

Dispensing optician careers



A dispensing optician (DO) advises on, fits and supplies the most appropriate spectacles and low vision aids after taking into account the prescription issued by fellow colleagues within the eye care team (optometrists, ophthalmologists) and each person's visual, lifestyle and vocational needs. Dispensing opticians are also responsible for providing clinical advice and guidance on common eye conditions.

What do dispensing opticians do?

Treating patients of all ages including children, the role of a dispensing optician is varied. For example, a dispensing optician may meet a lorry driver who may require single vision lens spectacles due to them being short-sighted. Whereas another person they may meet could have a visual impairment and may need a low vision aid in addition to their spectacles, such as a magnifier to allow them to read small text.

Where do dispensing opticians work?

- community - optical practice
- hospitals
- home visits.

What skills do I need to be a good dispensing optician?

- good communication skills, taking time to listen to each person's specific needs and providing advice in a clear manner
- enjoy working with and helping others
- interested in solving problems and making decisions
- have a keen interest in dealing with technical data and equipment to help identify the best visual aids
- good attention to detail and manual skills to enable the fitting and adjustment of eye wear.

How do I become a dispensing optician?

Step one: to become a dispensing optician you need to complete a [General Optical Council \(GOC\)](#) approved course, which there are three ways to undertake:

- a two-year full-time training course followed by a one-year salaried role working in practice under supervision
- a three-year day release training course

combined with suitable employment

- three-year distance learning qualification combined with suitable employment.

Step two: following completion of the GOC-approved course you will need to pass the professional qualifying examinations from the [Association of British Dispensing Opticians \(ABDO\)](#).

How much do dispensing opticians earn? The average salary for a dispensing optician is around £25,000; this can increase with experience, progression into practice management or through further training to become a contact lens optician.

Want to find out more? Visit:

Careersville: <https://careersville.heiw.wales>

NHS Wales Careers: www.nhswalescareers.com



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