Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians

Optometrists examine eyes and assign prescriptions while Dispensing Opticians consult on eyewear and make adjustments as necessary. Ophthalmologists are medical doctors that specialize in the eyes. They are rarely licensed separately and tend to be under the “Medical Doctor” license.

Trends
In some states there are apprenticeships for Dispensing Opticians, and some separately regulate contact lens dispensing.

Common Qualifications
The requirements for Optometrists tend to be degree programs and for Opticians it is trade school or apprenticeship.

Examples of License Titles
These are nearly universally licensed occupations. While there are only 102 licenses nationally in this category, 50 states and territories have a specific Optometrist license, for an average of 1.04 per state. There are 19 states that separately license Opticians and 15 with a related license (contact lens dispenser, mail-order ophthalmic provider, ocularist, spectacle lens dispenser).

Most common license titles: Outlier license title examples:
Optometrist Contact Lens Distributors
Dispensing Optician Optician in Charge (OIC) Registration
Doctor of Optometry Spectacle Lens Dispenser
Apprentice Optician Registration VISION SCREENING TECHNICIAN

ONET codes
For the most part, licensure is clearly associated with Opticians or Optometrists. There are some Ophthalmologic Dispensers that are more closely aligned with Opticians than their medical doctor counterpart.

29-1041.00 Optometrists
Diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. Examine eyes and visual system, diagnose problems or impairments, prescribe corrective lenses, and provide treatment. May prescribe therapeutic drugs to treat specific eye conditions.

29-2081.00 Opticians, Dispensing
Design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for client according to written optical prescription or specification. Assist client with inserting, removing, and caring for contact lenses. Assist client with selecting frames. Measure customer for size of eyeglasses and coordinate frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescription. Prepare work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames. Verify exactness of finished lens spectacles.
Adjust frame and lens position to fit client. May shape or reshape frames. Includes contact lens opticians.

Examples of License Boards
Optometry and Opticians may be separate boards, often in the Department of Health.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Most common board titles:</th>
<th>Outlier board title examples:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Optometry</td>
<td>Division of Health Related Boards</td>
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<td>Board for Opticians</td>
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<td>BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY</td>
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Related Occupations
Ophthalmologic assistants and Ophthalmologists can be related.

Associated Certifications

**National Contact Lens Examiners Advanced Certification**

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**Contact Lens Registry Certification**

**Certified Paraoptometric**

**Applied Basic Science**
https://www.optometry.org/exams/part_I

**American Board of Opticianry Advanced Certification**

**Advanced Competency in Medical Optometry**
https://www.optometry.org/exams/acmo

**Advanced Competency in Medical Optometry**
https://www.optometry.org/exams/acmo
The National Opticianry Competency Certification

Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease
https://www.optometry.org/exams/tmod

Diplomate, American Board of Optometry
https://americanboardofoptometry.org/become-certified/