Undergraduate Application on-line for admission to Indiana University.

You may complete the Undergraduate or International Undergraduate Application on-line at www.indiana.edu/~iuadmit. Otherwise, you may request application materials from the IU Office of Admissions by writing, e-mailing or calling:

Indiana University Office of Admissions
300 N. Jordan
Bloomington, IN 47405
(812) 855-0661
Email: iuadmit@indiana.edu

You will need to send the following:

- One official copy of your high school record
- One official copy of each college transcript, if you attended other schools

(You need to send this material only if you ARE NOT already attending Indiana University.)

Priority Dates for application for admission:

	International Students	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents
August (Fall)	February 1 st	February 1 st
January (Spring)	September 15 th	November 1 st

3. WHAT TO SEND TO THE IU OFFICE OF THE BURSAR:

The IU application fee is \$55 .00 and is non-refundable. Send payment to:

Indiana University Office of the Bursar
Franklin Hall 011
Bloomington, IN 47405-2801
Phone: (812)855-2636
E-Mail: bursar@indiana.edu
Website: www.indiana.edu/~blbursar/

4. ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM

Optician/Technician Applications are processed when they are received. Please submit your application as soon as possible.

5. WHAT TO SEND TO THE IU OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you need financial assistance, you must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1st, to be eligible for grants and loans for the upcoming fall term. The FAFSA can be filed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Financial assistance is available in the form of loans, scholarships, and work-study. For more information on applying for aid and the types and amounts of aid available, please contact:

Associate Director of Financial Aid
Indiana University School of Optometry
Optometry 310
Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: (812) 855-1917
Fax: (812) 855-4389
E-mail: iuoptfa@indiana.edu
Website: www.opt.indiana.edu

OR

Indiana University
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Franklin Hall 208
Bloomington, IN 47405
RSVP Phone Services: 800-544-7787
RSVP Fax Services: (812) 856-7787
Voice Phone (812) 855-0321 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm EST)
E-mail: rsvposfa@indiana.edu
Web-site: www.indiana.edu/~sfa

RESIDENCY STATUS: Prospective students from out-of-state should be aware that the criteria for establishing Indiana residency to qualify for resident fee rates are very strict.

More information can be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~registra/resiinfo.shtml>.

Revised 9/16/09

Entering Fall: _____



Application to the Optician/Technician Program Indiana University School of Optometry

- Freshman Applicant Transfer Applicant from another Institution
- Current Indiana University Student Applicant International Applicant

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Male:
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name) Female:

If any of your records or transcripts is under any other name, please specify: _____

Present Address: _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____
(Street) (Area Code) (Number)
 _____ Telephone: (_____) _____
(City) (State) (Zip)

Permanent Address: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____
(Street) (Area Code) (Number)

(City) (State) (Zip)

Which address would you prefer us to use for correspondence? ___ Present ___ Permanent

Date of birth: _____ Student ID #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Parent Address: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____

(If different from permanent)

How would you describe your ethnic background? (Optional)

- ___ African American ___ Alaskan Native or Native America
 ___ Asian or Pacific Islander ___ Caucasian ___ Hispanic/Latino
 ___ Other

ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

List below every high school and university attended. Failure to provide correct and complete information will result in automatic disqualification of your application.

Institution	Location	Dates of Attendance	Cum. GPA	Degree Earned	Major

STATEMENT QUESTIONS:

How did you find out about the Optician/Technician Program? (mark all that apply)

- Searching the Internet – IU Website
- IU Advisor: (name) _____
- HS Counselor: (name/school) _____
- Friend in the Optician/Technician program: (name) _____
- Friend in the Doctor of Optometry program: (name) _____
- Eye doctor recommended the program: (name) _____
- A graduate of the Optician / Technician program: (name) _____
- Received a flyer in the mail
- Advertisement in an IU bus
- Other: (please describe) _____

Why do you want to be an Optician or Optometric Technician?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return to: Office of Student Administration
Indiana University School of Optometry
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-3680
PHONE: (812) 855-1917
FAX: (812) 855-4389

Questions?

E-mail:

iubopt@indiana.edu

Or visit our IU School of Optometry homepage:

www.opt.indiana.edu

Optician / Technician Program webpage:

www.opt.indiana.edu/opttech

Indiana University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

