

Optometrists



Occupational Profile

DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

Work Interests involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Investigative** – Involves working with ideas requiring an extensive amount of research, fact finding, problem solving, and thought analysis.
- **Social** – Involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people; providing service.
- **Realistic** – Involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions; often dealing with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.

Work Styles depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Integrity**
- **Attention to Detail**
- **Dependability**
- **Concern for Others**
- **Analytical Thinking**

Work Values are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Achievement** – Sense of accomplishment; results oriented.
- **Recognition** – Advancement potential.
- **Working Conditions** – Job Security; good working conditions.

Aptitudes reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Near Vision**
- **Deductive Reasoning**
- **Inductive Reasoning**
- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Oral Expression**

OVERVIEW

Diagnoses, manages, and treats conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. Examines eyes and visual system, diagnoses problems or impairments, prescribes corrective lenses, and provides treatment. May prescribe therapeutic drugs to treat specific eye conditions. Belongs to the Health Science cluster and Therapeutic Services pathway.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Science
- Critical Thinking

Technology Skills:

- Accounting Software
- Calendar and Scheduling Software
- Data Base User Interface and Query Software
- Medical Software
- Word Processing Software

Knowledge:

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Customer and Personal Service
- Biology
- Psychology
- English Language

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	2014-24 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,795,100	1,949,240	154,140	0.9	58,145
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	86,030	98,955	12,925	1.5	3,190
Optometrists	505	630	125	2.5	30

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>

2017 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Mean Wage	Mean Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Exp Wage	Exp Salary
Total All Occupations	20.93	43,539	10.09	20,991	26.35	54,813
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	34.33	71,400	17.33	36,038	42.83	89,081
Optometrists	56.57	117,669	34.40	71,556	67.66	140,726

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Doctoral or Professional Degree	None	None

A doctoral degree is required for optometrists that may include commensurate internship experience. Licenses, certificates, and/or commissions required. Sources: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>, https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm, and <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/iowa-licensed-occupations>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level	Minimum Skill Level	Maximum Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	6	6	7
Locating Information	6	6	6
Reading for Information	7	7	7
Applied Technology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Business Writing	4	4	5
Workplace Observation	5	5	5
Listening for Understanding	5	5	5

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html>

PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Home Health Aides Employed?)

Ambulatory Health Care Services

Self Employed

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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