

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

OPTH 290 INTERNSHIP IN OPHTHALMIC SCIENCE

I. Basic course Information

A. Course Number and Title: OPTH 290 Internship in Ophthalmic Science

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2026

D. Sponsoring Department: Health Science Education

E. Effective term: Fall 2026

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 1
 Lab: 2
 Work Site: 70 hours (total)
 Out of class student work per week: 3

H. ☒ Prerequisite (s): Permission and placement by Program Coordinator and minimum grade of C or higher OPTH 111 Ophthalmic Dispensing I Lecture and OPTH 115 Ophthalmic Dispensing Lab.

☐ Corequisite (s): None

H. Additional Fees: No

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Permission and placement by Program Coordinator and minimum grade of C or higher OPTH 111 Ophthalmic Dispensing I Lecture and OPTH 115 Ophthalmic Dispensing Lab.

A clinical experience in which the student is placed in an optician's practice. Specific evaluations of student objectives are conducted in a weekly consultation with the Program Coordinator. In addition, lecture topics will include business concepts and current technology. Minimum grade of C required.

III. Statement of Course Need:

- A. This is a required course for the Ophthalmic Science (Opticianry) AAS degree.
- B. There is a required lab component for this course.
- C. This course is not designed for transfer.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free elective.
- B. This is a required course for the Ophthalmic Science –AAS Degree. It is suggested that the course be taken in the student's final semester.

V. Outline of Course Content

In addition to the general objectives required of all students, each student, in coordination with the instructor, will devise a series of objectives to be accomplished during the internship. These objectives should arise from self-study of areas of student interest and professional deficiencies. Realistic objectives will be set to remedy these deficiencies. The student's employer may be advised of the objectives and their intended accomplishment.

The employer may have input into both the student's progress towards these objectives and the student's evaluation. The student will meet on a regular basis with the Instructor to discuss the objectives of the internship, to evaluate progress and to enhance the work experience.

The student will also be required to author a research paper regarding the internship and attend eight lecture sessions. The objectives, solutions, self-evaluation and commentary on the internship experience should be included in the paper.

- A. Updates on the most recent advances in ophthalmic technology, including: lenses, frames, instrumentation, edging equipment, fitting techniques, contact lenses and contact lens solution.
- B. Selling vs. professionalism, manipulative vs. service selling, appearance and personality, education as a sales technique, determining needs, product demonstration, pricing, lifestyle dispensing, merchandising, closing the sale, verbal and visual communication, technical explanations and professional liability, and handling the irate patient.
- C. New Jersey statutes, Title 52, Chapter 17B-41.1, Title 45, Chapters 1-14, Uniform Enforcement Act, Title 13, Chapter 33. (Laws governing the professional and business practices of ophthalmic dispensing.)
- D. Principles of supervision, delegation, communication, safety considerations, management styles, management theory, time management, management information systems, performance appraisal, discipline, job analysis, interviewing, hiring, employee training, harassment, discrimination and fair

employment practices, Medicare and Medicaid systems, third party payment systems.

- E. Throughout the internship, students will be required to keep journals. These journals will document the patients they have personally attended. They will record the following information: patient's prescription, history, visual complaints, lenses prescribed, frame prescribed, and follow-up care. In a lecture setting, these case studies will be discussed, analyzed, and evaluated.
- F. Mock state board examination

VI. Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Produce a final project of original thought and research (GE- 1).
2. Recognize, describe and analyze the methodology of the clinical, laboratory and business operation of an optician's practice.
3. Evaluate interpersonal communication approaches that support professional and patient-centered interactions in clinical settings.
4. Demonstrate analytical skills in interpreting prescriptions to meet the occupational, avocational and personal visual needs of the patient.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the latest advances in frame, lenses and instrumentation technology.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the laws and regulations governing the practice of opticianry in the State of New Jersey.

On an individual basis, each student will be required to select personal objectives that they will pursue in their work environment.

Assessment Instruments:

1. laboratory products
2. written examinations
3. journal
4. Final project

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. written exams
- B. instructor evaluation which includes written and/or practicum examinations on student's personal objectives and journal evaluation
- C. Final project

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. Computer assisted instruction

- C. laboratory
- D. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Material provided via Canvas.
- B. Other texts will be assigned as required for the students' personal objectives.
- C. power point presentations
- D. course handouts

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Computer
- B. Projection equipment
- C. Hand instruments

X. Honors Option: N/A