



CAREER PATH

Health

CAREER CLUSTER
Health Sciences

CAREER PATHWAY
Therapeutic Services



OPTOMETRIST

Diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. Examine eyes and visual system, diagnose problems or impairments, prescribe corrective lenses, and provide treatment. May prescribe therapeutic drugs to treat specific eye conditions.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as an optometrist are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Optometrists	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	1.3%	11.4%	87.4%
Healthcare practitioner/technical	9.9%	31.0%	59.1%

Most Common Educational Level: First professional degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit www.oa.doleta.gov/bat.cfm

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2007		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$32.98	\$45.09	\$58.61
	Yearly	\$68,600	\$93,800	\$121,900
Missouri	Hourly	\$31.30	\$40.24	\$51.10
	Yearly	\$65,100	\$83,700	\$106,300

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Optometrist	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	32,700	36,400	+ 11%	930
Missouri	590	660	+ 12%	20

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

University of Missouri - St Louis

Saint Louis, MO
(314) 516-5000
www.umsl.edu

Pre-professional programs:

Missouri Southern State University

Joplin, MO
(417) 625-9300
www.mssu.edu

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO
(417) 836-5000
www.missouristate.edu

Southeast Missouri State University

Cape Girardeau, MO
(573) 651-2000
www.semo.edu

Southwest Baptist University

Bolivar, MO
(800) 526-5859
www.sbuniv.edu

University of Central Missouri

Warrensburg, MO
(660) 543-4111
www.ucmo.edu

University of Missouri - St Louis

Saint Louis, MO
(314) 516-5000
www.umsl.edu



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