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## **Optical Dispensing Courses**

Optical Dispensing is the name of the program given for students who want to become opticians. This profession is related to science, health and customer service so there are different types of courses in the program. For example, students have ophthalmic chemistry, physics, biology, contact lenses and spectacle lenses courses but they also have courses about sales and management. In the next pages of this magazine, you can read descriptions of some courses given in Optical Dispensing, written by students who are in this program at Cégep régional de Lanaudière à L'Assomption.







## Ophthalmic Chemistry I – Chimie ophtalmique I

By Emmy Robillard ♥

Ophthalmic Chemistry is a 60 hour course that is taken in optical dispensing during the first year of study. This is the study of the physical and chemical properties of many materials used for making glasses and lenses. This course is necessary to do Ophthalmic Chemistry II in the second session. The prerequisites for this course are to have done chemistry and STE science (sciences et technologies de l'environnement) in high school.

The course objectives are to learn about some metals, plastics and certain polymers and to differentiate them by their properties, qualities and physical aspects through the study of their molecular and atomic structure, which can be complex sometimes.

For Ophthalmic Chemistry I you must to buy a book, "Matériaux d'optique lunetière" by\_Martin Dion that costs around \$50 and a smock for the lab.

For this class, the two major assignments were probably the labs. One of them is to create different polymers, for example, we made nylon. We also tested some materials that are used for so-called plastic

frames: polycarbonate that is used mostly for safety glasses, SPX and cellulose acetate. We tried their resistance to solvent, like acetone and their reaction to hairspray. We observed if they were static and resistant to heat or not. I really liked to do this experiment because it was fun and instructive.

I did this course in my first session and I liked it. It was not an easy class and I needed to work hard but I found it interesting and I had the chance to have a really great teacher, Mylène Morin. She was kind and knew the subject well. She explained clearly and was happy to help us and give more explanation. It was fun to do labs and put our knowledge into action, which also helped our understanding of the material.

Ophthalmic Chemistry I is a very interesting course that requires you to learn a lot of topics by heart, but you will learn many facts about all the different materials optician work with.



### **Eyeglass Frames**

#### By Audrey Benoit

"Eyeglass Frames" introduces to students different types of frames and their characteristics. This course is in the first semester of the program, so there are no prerequisites necessary to take it except the program's prerequisites that are mathematics, chemistry and physics of secondary five. The course takes a big part of a student's schedule during the first semester because there are three hours of theory and three hours of laboratory per week.

The course objective is to teach the students how to help customers choose the perfect frame for themselves. "Eyeglass Frames" is about the frames' characteristics and all the aspects opticians have to consider when they choose frames with people. Students also learn to find arguments to prove that a frame is a good or a bad choice for someone.

There is no material to buy for this course except a special pencil to write on the lenses that costs three dollars.

There are two major assignments in this course and they require a lot of work. At the beginning of the semester, people have to choose another student from the class as their customer and analyse him. They have to write a 1,500 word text describing his prescription, the reasons why and when he has to wear glasses, every aspect of this student's face, his complexion and the way they should act with him by considering his personality. This first assignment is very long to do but it is interesting to discover all

the elements opticians have to consider when choosing a frame for a person. Then, at the end of the semester, there is another assignment that is the continuation of the first one. In the second assignment, students have to draw the perfect frame for their customer based on all the elements they wrote in the analysis. After that, a frame representative brings his frame collection in the class and they have to choose a real frame for their customer. This last assignment was very pleasant and it made us realize that when we choose a frame for a customer, we have to make compromises because it is difficult to find a frame that fits perfectly on the person's face.

From my personal experience during the last semester, I can say that I really liked this course. It was a course related to our future job, so it allowed the students to discover a task that they will do every day as opticians. The lab classes were very interesting too because we were always touching material and different frames so we learned concrete optician's tasks and it was not just a course with theory.

This course could be interesting for everyone who wears glasses because it could help them to know which frames fit them well.



## **Contact Lenses**

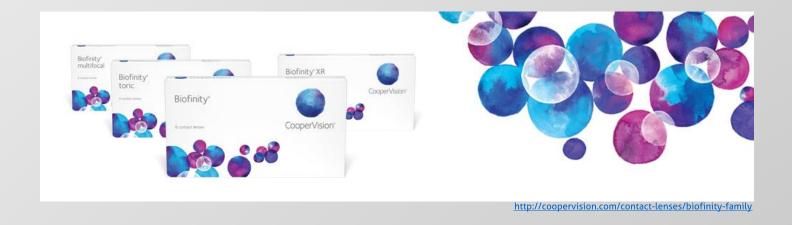
By Marie-Eve Lemieux



Contact Lenses 1 is taken in the third session, takes 75 hours, and there are no prerequisites. The course provides the knowledge needed to sell, choose, fit and apply contact lenses in the patient's eyes. There are no specific materials to buy for the course, because it is all given by the teacher.

The course objectives are to learn how to explain to clients how to put the lenses in their eyes, how to wash them and the dangers and the benefits of contact lenses. For the assignments, the students must be able to put contact lenses in their eyes and also in some other student's eyes. The students also learn how to use the biomicroscope to see how the lenses move in the patient's eyes and how to use the keratometer to calculate the curve of the cornea. The students also choose the perfect contact lenses for a patient and show him how to wash them and take care of them. A student that had already taken the course told me that the course is very interesting, interactive and there is not much theory.

Contact Lenses seems to be a very interactive course and I am excited to take it!



## The Profession and the World of Optics

By Audréanne Desjardins

The Profession and the World of Optics is about the job of an optician. The students study what they will do in three years. This course is taken during the first semester at Cégep Régional de Lanaudière à l'Assomption and you do not need any prerequisite to take this course.

"The Profession and The World of Optics" is about understanding and practicing the tasks of an optician such as cutting lenses, adjusting eyeglasses, fitting contact lenses, advising the customer with his lenses and frames, explaining to the customer his prescription, explaining visual disorders, understanding the role of other professionals and many more.

Students do not have to buy anything for this course, they just need pencils and a binder that you can buy for less than ten dollars.

One of the assignments is to describe the job of an optician. Students visit an optician and describe their day. It is complicated for some people who do not have much time with the

optician because the optician is too busy to take care of them. And some of them do not see everything because the optician that day does not do some tasks like repairing a frame or something like that, so they lose points for something that the optician did not show them.

Another assignment is to analyze lenses. It was fun to do something concrete about our future job. It was a really nice course.

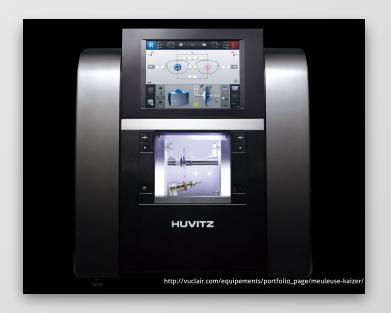
This course is like playing doctor, but instead you are playing optician..

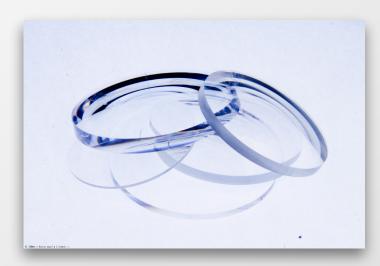


# Optical lenses I by Yvanie Langlois

The Optical Lenses I course is about all lenses. The course objectives are to learn about all the lenses and tints and the treatments on them. As well, you learn to show to customers which lens is better for him and to repair glasses and how to put the lens inside the eye wires. The does not require course materials, as the teacher gives all the notes in the each class.

The course does not have major assignments but there are two big skills that are evaluated. The first is to determine the prescription of the customer's glasses and the second is to learn how to grind the lenses to put them in the eye wires. These two skills are very important because in general the opticians do it every day.







This course in very interesting because there is a lot of time to practice. There are three hours of theory and three hours of practice. using the instruments every week. It is important because at the end of the session we will need to do what we learned automatically.

The Optical Lenses course is very important because all the material in the course is important in the optician's job.



http://www.cegep-lanaudiere.qc.ca/lassomption/programmes/techniques-dortheses-visuelles-nouveau http://french.alibaba.com/product-gs/mdf-wood-grain-veneer-sunglass-display-stand-counter-1995810126.html

# Optical Dispensing: An Unfamiliar Program

### By Audrey Benoit

Have you ever thought to study in the Optical Dispensing program? Probably not, because this program is not known by many people and it is rare in Quebec. However, it is a three year technique that is varied and has many advantages.

The Optical Dispensing program is for people who want to become an optician and to do this profession, students should have some specific skills. For example, they should have an aptitude for sales and customer service and they have to be at ease to work with different people. Most of the time, people choose this program

because they have an interest in science, health and fashion fields. To be optician, they also have to be meticulous and concerned about esthetics because grinding and checking lenses require a lot of precision and they should have a good dexterity because opticians do many frame repairs and adjustments. In short, students in Optical Dispensing have to be versatile because opticians have varied tasks.

There are only three schools in Quebec that offer the Optical Dispensing program and this is why it is not a popular program.

Cegep Édouard-Montpetit, The Longueuil, was the first school to give the program in 1974. In 1977 and 1978, the school opened an eyeglass and contact lens clinic for the public and where students could practice the profession. It is the only school that offers a special program for students who want to go to university in optometry after their technique. The Cegep Garneau, in Quebec, is the second school that gives the Optical Dispensing program. It also has an eyeglass and contact lense clinic and it offers students the chance to do a humanitarian trip in a country that needs visual care. Optical Dispensing is also a new program at the Cégep régional de Lanaudière à L'Assomption since 2014. Its eyeglass and contact lense clinic is in construction and its opening is supposed to be in autumn 2016. The advantage to study there is that the instruments that

the students are working with are all new.

Even if the program is unfamiliar, it has many advantages for the students. For example, offers twelve-week it a internship during two summers of the program. As well, it allows students to have a special mention in their school report and they can also practice the optician profession during one semester Finally, the in the school's clinics. program placement rate of the practically 100 per cent.

In conclusion to become an optician, students have to be versatile and be ready to maybe study a little bit far away from their houses because there are only three schools that give the program, but it has many advantages.







# Why Your Children Must Have Glasses

By Marie-Eve Lemieux

When Alexis, my sister's son, was six months old, he had his first appointment with the ophthalmologist. He was cross-eyed and we also saw that he had some difficulties to recognize objects and people.

After the appointment, the doctor told my sister that Alexis was longsighted, with a prescription of +3.50, which is quite high for a baby. My sister was in shock, because she thought that Alexis was going to be blind, but I explained to her that most children are a little longsighted and that it would be for his best to have eyewear.

So my sister went to Corbeil Eyewear in Montreal to see someone who specializes in children's glasses. She chose a beautiful blue frame that held well on the baby's head with an elastic on the back. He looked like a Minion with them! My sister and the optician also chose the right lenses to put on the frame. Even if they are for kids, they are very expensive; the total was around \$350.





Two weeks later, my sister and I went to Corbeil with Alexis to get the glasses that were ready. When he put on the glasses, it was like he saw for the first time. He was looking everywhere with a look of wonder on his face. It was at this time that we realized that he had not been seeing well and that the glasses would change his life.

Since Alexis has had his glasses, he is a brand new child. He looks around to discover the world and he is learning much faster. He gets in bad moods when he is not wearing them. Now my sister is happy that her son has glasses and understands his needs because she also needs glasses. But he will have the surgery to replace his eyes because the glasses have not fix the problem. He is on a list for it.

So if you think your child needs glasses, don't wait! You will see that it is for the best and especially for his best.

## Where an Optician Can Work and What He Does

An optician can work in many institutions other than clinics.

The Nazareth and Louis Braille Institute, where people with serious vision disorders go to get help, is one of the places where an optician can work. Their roles are to solve problems for these people. . For example, opticians help ophthalmologists with the patients exam and help them to define the diseases and other vision problems. It is an institute of the government, so opticians will get a pension when they **Opticians** also retire.. make glasses' for blind people to protect their eyes from many future problems or risks.

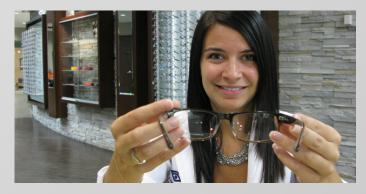
clinics, correct - people's vision with a laser. They need opticians to detect if the patient has a problem that can be fixed by a laser or not. It is also the opticians task to evaluate the risk of the operation by a laser. After the operation, the optician explains to the patient what to do or not do to be sure of the success of the operation. After two days, the optician makes sure that the eve of the patient is fine before he can see the ophthalmologist.

An optician can also work for an ophthalmologist in a hospital or a clinic. The optician is like a nurse, he/she evaluates the patient, asks him why he is there and asks questions to help the doctor define the problem or disease. It is also the optician that will put the drops in the eyes of the patient. He will also do a little bit of the refraction test to see the vision of the person.

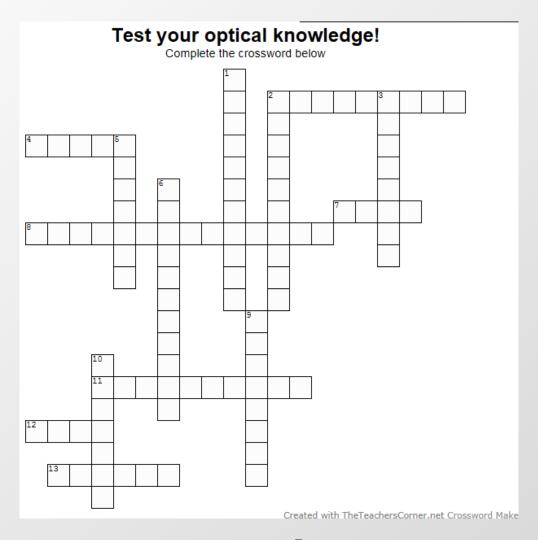
The optician can also only work in laboratory and cut the lenses. He just does not have the problems that come with customer service.

Finally, the optician can have his own clinic and work as a manager. You have people that work for you and you can choose the company for the frames and lenses.

What is so beautiful about this job is that you have so many choices that you are sure to be at your place.



## Puzzles



#### Across

- 2. Color blindness
- 4. Frequent eye color
- 7. Ideal face shape
- 8. Lenses that are directly on the eyes
- **11.** Instrument used to read the prescription
- 12. Colored portion of the eye
- **13.** Part of the frame that joins the two lenses

#### **Down**

- **1.** Instrument used to measure the distance between pupils
- **2.** Name of the program to be optician (optical \_\_\_\_\_)
- 3. Part of the frame that rests on the nose
- **5.** Coating that makes the lenses more esthetic
- 6. Professional that does eye exams
- 9. Different layers applied on the lenses
- **10.** Material used to make the majority of spectacle lenses

The crossword answers are on the next page!

### Search the following companies' names in the letters

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М	Α	R	С	0	L	Ι	Ν	М	0	W	Ι	Н	D	U	S
0	Μ	S	Ε	D	Υ	U	Α	Α	L	Α	Α	S	Р	Ε	Χ
J	R	W	W	D	S	L	٧	R	Ε	L	Ζ	W	0	Υ	Α
0	Ν	J	F	R	Ε	Υ	Α	С	Ρ	Κ	I	W	Α	С	U
Р	Ε	R	F	Ε	С	Т	J	Н	0	Χ	G	W	Κ	I	D
Т	Α	Т	Χ	٧	0	Ν	1	0	Н	U	Ζ	Н	L	٧	Α
1	Q	Υ	Ε	U	Н	٧	0	Ν	Υ	Χ	J	Н	Ε	Υ	С
K	Κ	U	W	С	Ε	R	Ε	М	0	Α	Н	G	Υ	С	Е
Α	Н	Α	W	L	L	L	U	Χ	0	Т	Τ	Ι	С	Α	D
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0	D	U	F	I	Т	R	S	Α	Ν	S	М	Ε	F	F	С
R	Χ	U	Ζ	S	0	Ρ	Н	Α	R	С	Χ	U	D	Υ	Q
Z	K	R	I	G	Т	N	Χ	В	D	Q	D	K	M	0	G

Perfect	Aspex	Lanctot
Oliver Peoples	Zig	JFRey
Optika	Marchon	Oakley
Luxottica	Cerem	Audace
Ronor	Safilo	Marcolin

#### **Crossword answers**

ACTOSS		DOWII	
2. Daltonism	<b>11.</b> Lensometer	1. Pupilometer	6. Optometrist
<b>4.</b> Brown	<b>12.</b> Iris	2. Dispensing	9. Coatings
<b>7.</b> Oval	<b>13.</b> Bridge	<b>3.</b> Nose pads	<b>10.</b> Plastic
8. Contact lenses		<b>5.</b> No glare	

## Trendy Accessories

By Emmy Robillard♥

The idea that we have about glasses has changed a lot throughout the years.

Now, we do not wear them simply to fight against our myopia or think that they are reserved for geeks. We want them for the style. Eyewear is the perfect way to make your outfit gorgeous. There is a great panorama of choices that is bigger than you can imagine. The little rectangular and austere eyeglasses are over, and now round eyeglasses are fashionable!

### "This year, vintage frames are a must, and passing them would be a major mistake."

This year, vintage frames are a must, and passing them would be a major mistake. However, there is another trend which is geek eyeglasses inspired from 70's. Retro is very popular this season and offers you a large choice of material, design and style. For example, they can be translucent, unicolor, bicolor, tortoise, golden... Everything is possible to make your look and your view be the best as it can.

You no longer need to be astigmatic or longsighted to wear beautiful eyewear, because the big trend of the season is anti-light blue glasses. Those are made to protect our eyes from the strong light given



off our many digital screens. Most of the time, we do not pay attention to the high frequency blue light emitted from our cellphone, TV or computer, but it is not because we do not realize it that it is not harmful to our eyes. Because of the large place technology has in our world in 2016, tinted lenses to block blue light are a great solution to avoid headaches and also to be trendy.

Now let's talk about spring and summer 2016 sunglasses trends. Sunglasses are essential to your style and not because they protect you from the sun, but because they will make you look absolutely fabulous. For sure, you need to find the one that will flatter your face. If you like to experiment, spring time is perfect to try lots of colors and shapes. Do not be afraid to break the rules, there are so many possibilities! This season, oversized eyeglasses are very fashionable. This spring and summer round frames, cat eye glasses, aviators and metallic glasses will be popular.

Make your eyewear the jewel that will make your outfit perfect. Today, wearing glasses is trendy and beneficial for everybody.







## Futuristic and Fashion Forward

Aviators are transformed this season! Now with round lenses, metal bridges, wood frames and translucent plastic frames your look can be totally gorgeous!

Embrace these sunglasses and you will steal the show Round lens aviators stole the show this season!





### Must...For women



### Pretty in pastel

Dusty shades of pink, baby blue, and lavender create a soft and cute look this spring.

Feminine and composed color palette embodies a sense of freedom and youth. Totally perfect for the free-spirited bohemian girl!!

Bold color patterns, oversized cat-eye frames, circular shapes and opaque or clear acetate round up the hottest spring trends for 2016, don't be shy to try it!

What better way to accessorize an outfit than with some colored shades? Various shades of pink will be everywhere this season, find yours!





## **Opticians work with ...** by Yvanie Langlois

There are a lot of people who work in the world of optics. An optician is one of these people. Six other people work with the optician to give the best service for the customers.

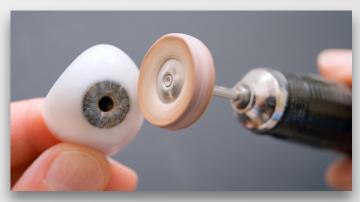
There are ophthalmologists, who take care of eyes. They check if the eye is healthy. They do surgery on the eye. So if you want to have a laser surgery it will be an ophthalmologist who will do it. In other words an ophthalmologist is a doctor for the eyes.

There are optometrists, who are also very important because they evaluate the vision and evaluate if the eye is healthy. When they finish to evaluate they write up the prescription for the patient. After with the prescription the customer will buy glasses and lenses with the help of the Optician.



There are orthoptists, who are important for the people who need rehabilitation for their eyes. If a person had an accident and after that he has a problem with his eyes, he will go to see an orthoptist.

There are ocularists, who have a special job. They make fake eyes for people who need them. An ocularist will make a perfect copy of a good eye of the person. The ocularist is an artist because he paints perfectly an iris like the other eye of the person. So the fake eye is like the real eye.



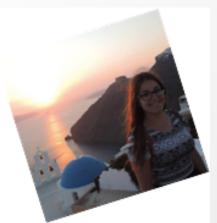
http://lunettesenvue.ca/examen-de-la-vue-les-coteaux/

There are laboratory technicians, who grind and check the lenses. Their job is to check the prescription of the customer and ensure if what he receives is the same as what is written on the prescription. After that he grinds the lenses, puts the lenses in the glasses and checks if his job is good to be given to the customer.

The last person the opticians work with is the optometry assistants. In general, it is a women who takes this job because her jobs consists of taking the phone calls, taking the appointments and welcoming the customers when they arrive in the office.

Opticians work with a lot of people. They are all important because if they were not there the opticians would not be able to do their jobs. So to have a happy customer all these people have to work together.

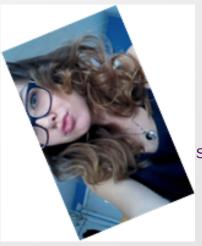
### **Biography**



Audrey Benoit
Audrey is a student in Optical Dispensing. She
wants to be an optician because it connects
science, fashion, health and contact with the
customer. Her hobby's are dancing and her little
dog Puppy.

#### Marie-Ève Lemieux

Marie-Ève is in Optical Dispensing because she likes the customer service, fashion and health. She likes to listen to movies, chill with her friends and her two pets, Molly and Bender.



#### **Emmy Robillard**

Emmy a young student in Optical Dispensing wants to be an optician because it relates to her values and she likes fashion and science. Also she has worn glasses since the age of eight years old. She likes to read and listen to music.

#### Yvanie Langlois

Yvanie, a student in Optical Dispensing, likes to cook and to do sports. She wants to be an optician to help people and help them make good choices.



### Audréanne Desjardins

Audréanne is a student in Optical Dispensing. She wants to be an optician because she likes fashion, science and to help people. She likes to sing and to have good times with her friends.