

NAIT/OAC ADVANCED PRACTICE YEAR TWO - SIGHT TESTING COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Advanced Practice Year Two – Sight Testing course is produced by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), endorsed and administered by the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC) and is partially administered by the Opticians of Manitoba (OOM). It is a one-year online independent study program, where a student will explore the art and science of the refraction, including phorometry, strabismus, and muscle imbalances. Emphasis will be placed on objective refraction, orthoptics and subjective refraction.

This course has been accredited 9 continuing education credits (4.5 EG & 4.5 CL) by the Board of the Opticians of Manitoba.

*** At the time of publication, Refracting (Sight Testing) is not currently within the scope of practice of Opticians in many provinces (including Manitoba), this course is for educational purposes only in those jurisdictions. This program has, however, been approved and meets the criteria as required by the Standard of Practice for British Columbia and Ontario. ***

PREREQUISITES – Successful completion of the NAIT/OAC Advanced Practice Year One course and Advanced Practice Practicum Levels One and Two, **OR** equivalent licensure in an advanced practice (Contact Lens licensure). The OOM and OAC reserve the right to exclude any person lacking in the prerequisites.

COURSE – The course runs from September to May each year. The course consists of both an online theoretical portion and a practical portion.

Theoretical Component

The theoretical component 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 the program. 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.

Practical Component

The practical component of Advanced Practice Year Two – Sight Testing requires that a student complete 50 clinical/practical hours related to refracting, under the direct supervision of a practicing MD, OD, COMT or Refracting Optician. Students may complete these hours at their place of business, a place in their area, or attend lab sessions/workshops hosted by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) or the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC). NAIT hosts labs at their campus in Edmonton, Alberta. Depending on the number of students enrolled in the program outside of Alberta, the OAC may host a lab outside of Alberta. The dates and times of the workshops will be provided to the students as they are determined.

The 50 clinical/practical hours do not have a determined completion date, however, must be completed within an appropriate time frame.

**** Depending on the number of students enrolled in the program in your area, the Opticians Association of Canada may administer a Sight Testing lab in your area. You will be notified shortly after course commencement. Students are responsible for any fees associated with attendance to these lab sessions.**

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

REGISTRATION – Students interested in participating in the Advanced Practice Year Two - Sight Testing course must submit their application form and payment to the OOM office by August 1st. Students must ensure that their application form is filled out in its entirety before submitting it for acceptance.

COURSE FEES - \$2500.00 (Subject to change) - This fee is payable to the OOM by August 1st. This fee does not include textbooks, workshop fees (if applicable) or rewrite examination fees (if applicable). Your course fee can be paid in two instalments – August 1st - \$1500.00+\$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. Course fees can be paid by cheque, money order, VISA or Mastercard.

*** There is a \$25.00 charge for NSF cheques.**

OTHER FEES

Schematic Eye - approx. \$65.00

All students will need a Schematic Eye for retinoscopy practice and the online retinoscopy lab. The model used for the course is from Bernell. The link is <http://www.bernell.com/product/593/129#>. The item # is BC2174. If a student has access to a schematic eye of a different model, it can be used, however, all instructions and references will be for the Bernell model only. Students must order their Schematic Eye directly from Bernell and not through the OAC.

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

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

Primary Care Optometry, Grosvenor - \$188.00 + GST

Fundamentals for Ophthalmic Technical Personnel, Cassin - \$130.00 + GST

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

Advanced Practice Year Two - Sight Testing

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

PROGRAM CHAPTERS/LEARNING OUTCOME GUIDES (LOGs)

The Advanced Practice Year Two – Sight Testing course includes the following LOGs:

LOG 1	Learning with LOGs
LOG 2	Objective Refraction
LOG 3	Subjective Refraction
LOG 4	Muscle Balance Testing
LOG 5	Binocular Vision Testing
LOG 6	Analysis & Interpretation

EXAMINATIONS - A mid-term examination is held in January and a final examination in April. The pass mark for the course is 63%. Examinations will be held at Red River College, with all other Optical Science Programs. Examinations are multiple-choice and consist of approximately 100 questions.

If a 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 fee.

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 OOM office in an unmarked and resellable 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.*

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

06/2009