



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Optometric Technician

The optometric technician's primary responsibilities are to help the optometric physician in eye and vision care. Activities include measuring the curvature of the cornea, color testing, stereo-testing, taking acuities, retinal and corneal photography, measuring the pressure of the eye, determining the power of old and new eye glass prescriptions, helping clients select frames, and measuring facial contours. The optometric technician educates the patient on the tests

being done and on choices in eye glasses. This instruction helps decrease uncertainty or fear in clients. Other duties may include dispensing contact lenses, determining the power and dimensions of old and new contact lenses, and explaining the care and handling of lenses. It is also often necessary to explain the use and application of pharmaceutical agents to the eye. Laboratory work and general management of a vision clinic is occasionally necessary.

Optometric Technician Facts:

Where do optometric technicians work in Alaska?

Optometric technicians are employed by optometric physicians in vision clinics. In rural Alaska, these clinics are located in regional hospitals. Major employers include the Alaska Native Health Service and regional health corporations.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English.
- Many optometric technicians are trained on the job, but some may complete a two-year associate's degree from a community college.
- There are no licensing requirements in Alaska.

Hourly Wage Range:

UNKNOWN

(Note: Payscale, Inc. (www.payscale.com) reports a median hourly rate that ranges from \$10.66-\$20.66 depending on years of experience.)

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no optometric technician schools in Alaska. The American Optometric Association lists available Technician programs on their website. Two programs are listed here.

Indiana University School of Optometry

Phone: (812) 855-4447

Fax: (812) 855-8664

Email: iubopt@indiana.edu

Web site: <http://www.opt.indiana.edu/opttech/index.htm>

Spokane Community College

Vision Care Technology Program

Phone: (509) 533-8020

Toll free: (800) 248-5644, ext. 8020

Email: AdmissionsInfo@scc.spokane.edu

Web site: <http://www.scc.spokane.edu/?vistechoverview>

State Contact:

Alaska Optometric Association

1501 W. 36th Ave, Ste 230

Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 770-3777

Toll free: (877) 693-2562

Fax: (907) 272-7532

Email: akoa@alaska.com

Web site: <http://www.ako.org>

National Contact:

American Optometric Association

243 North Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63141

Toll free: (800) 365-2219

Web site: <http://www.aoa.org/>

