Start Your Career Path in Eye Care



Professionals in the field of eye care help people manage eye health and vision. Vision care ranges from vision testing and correction to the diagnosis, treatment and management of vision issues. Eye health focuses on managing eye diseases, disorders, and injuries. With technological advances and an aging population, the need for eye care specialists continues to rise. Remember, no career path is the same. For the most up-to-date information, contact the school or business.



= Certification Required 🛛 🛜 = Ed

= Education Required (\$

\$ = Fee Payment Required

Reach out to a counselor at your highschool, local community college, or four-year college or university. For more information, visit: virginiahealthcareers.org

Starting your eye care career journey in high school?

Visit virginiahealthcareers.org/core-curriculum to learn more.

Ophthalmic Assistant (OA)**	Registered Nurse (RN)**
Salary Range: \$39,430	Salary Range: \$93,600
On-the-Job Training	License
Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA)**	ECPI
Salary Range: \$43,460	Galen College of Nursing
IJCAHPO COT Certification	Viginia Western Community College
Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT)**	Radford
Salary Range: \$48,500	Roanoke Higher Education Center
IJCAHPO COT Certification	Certified Registered Nurse Assistant (CRNA)**
Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT)**	Salary Range: \$132,850
Salary Range: \$53,500	License
IJCAHPO COT Certification	Roanoke Higher Education Center
Scrub Tech**	Virginia Commonwealth University
Salary Range: \$62,480	Old Dominion University
Certification	Orthoptist**
Virginia Western Community College	Salary Range: \$95,410
Contact Lens Tech**	License
Salary Range: \$48,500	Duke University
Certification	University of Miami
Optical Tech**	Vanderbilt University
Salary Range: \$33,300	Optometrist**
On-the-Job Training	Salary Range: \$134,830
Optician**	Doctorate Degree
Salary Range: \$46,500	Southern College of Optometry
License - Sponsored On-the-Job Training	University of Pikeville
Reynolds Community College	University of Alabama
	Ophthalmologist**
*Admissions process required.	Salary Range: \$239,200

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Degrees & Certificates Guide

AS - An Associate of Science degree is a two-year degree that combines general coursework with major-specific classes.

Doctorate Degree

AAS - An Associate of Applied Science degree is a two-year college degree that focuses on a specific technical skill of applied science.

Certificate - A certificate of study is a postsecondary credential that shows completed practical training and gained skills in a specific field and carries credit.

Career Studies Certificate - A careers studies program is a short-term program that improves job skills (12-18 academic credits, 15-18 months to complete).

FastForward - FastForward is a short-term workforce training program that offers industry credentials and certifications in a shorter time period (non-credit).