

ADVANCED PRACTICE - CONTACT LENSES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

THE STUDENT MUST BE A RESIDENT OF MANITOBA, CURRENTLY LICENSED IN MANITOBA AND RESIDING OUTSIDE A 50 KM RADIUS OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG.

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 by the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC) and administered by the Opticians of Manitoba (OOM).

The course consists of both an online theoretical portion and a practical portion. The practical portion of the course consists of four practicum levels, which require the completion of 125 practical hours per level (500 in total) and specific practical skills involved in the fitting of contact lenses. The student is to complete two levels of practicum in each year of the program (practicum levels 1 & 2 in Year One and practicum levels 3 & 4 in Year Two). The student is also required to complete a logbook of 100 contact lens fittings, of which fifteen must be hard lenses. The student must complete the required log fittings by the end of Year 2 of the theory program. All practical skills must be completed under the direct supervision of a licensed Contact Lens Fitter or Optometrist.

A NAIT completion certificate will not be issued until both the theoretical and practical portion of the course are completed. A student cannot sit the licensing exam in Manitoba until they receive their NAIT completion certificate. Therefore the student should be working with a licensed contact lens fitter, or have access to a licensed fitter on a regular basis.

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 post assessments 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 then answer a series of questions based on the article.

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 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.

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 - \$102.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Slit Lamp Examination & Photography. - \$102.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Year Two:

Manual of Contact Lens Prescribing & Fitting with CD-Rom - \$102.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Contact Lens Practice, Effron - \$245.00 + GST (Subject to change)

PREREQUISITES – The student must be a licensed Optician in Manitoba and be employed in an optical dispensary for a minimum of 20 hours per week. It is strongly suggested that they are working in an optical dispensary with a contact lens practice.

CLASSES - There are a series of classes and practical workshops which are held for the students who live inside the 50 km radius of Winnipeg. Students outside this distance will receive a class schedule and can attend classes if they are in the area. They must notify the OOM office a minimum of 1 day prior to a class if they plan to attend. Classes for Advanced Practice Year One are held on Tuesday evenings (subject to change); Classes for Advanced Practice 2 – Contact Lenses are held on Monday evenings (subject to change). If a student wishes to attend classes, they are required to pay a class fee, which covers the cost of instructors fees, classroom rental, and other associated costs. Contact the OOM office for further information.

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

Advanced Practice 1 Program (Year One)

Chapter Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Seminar Quizzes	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)

Chapter Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Seminar Quizzes	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 1 PROGRAM (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 1 Program is the feeder program in to the Advanced Practice 2 - Contact Lens Program and the Advanced Practice 2 - Sight Testing Program. The first year contains a series of online post assessments that must be completed according to a prescribed schedule.

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

LOG 1	Learning with LOGs
LOG 2	Anatomy and Physiology I
LOG 3	Anatomy and Physiology II
LOG 4	Ocular Pathology I
LOG 5	Preliminary Assessment
LOG 6	Biomicroscopy
LOG 7	Ocular Pathology II
LOG 8	Pharmacology

After completion of the Advanced Practice 1 Program, a student can then decide to move on to the Advanced Practice 2 - Contact Lens Program or the Advanced Practice 2 - Sight Testing Program. Each of these programs

is one year in length. For more information on the Advanced Practice 2 - Sight Testing Program, please contact the OOM office.

ADVANCED PRACTICE 2 - CONTACT LENS PROGRAM (YEAR TWO) – Advanced Practice 2 - Contact Lenses builds on knowledge received in Advanced Practice 1. 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.

The Advanced Practice 2 - Contact Lens Program contains a series of online post assessments that must be completed according to a prescribed schedule.

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 Fitting
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 in April. The pass mark for the course is 63%. Students residing within a 250 km radius of Winnipeg must write their midterm and final examinations in Winnipeg at a set examination site. Students residing outside of the 250 km radius will write their examinations under the direct supervision of their practicum supervisor. Examinations are multiple-choice and consist of approximately 100 questions.

To be eligible to move from 1st to 2nd year a student must complete the requirements of Practicum Levels One & Two (250 practical hours and the Level One and Two Practicum Objectives) by June 1st.

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 fees.

LICENSING EXAM (NATIONAL CONTACT LENS EXAMINATION) – 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 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 Sciences 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.

SIGHT TESTING - Once you have acquired your Contact Lens license, you have the option of continuing on with the Advanced Practice 2 – Sight Testing Program. This program is one year in length and is currently offered for educational purposes only.

WITHDRAWALS/REFUNDS - Students who withdraw prior to course materials being sent out of the Opticians of Manitoba 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 of Manitoba 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 of Manitoba office in an unmarked and re-sellable condition. Students are responsible for the cost of shipping course materials back to the Opticians of Manitoba 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 of Manitoba 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.

Contact the Opticians of Manitoba office for an application form.

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

Attention: Education Department