

# Ophthalmic Technician Program Admission Requirements

Dear Prospective Student

This packet will introduce you to the Volunteer State Community College Associate of Applied Science Degree - Ophthalmic Technician option. This is a “one-plus-one” program consisting of one year of general education plus one year of ophthalmic-specific technical courses. Upon graduation, students will be eligible to take the national ophthalmic technician certification examination.

Ophthalmic technology is a wonderful career wherein demand for technicians far outweighs the number of graduates we can supply. Historically, students are offered jobs weeks to months prior to completion of the Program.

An ophthalmic technician works under the direction of an ophthalmologist (an M.D.) with duties including, but not limited to, taking patient medical histories, visual acuity testing, refractometry, contact lens fitting, visual field evaluation, assisting in surgery, and performing a variety of technology-based diagnostic testing and patient services.

After reviewing the enclosed information, you may want to ask additional questions or tour our Program facilities on campus. Additionally, I've listed some helpful websites for more information on this unique career. In the last link, you can scroll down to see that we are one of only nine programs in the U.S.:

[www.jcahpo.org](http://www.jcahpo.org)

[www.atpo.org](http://www.atpo.org)

<http://www.jcahpo.org/newsite/COAOMPtechprograms.HTML>

If you are already a Volstate student, you may apply for the Program online by downloading the Allied Health Application form at: <http://www.volstate.edu/AlliedHealth/> and clicking on “Forms and Resources.” Send the application directly to me at the address below.

Thank you for your interest in Tennessee's premier Allied Health center! You may also want to pursue the OPH website at <http://www.volstate.edu/OphthalmicTech>.

Sincerely,

*Alisha Cornish, O.D., COT*

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is an Ophthalmic Technician?**

Answer: Ophthalmic Technology is a career of service to others. It is an opportunity to become part of a team in a medical setting providing quality eye care to the public.

Ophthalmic technicians work under the direction of an ophthalmologist in a variety of settings:

- Academic medical centers
- Ophthalmic clinics or private practices

Duties of the Ophthalmic technician generally include:

- Case history
- Visual acuity measurement
- Visual field testing
- Refractometry
- Contact lenses
- Caring for and maintaining ophthalmic instruments
- Assisting the doctor in minor ophthalmic surgery
- Administering diagnostic tests
- Providing patient services
- Performing a variety of clinical skills

Successful completion of the program allows graduates eligibility to apply for and to take the certification examination to become a Certified Ophthalmic Technician. Certification is available through the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO).

### **How do I apply for the Program?**

Answer:

1. You must complete an application and pay an application fee. Visit <http://www.volstate.edu/admissions/> for details
2. Submit high school transcripts or GED scores and ACT scores, if under the age of 21.
3. Submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities previously attended.
4. Complete an Allied Health Division application.
5. If applicable, take the College's placement tests.

### **What courses must I take prior to the screening and official admission into the Program?**

**Answer:** You will be required to complete all general education courses as listed in the Ophthalmic Technician Program brochure\*, INFS 1010 and AHC 115 prior to being eligible for formal admission into the Program. These courses (also referred to as “prerequisites”) must be completed by the end of the Summer semester for Fall admission.

### **When does screening occur and how many are admitted each year?**

Answer: The deadline for application to the program is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The screening and interview process will be conducted in early June. All eligible applicants are notified by mail as to the specific date/time. The program has a maximum class size of 15. Selection is based on GPA, anatomy and physiology grade, essay, and effectiveness in the interview setting.

### **What are the requirements for admission?**

Acceptance is contingent upon completion of the general education courses and AHC 115\*, with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, prior to the Fall term. Students must successfully complete, with a grade of “C” or better, all of the required 19 hours of general education courses.

### **How long is the program?**

Answer: After completion of all prerequisites and formal admission, the Program is 12 months (3 semesters) in length.

### **If I am officially admitted into the program, are there requirements other than the cost of the maintenance fees for my course?**

Answer: Yes. The requirements are:

- Text Books
- Computer with Internet & E-Mail Accessibility
- Travel Drive, Notebooks, Binders and Calculator
- CPR training (provided for a fee after admission)
- Background check and drug screen
- Ophthalmic Program shirts, scrub pants and shoes
- Professional liability insurance
- \*Proof of hospitalization insurance
- \*Proof of negative TB test within the last year
- \* Proof of Tetanus shot
- \*Proof of two live measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella vaccinations (if born after January 1, 1957)
- \*Documentation of Hepatitis-B series or documentation of refusal of the vaccine.
- Drug screening prior to each clinical rotation

*\*These are scheduled after admission and orientation.*

### **Who on the Volstate campus can answer other questions that I might have?**

Answer: Alisha Cornish, located in the East Campus, Bldg 200, Room 103, will be glad to answer any questions you may have. E-mail addresses: [alisha.cornish@volstate.edu](mailto:alisha.cornish@volstate.edu). You may also want to pursue the OPH website at <http://www.volstate.edu/OphthalmicTech>.

*\*Curriculum changes for prerequisites and for the Program are subject to change at the end of the year. Please visit [www.volstate.edu](http://www.volstate.edu), click on: Academics - Allied Health – Ophthalmic Tech to view changes.*



**OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM  
COURSE DESCRIPTION BY SEMESTER**

**FALL**

***INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGY - OPH 105***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 2 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces students to the history of ophthalmic technology, including roles and responsibilities in the field. Ethics of patient care and medical economics will also be discussed.

***OCULAR ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY - OPH 102***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 2 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will present the normal anatomy of the adnexa, globe and visual pathway and the physiology of ocular movements and vision. In addition, some of the more common pathophysiology will be discussed and identified. Thirty lecture hours per semester.

***OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES 1 - OPH 150***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 3 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Basic principles and skills for ophthalmic procedures will be taught. These include visual acuity measurement, lens measurements, tonometry, charting, medical history documentation, use of slit lamp, OSHA requirements, and papillary exam.

***CLINICAL OPTICS I - OPH 112***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 2 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students will learn the basic physical, geometric, and physiologic optical principles as applied to the eye and visual system including the visual pathway, light transmission, absorption, reflection and refraction.

***CLINICAL APPLICATIONS I - OPH 110C***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 6 Credit Hours  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Supervised practice of clinical skills learned during the Fall Semester. 240 clinical hours for the semester

**SPRING**

***BASIC OPHTHALMIC PHARMACOLOGY - OPH 121***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 1 Credit Hour  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will acquaint the student with ocular pharmacology including diagnostic agents, therapeutic agents, antibiotics, topical anesthetics, antivirals, antihistamines/antiallergic agents, and many of the systemic medications with which they come into contact. Indications for these agents and their common side effects will be discussed. A review of the autonomic nervous system as it relates to medications and their actions will be presented.

***INTRODUCTION TO OCULAR DISEASES - OPH 123***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 1 Credit Hour  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Basic characteristics of common ocular disorders will be presented in this course. Included are: the anterior segment, ocular adnexa, posterior segment diseases and conditions most common to the ophthalmology practice. A review of systemic diseases relating to ocular conditions will be presented as well as common diagnostic and therapeutic treatments. Triage for ocular emergencies will be presented in detail.

***OCULAR MOTILITY - OPH 126***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 2 Credit Hours  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Principles and techniques of keratometry, exophthalmometry, tonography, and advanced motility are presented with emphasis on skill development in these procedures. Fifteen lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

***RETINOSCOPY and REFRACTOMETRY - OPH 127***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 2 Credit Hours  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce students to the principles and techniques of retinoscopy and intermediate refractometry measurements with emphasis on skill development using various retinoscopes. Principles and techniques of spectacle fitting and adjustment will also be included. Fifteen lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

***OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES II - OPH 151***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 2 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces the student to the principles and techniques of visual field measurement, causes of visual field loss, basic external ophthalmic exam and the documentation of all testing and exam results. Fifteen lecture and 30 lab hours per semester

***CLINICAL APPLICATIONS II - OPH 120C***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 9 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Supervised practice of clinical skills learned during the Spring Semester. 360 clinical hours per semester

**SUMMER**

***OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES III - OPH 152***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 3 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces the student to the fundamentals of surgical assisting, microbial control procedures, and safe handling of equipment and supplies. Contact lens fitting and patient instructin techniques will also be covered. Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

***OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES IV - OPH 153***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 3 Credit Hours

Students will lean to use specialized equipment to perform acuity testing, ultrasonography, ophthalmic photography, corneal topography. Basic interpretations of fluorescein angiography and laser procedures are also included. Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

***CLINICAL APPLICATIONS III - OPH 130C***

**COURSE CREDIT:** 4 Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Supervised practice of clinical skills learned during the Summer Semester. 160 clinical hours for the semester.

## Volunteer State Community College Ophthalmic Technology Program

### AAS Degree Student Check List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The following **MUST** be completed & on file by **graduations dates: October 31 and March 31** (no exceptions)

General Educational	Courses part of Associate Degree	HRS	Taken
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	3	
Fine/Arts/Humanities Choose one	ART 1030-Intro to Art MUS 1030-Music Appreciation ENGL 1030-Intr Film	3	
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy & Physiology I(Lecture and Lab)	4	
ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3	
MATH 1010 or MATH 1030	Math Liberal Art (or higher)	3	
PSYC 1030	General Psychology	3	
INFS 1010	Computer Applications	3*See Note	
	<b>Total Gen Ed</b>	<b>19</b>	

#### REQUIREMENTS AFTER FORMAL ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

FALL	Course	HRS	Taken
OPH 102	Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	2	
OPH 105	Introduction Ophthalmic Technology	2	
OPH 150	Ophthalmic Procedures I	3	
OPH 110C	Clinical Applications I	6	
OPH 112	Ophthalmic Optics	2	
	<b>Total Fall</b>	<b>15</b>	

SPRING	Course	HRS	Taken
OPH 120C	Clinical Applications II	9	
OPH 121	Basic Ophthalmic Pharmacology	1	
OPH 123	Introduction of Ophthalmic Diseases	1	
OPH 126	Ocular Motility	2	
OPH 127	Refractometry/Retinoscopy	2	
OPH 151	Ophthalmic Procedures II	2	
	<b>Total Spring</b>	<b>17</b>	

Summer	Course	HRS	Taken
OPH 130C	Clinical Applications III	4	
OPH 152	Ophthalmic Procedures III	3	
OPH 153	Ophthalmic Procedures IV	3	
	<b>Total Summer</b>	<b>10</b>	
	<b>Total Major Core</b>	<b>42</b>	

**IMPORTANT:** Prior to graduation, all students must successfully complete Computer Applications (**INSF 1010**, 3 credit hours) or pass the competency exam. For more information visit: <http://www.volstate.edu/ComputerLiteracy/>. Students are strongly encouraged to complete this requirement prior to the interview process.

**NOTE to Scholarship students/financial aid students:** Please contact your advisor for sequencing of courses each semester prior to registration.

If transferring credits to VSCC, all transferred courses must be on file with Records Office by graduations dates. Must maintain a 2.0 GPA to graduate.