

Optometry

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Canadian Association of Optometry Students
L'Association Canadienne des Étudiants en Optométrie

What Is Optometry?

A healthcare profession in which independent health care providers specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures as well as the diagnosis of ocular manifestations of systemic conditions.

What Do Optometrists do?

Perform eye examinations to evaluate eye health and vision status, as well as diagnose eye disease and vision problems.

Prescribe glasses or contact lenses to correct or manage vision problems.

Deliver therapies to correct or manage eye muscle or perceptual problems and low vision

Where do Optometrists work?

Most optometrists are private practitioners who work in a practice as owner of the practice, partner or as an associate. Optometrists may do hospital visits to accommodate those patients who are unable to leave the hospital.

Education & Preparation:

Optometrists need a Doctor of Optometry degree, which requires the completion of a 4-year program at an accredited optometry school. This is preceded by at least 3 years of preoptometric study at an accredited college or university. The Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) must be written before entrance to an optometry program.

Licensure:

In Canada, licensing exams are conducted by the Canadian Examiners in Optometry. In the US, the exams are given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. Further clinical examinations must be completed for the specific province or state in which the optometrist wishes to practice.

What is the role of CAOS (Canadian Association of Optometry Students)?:

- To increase student awareness about current issues and challenges facing the profession of optometry in Canada
- To increase public awareness of optometry's role as the primary vision care provider throughout the community
- To encourage strong communication and involvement between students and their future co-workers, which will provide an enlightened group of future optometrists who will effectively deal with future challenges