

Optometric Assistant/Dispensing Optician

27-week program /810 hours

Quick Facts: Opticians	
2017 Median Pay	\$36,250 per year \$17.43 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	High school diploma or equivalent
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	Long-term on-the-job training
Number of Jobs, 2016	77,600
Job Outlook, 2016-26	15% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2016-26	11,600

What Optometric Assistants Do

Opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists and optometrists. They also help customers decide which eyeglass frames or contact lenses to buy.

Opticians typically do the following:

- Receive customers' prescriptions, which ophthalmologists and optometrists have written, for eyeglasses or contact lenses. Take measurements of customers' eyes, such as the width or thickness of their corneas
- Help customers choose eyeglass frames and lens treatments, such as tints or non-reflective coatings, based on their vision needs and style preferences
- Create work orders for ophthalmic laboratory technicians, providing information about the lenses needed
- Make adjustments to finished eyeglasses to ensure a good fit. Repair or refit broken eyeglass frames
- Educate customers about eyewear—for example, showing them how to care for their contact lenses
- Do business tasks, such as maintaining sales records, keeping track of customers' prescriptions, and ordering inventory. Opticians who work in small shops or prepare custom orders may grind lenses and insert them into frames themselves, tasks usually performed by ophthalmic laboratory technicians.

Wages for Opticians in SACRAMENTO, CA

Location	Pay Period	2017		
		Low	Median	High
United States	Hourly	\$11.56	\$17.43	\$28.25
	Yearly	\$24,040	\$36,250	\$58,750
California	Hourly	\$12.78	\$18.89	\$29.22
	Yearly	\$26,590	\$39,300	\$60,780
Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA MSA	Hourly	\$10.90	\$18.63	\$29.25
	Yearly	\$22,670	\$38,750	\$60,830

