

OPTICAL SCIENCES EYEGLASS COURSE DESCRIPTION

THE STUDENT MUST BE A RESIDENT OF MANITOBA

COURSE - The Optical Sciences Eyeglass Course, produced by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), is endorsed and administered by the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC) and partially administered by the Opticians of Manitoba (OOM) for residents of Manitoba. It consists of a 2 year Diploma program which is offered through the evening extension program at Red River College (RRC).

The course consists of both an online theoretical portion and a practical portion. The practical portion requires that the student complete four (4) Practicum Levels consisting of 500 hours and specific practicum objectives per level. The 2000 total hours and practicum objectives must be completed while working under the direct supervision of a licensed Optician, Contact Lens Fitter, or Optometrist. 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). All practical skills must be completed under the direct supervision of a licensed Optician, Contact Lens Fitter or Optometrist.

The theoretical portion of the course contains a course of study governed by prescribed textbooks and online course material. Each LOG (Learning Outcome Guide) in the course has an online post assessment that must be completed by the student online according to a designated schedule. Students will also be required to complete online discussion assignments and timed quizzes that will count towards their course participation marks. **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 is also required to complete 2 practical lab tests in each year of the course. In the first year the lab tests consist of frame adjustments, measuring of P.D.'s, measuring of vertex distance, and neutralizing spherocylinder lenses. The lab tests in the second year consist of neutralizing bifocal lenses, and edging of stock lenses. The student will receive more information on these lab tests in class.

A student will not be issued their Diploma from NAIT for completion of the program until both the theoretical and practical portion of the course are completed. A student cannot sit the licensing exam in Manitoba until they have completed the program.

PREREQUISITES –

- a: **completion of highschool** (Transcript of marks must be submitted with application)
 - b: **a passing mark in Grade 12 pre-calculus or applied Mathematics** **Students who obtained a passing mark in grade 12 consumer mathematics will be considered, however, students must keep in mind that the course contains a strong math component including trigonometry and geometry.
 - c: **a passing mark in one of Grade 12 Physics 40S, Chemistry 40S, or Biology 40S**
 - d: **two letters of reference**
 - e: **must be working a minimum of 20 hours/week in the optical industry under the direct supervision of a licensed dispenser.** * A letter from your employer must be submitted with your application form to verify
- **MATURE STUDENTS** (Someone who turns 21 or older by December 31 in the year of registration) Prerequisites:
 - a: **completion of highschool or highschool equivalency (GED)** (Transcript of marks must be submitted with application)
 - b: **a passing mark in mathematics 301, 300, 300 Honours, 40SA or 40SP** (Grade 12)
**Students who obtained a passing mark in grade 12 consumer mathematics will be considered, however, students must keep in mind that the course contains a strong math component including trigonometry and geometry.

- c: **two letters of reference**
 d: **must be working a minimum of 20 hours/week in the optical industry under the direct supervision of a licensed dispenser.** * A letter from your employer must be submitted with your application form to verify

REGISTRATION - Registration is on a first come, first serve basis with a class limit of 25 students. Registration usually begins in August at RRC, Evening Program Office, Room 116C, Building C. In order to register the applicant must present both payment and a "letter of approval". A letter of approval can be obtained by submitting an application with the necessary transcripts and letters of reference to The Opticians of Manitoba at the address below. If the applicant is eligible a letter of approval will be sent. As this prescreening does take some time, it is recommended that the application be submitted well before the opening of registration at RRC. **The application deadline at the O.O.M. office is August 1st.** Applications for the upcoming academic year (September start date) will be accepted in The Opticians of Manitoba office after February 1st. Processing of student applications will commence in June. **Applicants should apply directly to The Opticians of Manitoba.**

COURSE FEES - \$2700.00 per year (Subject to change)- This fee is payable to The Opticians of Manitoba by August 1st. This fee includes course fees and practicum level fees. This fee does not include textbooks, Red River College registration fees, or rewrite examination fees (if applicable). Your course fee can be paid in two instalments – August 1st - \$1700.00+\$10.00 and January 1st - \$1000.00. There is an administration fee of \$10.00 for instalment payments due August 1st. If using the instalment plan, a post dated cheque of \$1000.00 for the January 1st payment must also be received on August 1st. * There is a \$25.00 charge for NSF cheques.

Red River College Registration Fee - \$335.00(approx.) per year - This fee is payable to Red River College (RRC) and is payable at time of registration to RRC, at the Continuing Education Office. This fee includes all lectures and workshops, as well as access to the school facilities. Please note that RRC does not consider a student registered in a course until the course fee is paid. Each student must come prepared to pay the lecture fee upon registration at RRC. Please check with RRC Continuing Education Office as to the appropriate fee.

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:

System for Ophthalmic Dispensing, 3rd Edition - \$195.00 + GST (Subject to change)
 Dictionary of Eye Terminology, 5th Edition - \$51.00 + GST (Subject to change)
 Optical Formulas Tutorial, 2nd Edition - \$102.00 + GST (Subject to change)

Year Two:

No new textbooks are required for Year Two.

CLASSES - There are a series of mandatory classes and practical workshops which must be attended by all students. The majority are held at the Notre Dame Campus of Red River College. Classes for both Year One & Year Two are held on Wednesday evenings (subject to change). The first class is an orientation session for all students and will be held mid-September.

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

1st Year Eyeglass

Online Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Lab Tests	10% of final grade
Online Participation	10% of final grade
Midterm Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	40% of final grade

2nd Year Eyeglass

Online Post Assessment	10% of final grade
Lab Tests	10% of final grade
Online Participation	10% of final grade
Midterm Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	40% of final grade

FIRST YEAR PROGRAM – The first year of the course includes the following LOGs (Learning Outcome Guides):

LOG 1	Learning with LOGs
LOG 2	Introduction to Opticianry and Communication
LOG 3	Frames, Part I
LOG 4	Ophthalmic Instruments and Tools
LOG 5	Mathematics
LOG 6	Optics
LOG 7	Basic Anatomy & Pathology
LOG 8	Ophthalmic Lenses
LOG 9	Analysis and Interpretation
LOG 10	Frames, Part II

SECOND YEAR PROGRAM - The second year course includes the following LOGs (Learning Outcome Guides):

LOG 11	Advanced Ophthalmic Lens Design
LOG 12	Advanced Ophthalmic Optics
LOG 13	Lens Finishing
LOG 14	Analysis and Interpretation
LOG 15	Conflict, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
LOG 16	Legal and Ethical Issues
LOG 17	Introduction to Business - Part I
LOG 18	Business Management and Marketing - Part II

Upon successful completion of the theoretical and practical components of the course you will receive an Optical Sciences Eyeglass Diploma 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%. In order to qualify for the 1st and 2nd year 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 1st to 2nd year a student must complete the requirements of Practicum Levels One & Two (1000 practical hours and the Level One and Two Practicum Objectives) by the specified 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. Students who repeat the year are required to pay the full course and registration fees.

LICENSING EXAM - The student will be required to sit the NACOR Optical Sciences 1- Eyeglasses Examination upon completion of the Eyeglasses Program. The fee for this examination is \$600.00 and is subject to change. The pass mark for this examination is 61%. In order to qualify for the examination the student must have:

- a: successfully completed the NAIT/OAC Optical Sciences Eyeglass Program

- b: acquired at least one year's experience (2000 hours) in an optical dispensary, under the supervision of a licensed Ophthalmic Dispenser. 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 Optical Sciences Eyeglass Program, a student has a maximum of one-year to apply to write the NACOR Optical Sciences 1 - Eyeglass Examination. You will receive more information regarding the NACOR Optical Sciences 1 - Eyeglass Examination upon completion of the Eyeglasses Program.

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

LICENSING - The candidate is considered eligible to apply for membership with The Opticians of Manitoba once he/she has successfully completed both the Optical Science Eyeglass Program and the NACOR Optical Sciences 1 - Eyeglass Examination described above.

ADVANCED PRACTICE - Once you have acquired your license, you have the option of continuing on with the two year Advanced Practice Contact Lens Course, if you wish to fit contact lenses, or the two year Advanced Practice Sight Testing Program. The Sight Testing Program 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.

Please contact the Opticians of Manitoba office for an application form.

Opticians of Manitoba
2706-83 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 4J9
email. oom@opticians.ca
Ph. (204) 982-6060

Attention: Education Department

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