



Ophthalmic Assistant Program

Job Description

Ophthalmic Assistants take patient medical histories, instruct patients about medications, tests, and procedures, perform various vision and diagnostic tests, assist ophthalmologists with patient procedures, and coordinate patient scheduling. Ophthalmic assistants enjoy virtually unlimited job opportunities nationwide and internationally because of their specialized skills. Positions are usually located in private practices, hospitals, clinics, university research facilities, and in the U.S. military. Ophthalmic assistants have many opportunities for career advancement.

Employment Outlook

Ophthalmic Assistants/Technicians are projected by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to have a 25% job growth from 2016 to 2026. Earning potential for a professional working in the field is approximately \$37,000 - \$40,000.

Admission Requirements

Students must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED to enroll in this course.

Students participating in this program must be able to:

- Lift, bend, kneel, and reach to obtain supplies.
- Walk and stand for extended periods of time.
- Hear verbal directions/requests from members of the healthcare team and/or patients, telephone messages, and various alarms.
- Assess patient's condition, monitor patient safety and comfort, read small print on syringes, vials, and dial gauges as well as other small instruments.
- Communicate with staff, patients and peers.



Program Description

This program prepares students to enter the ophthalmic medical personnel field as Ophthalmic Assistants. Ophthalmic Assistants perform duties as assigned by the ophthalmologist for whom they work. All aspects of the Ophthalmic Assistant's role will be covered in a classroom setting and clinical/hands-on sessions. Upon earning the college certificate, students must complete 1,000 hours of paid work experience under ophthalmologic supervision to be eligible for the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology Certification. For more information on the certification options, visit the website www.jcahpo.org.

Lectures will be held on campus and the clinical/hands-on experience will be held at Eyesight and Surgery Associates, 382 North Main Street, Suite 201, East Longmeadow, MA. Students must provide their own transportation.

Please be advised that if you have been convicted of a felony, you may not be eligible for clinical experiences, internships, externships or certifications associated with certain Healthcare Career programs. Those with previous convictions may also find it difficult to secure employment within a healthcare setting.

The Essential Job Skills & Career Development course is REQUIRED to receive a certificate of completion for the Ophthalmic Assistant program.

This program is CT SNAP & CT WIOA approved.

Time Commitment

This 4-month program meets for a total of 84 hours.

CRN: 3237/3193 HMED M7120

Dates: October 8 to January 23, 2020 (no class 11/28, 12/24, 12/26, 12/31)

Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Instructors: Pamela Brough RN, BS and Lynn Dwight C.O.A.

Room: 147

Fees: Ophthalmic Assistant course \$2,700 (includes textbooks, and U-Pass transportation fee)

Essential Job Skills & Career Development: \$173

Payment Information

Total program cost including Ophthalmic Assistant course, textbooks, hands-on experience, and Essential Jobs Skills & Career Development course is \$2,873. Payment plans are available for this program.

Contact Information

For more information or to register please contact Sue Champagne at 860.253.3034 or schampagne@asnuntuck.edu.

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