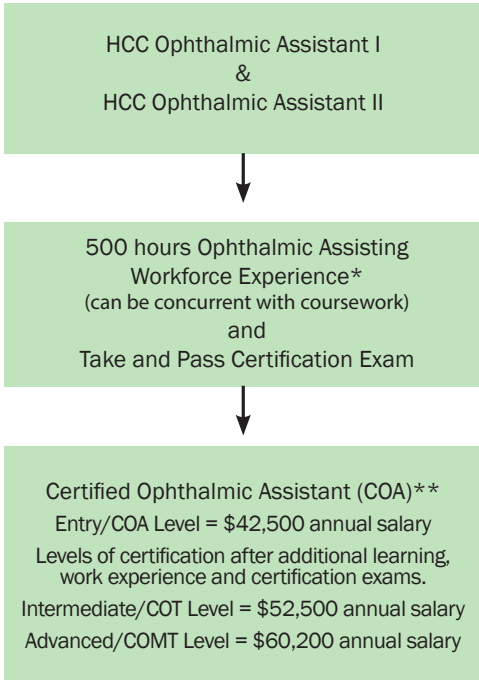




Ophthalmic Assistant Career Coursework

HCC's Ophthalmic Assistant coursework is the first step towards a rewarding career.



* Employment for completion of work experience is the responsibility of the student.

** Source: Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology

ABOUT OPHTHALMIC ASSISTING

Working under the supervision of an ophthalmologist, ophthalmic assistants may take patient histories; provide patient support services such as scheduling and patient education; administer tests and evaluations; take eye measurements; maintain instruments and perform a variety of clinical tasks. While most ophthalmic assistants work in ophthalmology practices, jobs are also available in clinics, hospitals, universities and, industry. Ophthalmic assistant positions may be full-time or part-time.

The Ophthalmic Assisting coursework at HCC prepares students to:

- Develop specialized knowledge and skills necessary for a career as an Ophthalmic assistant
- Become part of the eye-care team,
- Assist doctors who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye (ophthalmologists).

Comprehensive instruction taught by Scott Spector, M.D., Founder and Medical Director of Spector Eye Care and New Vision Cataract and Laser Center in Connecticut.





Are you?

1. Currently working as an Ophthalmic Assistant?

HCC's courses will help you gain the reasoning and theory behind what you do. The coursework will prepare you for the certification exam, and while enrolled, current work experience can be credited towards the 500 hours needed to sit for the certification exam.

2. A graduate of a health care track in high school or college?

Your medical, legal and ethical knowledge will be of value in this program.

3. Looking for a career but have no training in healthcare or higher education? Or, searching for a job that increases your income and quality of life?

The program's coursework will allow you to achieve in-depth knowledge in pursuit of a career specializing in working as an assistant in an ophthalmology practice. As an HCC student, you will have access to our Career Resources for resume writing, improving interviewing skills and job search assistance.

Program Details

This program is a one-year program, consisting of two consecutive courses. Each course meets one evening per week from 6:00pm - 9:30pm. To take the exam, students must have completed the courses and 500 hours of workforce experience under the supervision of an Ophthalmologist. Students are expected to be paid by the practice for working and learning during this period.

Ophthalmic Assistant I

In this first course, the roles and responsibilities of the ophthalmic assistant will be introduced. Students will develop entry-level knowledge and skills in office and administrative procedures; patient communication and education; ethical, legal and regulatory aspects of patient care; practices essential for patient and personal safety; medical terminology; basic general and ocular anatomy and physiology; ocular microbiology; ocular pharmacology; and introduction to major disorders of the eye. Students will develop entry-level skills in triage; history taking; examination of the eye; as well as use and maintenance of relevant clinical equipment, instruments and supplies. Learning activities will include attending lectures; active learning with case histories; participating in hands-on learning; participating with hands-on learning in our clinical teaching laboratory; and out-of-class assignments.

Ophthalmic Assistant II

Building upon knowledge acquired in Ophthalmic Assistant I, skills relevant to assist an ophthalmologist in the diagnosis and care of patients will be taught in context of the major disorders of the eye. Students will enhance their patient care, education, communication and use of equipment as they learn more details about disorders of the eye. Learning activities will include attending lectures; active learning with case histories; participating in hands-on learning; participating with hands-on learning in our clinical teaching laboratory; and out-of-class assignments.

Application Process & Requirements

Applicants should meet these requirements before applying:

- High school diploma or GED
- Express an interest in Health and Sciences
- Good fine-motor skills
- Desire to help people

For details on the application process, and to apply, visit:
www.Housatonic.edu/OA
 Scholarship funds are available.

The program is in the process of applying for accreditation by International Council of Accreditation (ICA).

"This was the best education I've ever received. I've gained so many skills that will benefit my career and help many patients with their needs. After updating my resume, two companies found me and were interested in me; I was on the verge of tears. I'm so confident and knowledgeable after learning from Dr. Spector."

– Jennifer Freischlag, student

"I was amazed that HCC built the COA clinical room, and I'm thankful for the amazing opportunities I now have. My Professor Dr. Scott Spector showed me the career I can have beginning with this program, and even further."

–Matt Lozanov, student

"Great Class. I gained important information from the Ophthalmic Assistant program. With upmost appreciation to the brilliant college Professor/ Doctor, I am confident in my future endeavors."

– Nancy Escobar, student

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program and other important information, please visit our website at: <http://www.ct.edu/ge/HCC>