

# OPTICIANRY

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**Program:** OPTI

**Credential:** Ontario College Diploma, Co-op

**Delivery:** Full-time

**Work Integrated Learning:** 2 Co-op Work Terms

**Length:** 4 Semesters, plus 2 work terms

**Duration:** 2 Years

**Effective:** Fall 2019, Winter 2020

**Location:** Barrie

## Description

In this program, students experience a unique blend of health care and business management. Through theory and practical experience in labs/clinics, students learn to competently dispense eyeglasses, contact lenses and sub-normal vision devices, and learn about basic refraction. Students gain a strong foundation of ocular sciences in optics and anatomy, and are provided the expertise necessary to layout and edge lenses for frame insertion, as well as repair, customize and modify eyewear to the patient/clients' needs. Emphasis is also placed on professional services. Through critical thinking, problem solving, and entrepreneurial skills, students learn to how to establish and operate a small business, how to use effective sales techniques, and enhance communication and interpersonal skills in order to be successful in the optical retail environment.

Upon successful completion of the academic and co-operative education semesters, students are eligible to write the national registration examinations which allow them, if successful, to practice in Canada as a Registered Optician.

## Career Opportunities

Opticians are long-standing members of the health care delivery team in a field for which there is a growing universal need. Registered Opticians may dispense eyewear independently or as part of the eye care team. Consequently, graduates may aspire to operate their own businesses. As recognized professionals under the Regulated Health Professions Act, full-time career possibilities, including managerial roles, exist in large retail optical chains, independent dispensaries and medical clinics in Ontario and across Canada.

## Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. provide effective optical care that meets the ethical and legal requirements of the National professional competencies for registration as a licensed Optician;
2. competently perform all aspects of dispensing eyewear including eyeglasses, contact lenses, low vision devices that meets the ethical and legal requirements of the National professional competencies for registration as a licensed Optician;
3. achieve satisfactory performance related to refraction, including knowledge of ophthalmic pharmacology, knowledge of accommodation, understanding correction of visual error and principles of refraction;
4. assess ocular pathology accurately to ensure the appropriate referral of patients, as necessary;

5. perform a complete refraction routine accurately, efficiently, and safely, through the proficient use of diagnostic equipment;
6. educate and advocate effectively by promoting the benefits of ocular health and eye safety for a patient/client;
7. communicate and collaborate effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary eyecare team using professional judgment and critical thinking;
8. embrace the principle of life-long learning, continuing education, research and professional development and apply the new knowledge to daily practice;
9. successfully function in a diverse optical environment which could include the traditional retail model, medical clinical settings, sales, self-employment and business management;
10. employ environmentally sustainable practices to minimize the risk of contamination and subsequent transmission of infectious agents within a professional practice;
11. apply basic professional practice procedures suitable for an owner operated small business or within a corporate environment in accordance with the National professional competencies.

## Practical Experience

Co-operative Education is a mandatory component of all Co-op programs at Georgian College; it has been designed as a process by which students integrate their academic education with work experience related to their programs of study. This integration affects much more than simply earning a salary, including the adjustment to the work environment and the development of professionalism. It also reinforces skills and theory learned during academic semesters, develops professional contacts, job knowledge and career path, improves human relations and communication skills, and promotes personal maturity and financial independence.

Students are requested to register, attend and participate in their scheduled co-operative education classes. These classes are scheduled for all first year students and are expected to be completed in order for students to proceed successfully to their first co-op work experiences. To ensure students are eligible to proceed onto any co-op work experience, students should refer to Promotional Status and Eligibility for Co-op as outlined in the College Calendar. Co-op policies and procedures can be located on our website:

[www.georgiancollege.ca/student-services/co-op-and-career-services/students-tab/](http://www.georgiancollege.ca/student-services/co-op-and-career-services/students-tab/) (<http://www.georgiancollege.ca/student-services/co-op-and-career-services/students-tab/>)

Georgian College follows the Co-operative Education guidelines set out by the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE) and Education at Work Ontario (EWO) by supporting the learning outcomes designed for the program specific graduate profile and curriculum as set out by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

## The Program Progression

### Fall Intake

- **Sem 1:** Fall 2019
- **Sem 2:** Winter 2020
- **Work Term 1:** Summer 2020
- **Sem 3:** Fall 2020

- **Sem 4:** Winter 2021
- **Work Term 2:** Summer 2021

## Winter Intake

- **Sem 1:** Winter 2020
- **Sem 2:** Summer 2020
- **Sem 3:** Fall 2020
- **Sem 4:** Winter 2021
- **Work Term 1:** Summer 2021
- **Work Term 2:** Fall 2021

## Articulation

A number of articulation agreements have been negotiated with universities and other institutions across Canada, North America and internationally. These agreements are assessed, revised and updated on a regular basis. Please contact the program co-ordinator for specific details if you are interested in pursuing such an option. Additional information can be found on our website at <http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/>

## Admission Requirements

OSSD or equivalent with

- Grade 12 English (C or U)
- Grade 12 Mathematics (C or U)
- Grade 11 or 12 Biology (C or U)
  - OR Grade 11 (U) or Grade 12 (C or U) Chemistry
  - OR Grade 11 or 12 (U), or Grade 12 (C) Physics

Applicants must meet minimum averages to receive final acceptance.

First-year enrolment is limited, satisfying minimum entrance requirements does not guarantee admission.

Mature students, non-secondary school applicants (19 years or older), and home school applicants may also be considered for admission. Eligibility may be met by applicants who have taken equivalent courses, upgrading, completed their GED, and equivalency testing. For complete details refer to: [www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/](http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/) (<http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/>)

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may also be considered for admission; refer to the Credit Transfer Centre website for details:

[www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/](http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/) (<http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/>)

## Selection Requirements

Selection is based on admission requirements and academic grades.

## Additional Information

In order for a student to register for the national examinations the students must have:

- Successfully completed all academic semesters
- successfully completed two co-operative work terms

- successfully completed the practice requirements including:
  - 1000 hours of supervised dispensing experience
  - 250 spectacle fittings broken down into the specific areas
    - 15 soft contact lens fittings
    - 5 rigid lens fittings

### Criminal Reference Check - College of Opticians

When registering as a student or intern with the College of Opticians of Ontario, applicants are required by legislation to inform the College of Opticians of Ontario if they have been found guilty of any criminal offence(s) or have been the subject of disciplinary or incapacity proceedings from other governing bodies. This self-reporting requirement protects the public interest by informing the College of findings that may affect an optician's suitability to practice.

The reporting of offences, findings of guilt and proceedings that occur before and after your initial registration with the College is a non-exemptible requirement. All questions in the application section must be answered and full details provided at the time of registration and throughout your membership with the College if applicable. Failure to provide this information could be considered professional misconduct. Only answer 'Yes' if any of the following statements apply to your situation:

- You have been found guilty of a criminal offence related to opticianry.
- You have been found guilty of a criminal offence, even if you have been pardoned, or were conditionally or absolutely discharged.
- You have been found guilty of any offences under federal statutes and/or any provincial offences.
- There has been a finding of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity against you in relation to the opticianry profession outside of Ontario or by any other health profession, whether in Ontario or in any other jurisdiction.

## Graduation Requirements

38 Program Courses  
 2 Communications Courses  
 3 General Education Courses  
 2 Co-op Work Terms

### Graduation Eligibility

To graduate from this program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, from year to year, and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline.

### Program Tracking

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Semester 1</b>		
Program Courses		
HUMN 1000	Critical Thinking	42
OPTI 1022	Eye-glass Dispensing Lab 1	42
OPTI 1023	Eye-glass Dispensing Theory 1	28
OPTI 1024	Eye-glass Fabrication and Customization 1	28
OPTI 1025	Contact Lens Dispensing Lab 1	42
OPTI 1026	Contact Lens Dispensing Theory 1	28
OPTI 1027	Ocular Science for Contact Lenses 1	28
OPTI 1028	Applied Optics 1	28

<b>Communications Course</b>		
Select 1 course from the communications list during registration.		42
<b>General Education Course</b>		
Select 1 course from the general education list during registration.		42
	Hours	350
<b>Semester 2</b>		
<b>Program Courses</b>		
BUSI 3007	Business Principles for the Regulated Professional	42
OPTI 1029	Professional Services 1	28
OPTI 1030	Eyeglass Dispensing Lab 2	42
OPTI 1031	Eyeglass Dispensing Theory 2	28
OPTI 1032	Eyeglass Fabrication and Customization 2	28
OPTI 1033	Contact Lens Dispensing Lab 2	42
OPTI 1034	Contact Lens Dispensing Theory 2	28
OPTI 1035	Ocular Science for Contact Lenses 2	28
OPTI 1036	Applied Optics 2	28
<b>Communications Course</b>		
Select 1 course from the communications list during registration.		42
<b>General Education Course</b>		
Select 1 course from the general education list during registration.		42
	Hours	378
<b>Semester 3</b>		
<b>Program Courses</b>		
OPTI 2030	Professional Services 2	28
OPTI 2031	Eyeglass Dispensing, Fabrication and Customization Lab 3	42
OPTI 2032	Eyeglass Dispensing Theory 3	28
OPTI 2033	Contact Lens Dispensing Lab 3	84
OPTI 2034	Contact Lens Dispensing Theory 3	28
OPTI 2035	Ocular Science for Refraction and Low Vision 1	28
OPTI 2036	Applied Optics for Refraction and Low Vision 1	28
OPTI 2037	Refraction Lab 1	28
OPTI 2038	Refraction Theory 1	28
OPTI 2039	Low Vision Dispensing Theory 1	28
<b>General Education Course</b>		
Select 1 course from the general education list during registration.		42
	Hours	392
<b>Semester 4</b>		
<b>Program Courses</b>		
OPTI 2040	Eyeglass, Dispensing, Fabrication and Customization Lab 4	42
OPTI 2041	Eyeglass Dispensing Theory 4	28
OPTI 2042	Contact Lens Dispensing Lab 4	84
OPTI 2043	Contact Lens Dispensing Theory 4	28
OPTI 2044	Ocular Science for Refraction and Low Vision 2	28
OPTI 2045	Applied Optics for Refraction and Low Vision 2	28
OPTI 2046	Refraction Lab 2	28
OPTI 2047	Refraction Theory 2	28
OPTI 2048	Low Vision Dispensing Theory 2	28
	Hours	322
	Total Hours	1442
<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>Co-op Work Terms</b>		
COOP 1047	Opticianry Work Term 1	500
COOP 2038	Opticianry Work Term 2	500
	Hours	1000
	Total Hours	1000

## Graduation Window

Students unable to adhere to the program duration of two years (as stated above) may take a maximum of four years to complete their credential. After this time, students must be re-admitted into the program, and follow the curriculum in place at the time of re-admission.

*Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.*