



# Ophthalmic Dispenser

An **ophthalmic dispenser**, or optician, adapts and fits lenses (eyeglasses and contact lenses) to correct deficiencies, deformities, or abnormalities of the eyes based on a written prescription from a licensed physician or optometrist.

Examples of services:

- determine what lenses will best fit a prescription
- discuss options and needs with clients
- fit and adjust glasses to ensure effectiveness and comfort
- instruct in the proper care of glasses and contact lenses

## Education

High school diploma or the equivalent, including at least one year of mathematics such as algebra or geometry

AND

Complete a [Department-registered](#) 2-year collegiate ophthalmic dispensing licensure program OR a 2-year ophthalmic dispensing training program approved by the Department

## Examination

National Opticianry Competency Examination and New York State Basic Ophthalmic Dispensing practical examination. Additional exams are needed to be certified as a contact lens dispenser.

- ▶ Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

## Video



## Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$37,010 in the U.S., \$57,950 in NY
- Salary range: \$32,100-\$67,480
- Projected growth: much faster than average

## Where Could I Work?

- Ophthalmology and optometric practices
- Hospitals and clinics
- Laboratories
- Optical chain stores

## Your Interests and Abilities

- Manual and technical dexterity
- Close work with customers, physicians, and optometrists
- Precision

## Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Organization
- Cooperation
- Communication

## What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options!

Explore a free career tool at [mynextmove.org/explore/ip](http://mynextmove.org/explore/ip)

**Tip:** try searching for mentoring programs—talk to an optician about what they do and how they got started!