

# Ophthalmic Technology Program: Technician Emphasis

C

A

R

E

E

R

G

U

I

D

E



## 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 are 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 to be eligible for consideration.

## Application Deadline

Students applying for the Fall 2025 program must apply to the Limited Entry Office by June 1, 2025. Final grades or transcript evaluation must be in the Limited Entry Office by June 1, 2025. A "Limited-Entry Application for Admission to a Health Science Program" may be obtained online at <https://www.csn.edu/Limited-Entry-Admission>

## Accepted Students

Students accepted into the program will be required to complete a clinical practicum. Depending on the clinical practicum site,

## Approximate Costs

(Costs are subject to change)

### Tuition:

68 credits x \$123.75 per credit hr..... \$8,415.00  
Student Union Fee per credit hr.....\$8.00  
Technology Fee per credit hr.....\$10.50  
Books.....\$700.00-&1,200.00  
Lab Fees ..... \$15.00-&-\$50.00/lab  
Uniforms/supplies ..... \$150.00  
CPR Certification.....\$50.00-\$75.00  
Physical Exam.....\$50.00-\$75.00  
Immunizations..... \$0-\$800.00  
Medical Insurance..... \$20.00-\$190.00/month  
Applies only if you are presently uninsured.  
College Application Fee .....\$20.00  
Limited Entry Application Fee ..... \$20.00  
Non-resident Fee.....\$4,333.00 per semester  
This is in addition to the tuition and technology fee and is assessed to nonresident students enrolling in 7 or more credit hours.

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](http://www.ABO-NCLE.org) and [www.NVBDO.org](http://www.NVBDO.org).

## Ophthalmic Dispensing Examination Pass Rates

A.B.O (National) 96%  
N.C.L.E. (National) 93%  
NV State Board 100%  
Stats from 2022-2024 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  
229 East 85<sup>th</sup> Street #194  
New York, NY 10028 email:  
[director@COAccreditation.com](mailto:director@COAccreditation.com)  
COA Website: <https://coaccreditation.com/>

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

College of Southern Nevada, Health Programs Advisement Office, 6375 West Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146, Phone: (702) 651-5885

(3/2025)