



# How To Become An Optician

Being an optician can be a very rewarding and challenging profession. Employers typically include optometrists, ophthalmologists, and retail chains such as LensCrafters. Communication and fine motor skills are a must, the rest can be taught. If you are interested in learning more or pursuing the training needed to become an optician, here you will find the steps needed in your pursuit.

## **Step 1: [Visit OAA.org](http://www.OAA.org)**

The first step is to find out the licensing requirements of your particular state. Some states require you to be licensed through an apprenticeship or a trade school, where as others allow on-the-job training. To find your state's requirements, visit the website of the Optician Association of America at [www.OAA.org](http://www.OAA.org) and click on the "links" tab in the left column. There you will find a link for "state licensing boards". Clicking on that link will take you to a page which lists every state that requires opticians to be licensed and what they require for licensure. You can also click directly through to your state's licensing website for more information.

If your state does not require you to be licensed, you may be able to begin your career simply by finding an employer willing to offer on-the-job training.

## **Step 2: Visit [NAO.org](http://www.NAO.org)**

NAO.org is the home of the National Academy of Opticianry. The academy is "an international organization dedicated solely to education and training for ALL opticians." Even though you may have discovered that in step 1 your state does not require a formal license or education, you could be well served to obtain an optician degree from an accredited trade school. Such schools can provide you with a degree in opticianry in about a year. The benefits of obtaining a degree from such a trade school are numerous. You will enter the job field much more prepared for what the career will throw at you, you will be able to command a higher salary, you will be able to utilize the school's job placement programs to find better employment than searching on your own, and you will be much better prepared for the state licensing test (if required) and pursuing becoming a "certified" optician if you desire.

To find a list of accredited schools in your area, click on the "links" button in the right column of the NAO.org website and then click on the link for "National Federation of Opticianry Schools" The complete list is attached for you at the bottom of this hub.

### Step 3: Visit [ABO-NCLE.org](http://ABO-NCLE.org)

A website for opticians with experience looking to become “certified”, ABO-NCLE.org also has a wealth of information on the field of opticianry and state requirements. Once you gain on-the-job experience, you can become “certified” through taking the ABO test (certified in fitting eyeglasses) or NCLE test (certification in fitting contact lenses). Although not a requirement, becoming ABO or NCLE certified certainly is look upon favorably with employers and can increase your earning potential.

### Accredited Optician Programs

American Career College	Los Angeles, CA	(213) 383-2862
Baker College	Jackson, MI	(517) 789-6123
BC College of Optics	B.C., Canada	(604) 581-0101
Ben Franklin Institue of Tech	Boston , MA.	(617) 423-4630
Broward Community College	Coconut Creek, FL.	(954) 201-2017
Camden County College	Blackwood, NJ	(856) 374-5058
College of Southern Nevada	Las Vegas, Nevada	(702) 651-5834
Comm. College of Rhode Is.	Newport, RI	(401) 851-1691
Cuyahuga Comm. College	Cleveland, OH.	(216) 987-4454
Dekalb Technical College	Clarkston, GA	(404) 297-9522 x1207
Durham Tech. Comm. College	Durham, NC 27703	(919) 686-3485
Erie Community College	Williamsville, NY	(716) 851-1570
Essex County College	Newark, NJ	(201) 877-3367
Georgian	Barrie, Ontario	(705) 728-1968 x 1450
Hacienda La Puente Adult Ed.	La Puente, CA	(626) 934-2940
Highline Community College	Des Moines, WA.	(253) 830-5408
Hillsborough Comm. College	Tampa, FL	(813) 253-7430
Learning Curve	Sevierville, NY.	(865) 453-3450
Miami Dade Comm. College	Miami, FL	(305) 237-4267
Middlesex Comm. College	Middletown, CT	(860) 343-5845
New York City College of Tech.	Brooklyn, NY	(718) 260-5298
No. Alberta Insitue of Tech.	Alberta, Canada	(780) 418-2763
Ogeechee Technical College	Statesboro, GA	(912) 681-5500
Raritan Valley Comm. College	Somerville, NJ	(908) 526-1200 x8277
Reynolds	Richmond, VA	(804) 786-3415
Roane State	Harriman, TN	(865) 354-3000 x 4319
Seattle Central Comm.College	Seattle, WA	(206) 344-4321
Soutwestern Indian Poly Tech	Albuquerque, NM	(505) 897-5359 x5360
TCI college of Technology	New York, NY	(646) 772- 5130
Tri-Service Opticians School	Yorktown, VA	(757) 887-7148
Tyler Junior College	Tyler, TX 75798	(903) 510-2020
University of Indiana	Bloomington, IN	(812) 335-1298