

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Technical Certificate Program (VA)**

**1080 Hours | 10 Months**

*Full-Time:*

**Monday – Friday, 8:00am - 2:30pm**

Students in the Optometric Assisting Training Program will develop a thorough understanding of the equipment, materials, and procedures necessary to assist the eye care specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of vision deficiencies. Optometric Assisting graduates will work with an Optometrist, Ophthalmologist, or an optical establishment.

The Optometric Assisting program offers students the opportunity to work in an uncrowded health care field following completion of program competencies.

## COURSES

■ Basic Healthcare Worker	90 Hours
■ Optometric Assistant 1	330 Hours
■ Optometric Assistant 2	330 Hours
■ Optometric Assistant 3	330 Hours

***Distant/Hybrid Courses:***

*Students enrolled in distant and/or hybrid courses should have daily access to a computer with internet and must have a valid email address that they check daily. Additionally, students should have all necessary hardware and software components required by their technology program or adult education course.*

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### McFATTER TECHNICAL COLLEGE McFATTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL 6500 Nova Drive | Davie, FL 33317 | 754.321.5700

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**McFatter Technical College is Accredited by the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE)**

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# Optometric Assisting



Optometric Assistants work directly with eye doctors to determine the best course of action for each patient. Every patient is unique, with their own particular needs and it is the eye care team's job to satisfy those needs. This may come through pre-testing, contact lens training, lifestyle dispensing, frame and lens selection or final frame dispensing. There is an endless array of options for each patient and a great sense of satisfaction is derived from helping to improve someone's vision.

Eye care is a lower stress, clean environment profession with many opportunities within the field. Graduates can find employment in the offices of Optometry, Ophthalmology, retail opticals and optical laboratories. According to the United States Department of Labor, employees in the medical field will enjoy the greatest number of opportunities with 5.7 million new jobs projected between 2010 and 2020.

## PROGRAM CONTENT

The Optometric Assisting training curriculum is a blend of classroom, laboratory and clinical instruction. Included in Optometric Assisting training are:

- Extensive, supervised externship
- Theory and practical experiences in business management skills
- Testing skills to determine defects in vision
- Preparation and fitting of eyeglasses and contact lenses
- Ocular anatomy and physiology
- Employability skills and other courses

## ACCREDITATION

The Optometric Assisting program is recognized by the ParaOptometric Section of the American Optometric Association.

## PREREQUISITES

Applicants who have a standard high school diploma or its equivalent from a regionally accredited institution, meet the state-mandated minimum basic skills requirements on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE), and interview with the program counselor may enter the program during the next enrollment period. All students must complete a physical examination and immunization record prior to acceptance.

## INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION

Students will be prepared to take an approved state and/or nationally recognized industry certification or licensure exam in their field of study.

## ARTICULATION

Upon completion and meeting eligibility requirements, students may be awarded credits toward an Associate Degree by selected Florida State Colleges.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Optometric Assistants can seek employment in any of the following work environments:

- Optometric Offices
- Optical Stores
- Health Clinics

For additional information,  
call the program counselor/advisor at  
754.321.5700.

