

Optician

Opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from Ophthalmologists and Optometrists. They also help customers decide which eyeglass frames or contact lenses to buy.

Duties

Opticians typically do the following:

- Receive customers' prescriptions for eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Measure customers' eyes and faces, such as the distance between their pupils
- Help customers choose eyeglass frames and lens treatments, such as eyewear for occupational use or sports, tints, or antireflective coatings, based on their vision needs and style preferences
- Create work orders for Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians, providing information about the lenses needed
- Adjust eyewear to ensure a good fit
- Repair or replace broken eyeglass frames
- Educate customers about eyewear—for example, show them how to care for their contact lenses
- Perform business tasks, such as maintaining sales records, keeping track of customers' prescriptions, and ordering and maintaining inventory

Opticians who work in small shops or prepare custom orders may cut lenses and insert them into frames—tasks usually performed by Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians.

Work Environment

About half of Opticians work in offices of Optometrists or offices of Physicians. Other Opticians work in stores that sell eyeglasses, contact lenses, visual aids, and other optical goods. Most Opticians work full time, although part-time opportunities also are available.

Watch a video about being an Optician

Top Local Employers: Lenscrafters, Emerging Vision, CVS Health Corporation, Apple One, Costco Wholesale Corporation

Median Pay

\$52,187

Job Growth (2020-2025)

-3%

Education and Training

Opticians typically have a high school diploma or equivalent and receive some form of on-the-job training. Some Opticians enter the occupation with an associate degree or a certificate from a community college or technical school. About half of the states require opticians to be licensed.



Local Education:

[San Mateo County Community Education](#)

For More Information:

[American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners](#)

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)



www.JobTrainWorks.org