

Optometrists



Occupational Profile

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
 - Active Listening
 - Writing
 - Speaking
 - Science
 - Critical Thinking
 - Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
 - Monitoring

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

High level

- Diagnosing diseases and disorders
 - Giving health care instructions
 - Observing and analyzing physical problems
 - Planning health care treatments
 - Treating physical or mental problems
- Using medical or dental instruments to treat patients

Workplace Skills:

High level

- Judgment and Decision Making

Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
 - Coordination
 - Instructing
- Management of Personnel Resources
 - Negotiation
 - Persuasion
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
 - Systems Analysis
- Time Management
- Troubleshooting

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

WHAT THEY DO

Diagnoses, manages, and treats conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. Examines eyes and visual system, diagnoses problems or impairments, prescribes corrective lenses, and provides treatment. May prescribe therapeutic drugs to treat specific eye conditions. Belongs to the Health Science cluster and Therapeutic Services pathway.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Investigative** – You are a "thinker". When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.
- **Social** – You are a "helper". You like being around people and helping them with problems. Socializing is fun for you.
- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Recognition** – It's very important to you that your work satisfies your need for prestige and leadership opportunities, as well as opportunities for advancement.
- **Working Conditions** – It's very important to you that your work satisfies your needs in areas like salary, job security, and your working style preferences, such as working alone, staying busy all the time or having variety in your work tasks.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Verbal Aptitude**
- **Numerical Aptitude**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Form perception**
- **Finger Dexterity**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	84,995	100,885	15,890	1.9	3,345
Optometrists	555	665	115	2.1	25

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	32.07	66,705	16.54	34,407	39.83	82,853
Optometrists	61.79	128,524	35.90	74,680	74.73	155,446

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Doctoral or Professional Degree	None	None

Education training and experience are required at different levels for success in different occupations. Optometrists must complete a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree program and obtain a license to practice in a particular state. Doctor of Optometry programs take four years to complete, and most students have a bachelor's degree before entering an O.D. program. The Iowa Board of Optometry Examiners website at http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/29-1041.htm provides specific licensure and support information for the state of Iowa.

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	n. a.
Locating Information	n. a.
Reading for Information	n. a.

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Home Health Aides Employed?)

Ambulatory Health Care Services
Self Employed

Source:

<http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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