

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 6.1 Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Ophthalmic Optics
Technology

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the following new degree program is approved:

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Ophthalmic Optics Technology

BACKGROUND

CINCINNATI STATE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Ophthalmic Optics Technology

The Cincinnati State Technical and Community College has developed an Associates degree program in Ophthalmic Optics technology in response to growing need for well trained technicians prepared for entry level employment in the opticianary profession. The program has been developed in response to the demand identified by the Ohio Association of Opticians and local organizations. The profession has traditionally used an on-the-job training model for preparing their entry-level workforce. However, there is a recognized need to provide a better theoretical foundation in preparation for the licensure exam. The Opticians Association of Ohio has also indicated their intent to make an Associate degree in Opticianary Technology a prerequisite for taking the licensure examination. In Ohio licensure is mandatory. Licensing exams are administrated through the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board. The Ophthalmic Optics program provides training in the fitting of eyewear (eyeglasses, contact lenses and other vision aids) using a prescription written by the Doctor. An Optician is a licensed professional who works directly with the customer in determining a frame and lens combination that best fits the vision needs of the customer. Opticians prepare the work order for the lab that makes the lenses, check the accuracy of the lenses and fit the lenses into the frame. They also adjust the glasses to assure proper fit. In contact lens fittings the Optician measures the eye shape and size, selects the contact lens material and instructs the wearer on lens care.

The Associate degree graduates of the Ophthalmic Optics Technology program will be prepared for employment in offices of Ophthalmologists and Optometrists, retail stores and in hospital and eye care clinics.

The value of the Associate degree has been confirmed by the National Federation of Opticianary Schools, which noted that “the average salary for graduates from Opticianary degree programs is approximately \$8,000 higher than Opticians who only receive on-the-job training. Strong local support for the program has been expressed by Optometry professionals who participated in development of the curriculum and offered to provide clinical sites for students.