

ADVANCED PRACTICE - CONTACT LENSES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

THE STUDENT MUST BE A RESIDENT OF MANITOBA AND CURRENTLY LICENSED IN MANITOBA.

COURSE - The NAIT/OAC Advanced Practice - Contact Lens Program consists of a two year course produced by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), endorsed and administered by the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC) and co-administered by the Opticians of Manitoba (OOM). The course consists of both an online theoretical portion and a practical portion.

The theoretical portion of the course contains a course of study governed by prescribed textbooks and online course material. Each LOG (Learning Outcome Guide)/Chapter in the course has an online post assessment that must be completed by the student according to a designated schedule. **Students will receive their practicum levels and textbooks in paper format, however, the Course Manual and course assignments will only be accessible online via the internet.**

The student must also complete online discussion assignments and a Lab Seminar assessment in both years of the course. To encourage online participation and sharing of ideas, the online instructor will post online discussion assignments required for completion by each student. Marks for completing these discussion assignments will go towards the online participation marks.

The Lab Seminar Assessment is an article that will be posted online for students to read and answer a series of questions based on the article. There is also a written midterm and final examination in each year of the program.

The practical portion requires that a student complete **Four (4) Levels of Advanced Practice Practicum** consisting of *125 practical hours* and specific *practicum objectives* per level. The 500 total practical hours and practicum objectives must be completed while working under the direct supervision of a licensed Contact Lens Fitter or Optometrist. A student is required to complete two levels of practicum in each year of the program; Advanced Practice Practicum Levels One & Two in Advanced Practice Year One, and Advanced Practice Practicum Levels Three & Four in Advanced Practice Year Two – Contact Lenses.

A NAIT completion certificate will not be issued until both the theoretical and practical portion of both years of the program are completed. A student cannot participate in the NACOR Optical Sciences 2- Advanced Practice Contact Lens examination until they have fully completed the Program. The student must be working with a licensed contact lens fitter, or have access to a licensed fitter on a regular basis.

REGISTRATION – Students interested in participating in the Advanced Practice - Contact Lens Program must submit their application form and payment to the Opticians of Manitoba office by August 1st. Applications for the upcoming academic year (September start date) will be accepted in the Opticians of Manitoba office after February 1st. Applications will start being processed in June.

COURSE FEES - \$2900.00 (subject to change) - This fee is payable to the Opticians of Manitoba by August 1st. This fee does not include textbooks, registration or rewrite examination fees (if applicable). Your course fee can be paid in two instalments – August 1st - \$1800.00+\$10.00 and January 1st - \$1100.00. There is an administration fee of \$10.00 for instalment payments due August 1st. If using the instalment plan, a post dated cheque of \$1100.00 for the January 1st payment must also be received on August 1st. * There is a \$25.00 charge for NSF cheques.

REGISTRATION FEE - \$200.00 - There is a registration fee of \$200.00 for each year of the Advanced Practice – Contact Lens Program. This fee is the same as the registration fee paid by eyeglass students to Red

River College, and is used for instructors fees, classroom rental, and other associated costs. The registration fee is payable August 1st.

TEXTBOOK FEES (Subject to change) * GST is 5%

Textbooks may be purchased through the Opticians of Manitoba or from an alternate source. The cost of textbooks is due August 1st.

Year One:

Fundamentals for Ophthalmic Technical Personnel - \$130.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Slit Lamp Examination & Photography - \$126.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Year Two:

Manual of Contact Lens Prescribing & Fitting with CD-Rom - \$130.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Contact Lens Practice, Effron - \$313.00 + GST (Subject to change)

PREREQUISITES – The student must be a licensed Optician in Manitoba and working under the direct supervision of a practicing Contact Lens Fitter or Optometrist to obtain the required number of practical hours to complete the course in the specified time-frame.

CLASSES - There are a series of mandatory classes which must be attended by all students. These classes are both theoretical and practical. Classes for Advanced Practice Year One are held on Tuesday evenings (subject to change); Classes for Advanced Practice 2 – Contact Lenses are held on Wednesday evenings (subject to change). The first class is an orientation session for all students that will be held mid-September.

MARK BREAKDOWN – The mark breakdown for the course is as follows:

Advanced Practice 1 Program (Year One)

Online Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Lab Seminar Assessment	10% of final grade
Online Participation*	10% of final grade
Midterm Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	40% of final grade

Advanced Practice 2 - Contact Lenses (Year Two)

Online Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Lab Seminar Assessment	10% of final grade
Online Participation*	10% of final grade
Midterm Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	40% of final grade

* Online participation marks will be based on completing post assessments on time and participating in online chats and discussion assignments

ADVANCED PRACTICE YEAR ONE – Year One is advanced practice for Opticians who are interested in furthering their knowledge in the optical field. Focus is placed on Slit Lamp/Biomicroscopy and history taking needed before refraction or contact lens fitting can take place.

The Advanced Practice Year One course is the feeder course in to the Advanced Practice Year Two - Contact Lens course and the Advanced Practice Year Two - Sight Testing course.

The first year of the program includes the following LOGs (Learning Outcome Guides):

LOG 1	Learning with LOGs
LOG 2	Introduction to Advanced Practice
LOG 3	Anatomy and Physiology 1
LOG 4	Anatomy and Physiology 2
LOG 5	Ocular Pathology 1

LOG 6	Preliminary Assessment
LOG 7	Biomicroscopy
LOG 8	Ocular Pathology 2
LOG 9	Pharmacology

After completion of the Advanced Practice Year One Program, a student can then decide to move on to the Advanced Practice Year Two - Contact Lens Program or the Advanced Practice Year Two - Sight Testing Program. Each of these programs is one year in length. For more information on the Advanced Practice Year Two - Sight Testing Program, please contact the OOM office.

ADVANCED PRACTICE YEAR TWO - CONTACT LENSES– Advanced Practice Year Two - Contact Lenses builds on knowledge received in Advanced Practice Year One. The program is intently focused on the fitting of contact lenses. Introduction and refinement of the art and science of the contact lens fit, design, care, as well as management of both soft and hard lenses is taught. Emphasis on specialty lenses and follow-up procedures will also be examined.

Year Two includes the following LOGs (Learning Outcome Guides):

LOG 1	Learning with LOGs
LOG 2	Prefit Examination
LOG 3	Optics & Lens Design
LOG 4	Rigid Gas Permeable Contact Lenses
LOG 5	Gas Permeable Problem Solving and Toric Fittings
LOG 6	Fitting Soft Lenses
LOG 7	Specialty Contact Lens Fitting

Upon successful completion of the theoretical and practical components of the course you will receive a completion certificate from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

EXAMINATIONS - A mid-term examination is held in January and a final examination at the end of April. The pass mark for the course is 63%. In order to qualify for the Year One and Year Two final exams, the student must have attended the required number of mandatory classes and seminars. Examinations are held at Red River College, unless otherwise specified. Examinations are multiple-choice and consist of approximately 100 questions.

To be eligible to move from Year One to Year Two a student must complete the requirements of Advanced Practice Practicum Levels One & Two (250 practical hours and the Level One and Two Practicum Objectives) by the specified due date.

If the student does not pass the course after writing the final exam, they are allowed to take a rewrite exam approximately one month after the final. There is a fee for the rewrite exam of approximately \$125.00. If the student fails to pass the course after writing the rewrite exam, they must repeat the entire year. A student who is repeating the year is required to pay the full course and registration fees.

WITHDRAWALS/REFUNDS - Students who withdraw prior to course materials being sent out of the Opticians Association of Canada office at the beginning of September will be provided with a full refund, minus an administration fee of \$75.00

Students who withdraw after course materials are sent out of the Opticians Association of Canada office and within ten (10) days of the course start date of September 14th will be provided with a full refund, minus an administration and restocking fee of \$150.00. Refunds will only be given on course material received back in the Opticians Association of Canada office in an unmarked and re-sellable condition. Students are responsible for the cost of shipping course materials back to the Opticians Association of Canada office.

A REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE ABOVE DEADLINE. Requests are to be sent to the attention of the Education Department at the Opticians Association of

Canada office and can be sent via facsimile, email or regular mail. *“No refunds will be provided after these deadlines. This rule applies to ALL students and does not change based on enrolment date.*

NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING.

No refunds will be given after the 10 day deadline.

ACADEMIC LEAVE - Academic leave is a voluntary but temporary withdrawal from the academic portion of the program for one academic year (after completion of Academic Year One, but before starting Academic Year Two; or after failing a first attempt at Academic Year Two, but before repeating Academic Year Two). The student will be considered for academic leave for the following reasons: maternity, loss of employment, travel, or personal but **must do so in writing** to the Opticians of Manitoba Education Chairperson and the OAC Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Academic Programs.

If a student is not re-enrolled in the theory/ academic portion of the program after one year of approved leave, resumption of the program will not occur- the student will have to repeat the program in its entirety.

LICENSING EXAM – To become licensed, a student is required to successfully pass the NACOR National Optical Sciences 2 – Advanced Practice Contact Lens Examination after completing the NAIT/OAC Advanced Practice Contact Lens Program. The fee for the National Optical Sciences 2 – Advanced Practice Contact Lens Examination is \$600.00 and is subject to change. The pass mark for this examination is 68%.

To be eligible to sit this examination, you must meet the requirements of the Board of the Opticians of Manitoba. These requirements are:

- a: successfully completed the contact lens course
- b: attained 500 hours of contact lens experience under the supervision of a certified contact lens fitter or optometrist. These hours must be supported by signed apprenticeship hour forms, which must have been handed in during the two year course according to a prescribed schedule

The above practical requirements must be completed a MINIMUM of 6 weeks prior to the examination date.

Upon completion of the NAIT/OAC Advanced Practice Contact Lens Program, a student has a maximum of one-year to apply to write the NACOR Optical Science 2- Advanced Practice Contact Lens Examination. You will receive more information regarding the NACOR Optical Sciences 2 –Advanced Practice Contact Lens Examination upon completion of the Contact Lens Program.

For more information on exam dates and locations, visit the NACOR website at www.nacor.ca

Once a student has successfully completed the NACOR Optical Sciences 2- Advanced Practice Contact Lens Licensing Examination, they will be issued their Manitoba Contact Lens License.

Contact the Opticians of Manitoba office for an application form.

**Opticians of Manitoba
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Winnipeg, MB
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Ph. (204) 982-6060**

Attention: Education Department

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