

Opticianry Program FAQ's

Q. I'm interested in Opticianry. What are my program options?

A. The Opticianry programs include an associate's degree, a diploma, and 3 certificates. You can find detailed information about all of these programs on the Opticianry program website.

Q. Do all of the Opticianry programs prepare me for licensure?

The degree and diploma programs prepare graduates to take the certification exams and sit for state licensure. The certificate programs alone do not meet the training requirements for state licensure.

Q. How do I enroll?

- Apply online to Ogeechee Technical College and choose one of the Opticianry programs.
- Submit all application documents.
- Apply for financial aid.
- Make an appointment with a program faculty for advisement and registration.

Q. When do classes start?

Students may begin core classes any semester. Introductory program classes begin each fall semester.

Q. How long is the program?

The Opticianry degree is a 2-year program. The diploma can be completed in 5 semesters.

Q. Can I complete the program online?

Yes, if you meet the following requirements:

- You must have an approved mentor who is a Licensed Dispensing Optician in the state where he/she is working.
- You must have access to a facility with all of the following areas: dispensing, lab manufacturing, contact lenses, and refraction. If you do not have access to a facility, you must find additional sites or come to campus for the labs you cannot access.

These requirements are explained in more detail in the Opticianry Online Program Manual.

Q. Can I take a combination of online and in-person classes?

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, students are either online or on-campus students. Students cannot change from online to on-campus, or vice versa, during the semester.

Q. If I am an online student and I need extra help, what do I do?

Program faculty are available for additional lab practice and help each Thursday. If you need help, simply come to campus!

Q. Who can I talk to about the program?

Opticianry program faculty are happy to talk to you about the program if you have other questions! Their contact information is listed on the Opticianry program webpage.

Q. What is the process to become a Licensed Dispensing Optician in Georgia?

- Complete an approved training program (like this one!) or an apprenticeship
- Pass the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) Basic and Practical exams
- Pass the National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE) Basic and Practical exams
- Submit your application to the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians to sit for the state licensure exams.

Q. Can I become licensed in other states if I complete this program?

Yes! Ogeechee Technical College Opticianry degree graduates are also eligible for licensure in any state with a license requirement at this time.