

Ophthalmic Medical Technician



What do they do?

An Ophthalmic Medical Technician works with an ophthalmologist to help patients with eye disorders. They obtain patient medical histories, give diagnostic tests, provide instructions on glasses and contact lenses, give eye medicine and maintain optical equipment.

With additional training, ophthalmic technologists can also assist in more advanced procedures.

Where do they work?

Most Ophthalmic Medical Technicians work in ophthalmologist offices, hospitals, clinics, outpatient centers and surgical centers.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians is \$36,690.



Education:

To become an Ophthalmic Medical Technician a high school diploma or GED is required. Though not required, there are technical programs available for Ophthalmic training and certification.

Ophthalmic Medical Technician training in WI:

Madison Area Technical College: www.madisoncollege.edu

Madison College offers an ophthalmic clinical assistant program. This program is an expanded curriculum from an optometric technician program and students work under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

High School Students interested in becoming an Ophthalmic Medical Technician should take classes in science, art, computer programming and math.

Accreditation:

Ophthalmic Medical Technician programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs.

www.coa-omp.org



The Consortium of Ophthalmic Training Programs is a non-profit organization of accredited training programs designed to promote the growth of ophthalmic training programs and awareness of ophthalmic medical personnel.

www.cotpedu.org



Resources:

The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) offers a variety of tools and resources for ophthalmic professionals.



Certification:

The Ophthalmic Technician Certification is provided by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO). To qualify to take the exam you must meet one of the following options.

- Graduated from an accredited Ophthalmic Technologist Program within last 12 months.
- Currently has Certified Ophthalmic Assistant certificate, 12 JCAHPO Group A credits and has worked 2,000 hours as a COA within last 2 years.
- Currently has Certified Orthoptist certificate, 12 JCAHPO Group A credits and has worked 2,000 hours as a CO within last 2 years
- Currently has Certified Ophthalmic Assistant certification, 12 JCAHPO Group A credits and has 6,000 hours work experience with an ophthalmologist.

Room for Advancement:

Ophthalmic Medical Technicians can advance to Ophthalmic Medical Technologists with additional education and work experience. Four levels of training programs for Ophthalmic positions are listed below:

- Ophthalmic Non-Clinical Assistant Program (Entry)
- Ophthalmic Clinical Assistant Program (Entry)
- Ophthalmic Technician Program (Intermediate)
- Ophthalmic Medical Technologist Program (Advanced)

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians expected to grow 10 percent between 2014-2024, which is faster than the average for all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Ophthalmic Medical Technicians, www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292057.htm

