OPHTHALMIC DISPENSING

Job Description
The mission of the Ophthalmic Dispensing program is to prepare graduates to be licensed opticians. The program consists of systematic instruction in all aspects of work in the profession. The program includes instruction and laboratory training in contact lens skills, eyewear dispensing skills, lens finishing techniques, lens surfacing, as well as in sales techniques, basic business operations and communications. Instructions in low vision aids, prosthetics, and physician assisting skills is also covered. The program curriculum is designed to assist the student to be successful with national certification and state licensure examinations.

Career Opportunities
Employment for ophthalmic dispensers (opticians) is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2025. An increase in demand for corrective lenses is expected due to growth in the population of middle-aged and older adults.

Program Description
The Ophthalmic Dispensing program at CSN is a two-year program of study leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree. The curriculum provides didactic and clinical or hands-on training. It offers the student the opportunity to become proficient in all phases of ophthalmic dispensing.

Approximate Salary in Nevada

| Average National Yearly Salary | $45,000.00 |
| Source: “Salary.com” |

| State average hourly wage |
| Licensed Apprentice Optician | $15 - $19/hr |
| Licensed Optician | $24 - $32/hr |
| $49,920 - $66,560/yr |

Source: Survey of local Opticians

Admission Requirements
The Ophthalmic Dispensing degree is a Limited-Entry Program. Therefore, all candidates must meet minimum eligibility criteria by the completion deadline in order to be eligible for consideration.

Application Deadline
Student applying for Fall 2022 program must submit an application to the Limited Entry Office by June 1, 2022. Final grades or transcript evaluation must be in the Limited Entry Office by June 1, 2021. A “Limited-Entry Application for Admission to a Health Science Program” may be obtained online at https://www.csn.edu/limited-entry-admission2

Accepted Students
Students accepted into the program will be required to complete a clinical practicum. Depending on the clinical practicum site, students may be required to CPR certification, health insurance, and immunization against Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, and Diphtheria. Proof of a negative two-step TB skin test and negative urine drug screen and completion of a physical exam may also be required prior to the clinical practicum. In addition, an official background check may also be required.

Licensure/Certification as Opticians in Nevada
Upon graduation from the program, individuals who wish to gain licensure as an optician in Nevada must the examinations dictated by Nevada Board of Dispensing Opticians (NBDO) complete a one year apprenticeship. The one year apprenticeship can be completed while an individual is a student in the program. Information concerning state licensure may be obtained from the NBDO. The requirements for licensure in other states may vary. Interested individuals should contact www.ABO-NCLE.org and www.NVBDO.org

Ophthalmic Dispensing Examination Pass Rates
A.B.O (National) 90%
N.C.L.E. (National) 80%
NV State Board 100%

Stats from 2018-2019 cohort

Accreditation
The CSN Ophthalmic Dispensing program is accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation. The address is:
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation
Director of Accreditation
PO Box 592
Canton, NY 13617

The information provided in this literature is for advisement purposes only.
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