

THE O'S OF EYE CARE

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT THEY DO IN THE EYE CARE PROFESSION.

Ophthalmologist

A medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO) trained in eye care. Training includes a bachelor's degree, medical school, residency, and often a fellowship to specialize in a specific area of expertise like pediatrics. Ophthalmologists are surgeons.

Optometrist

An optometric doctor (OD) who specializes in prescribing glasses and contact lenses and can also perform a thorough and complete eye exam. Optometrists complete a bachelor's degree and optometry school, and may complete a residency or fellowship such as pediatrics.

Orthoptist

An allied health professional who specializes in pediatric eye care and adult double vision. Orthoptists complete a bachelor's degree and a two-year fellowship in training of the binocular vision system.

Ophthalmic Assistant / Technician

A medical professional who assists ophthalmologists and optometrists in caring for patients' eyesight. There are different levels of technicians, all of which are certified by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology.

Ocularist

An ocularist completes an apprenticeship during which they are taught the skills to fit, design, and care for ocular prostheses.

Optician

An optician is certified by the American Board of Opticianry. They are trained to design, verify and fit eyeglass lenses and frames, and contact lenses. They use prescriptions supplied by ophthalmologists or optometrists.