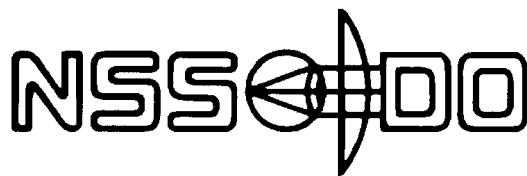


Thinking of a career in the eye care profession?



Nova Scotia Society of Dispensing Opticians / P.O. Box 31265, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5Y5
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Ophthalmic Dispensing Eyeglasses Course Description

The Ophthalmic Dispensing Eyeglasses Program is produced by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (N.A.I.T.) and is endorsed and administered by the Opticians Association of Canada (O.A.C.). It is a 2 year distance delivery program which will provide the student with theoretical and practical information necessary for dispensing spectacles.

PREREQUISITES - The prerequisites for the Ophthalmic Dispensing Eyeglasses Program:

- Student must possess a High School Diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Student must be employed under the direct supervision of a Licensed Optician, Contact Lens Fitter or Optometrist
- Student must be a resident of Nova Scotia

We recommend that the student has a strong math/physics background.

*Year One applicants must submit a copy of their High School Diploma or transcript.

Students must have daily access to a computer and a designated email address. This is the main method of communication and it is the student's responsibility to check emails daily.

All classes are held on Sundays, and while they are not mandatory, students are strongly encouraged to attend. If you are working on Sundays, please co-ordinate with your employer.

Along with your course materials, you will receive a **STUDENT HANDBOOK** - this will be your lifeline! You will find the answers to all of your questions in this handbook, and it will be an invaluable resource for you.

The course consists of both a theoretical and a practical component. The student is required to complete 2000 practical hours, complete 4 levels of Eyeglass Practicum outlining specific practicum objectives, related to the practice of Opticianry. The Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians (NSCDO) requires a minimum of 250 fittings of optical appliances. The student has a maximum of four years from the start of the course to complete the practical component of the course. A N.A.I.T. completion certificate will not be issued until both the theoretical and practical portions of the course are completed.

The theoretical portion of the course contains a course of study governed by prescribed textbooks and course material. Each LOG (Learning Outcome Guide) in the course has a post test that must be completed by the student and submitted to their instructor to send to the OAC for marking. The course also has a practicum manual which outlines the various practical skills necessary in spectacle lens fittings. The student must complete the manual under the supervision of their licensed supervisor over the two year period. The student is also required to complete 2 lab tests in each year of the course. These lab tests are done under the supervision of the NSSDO.

In Nova Scotia, the course has one intake of students in September, and runs from September to May.



MARK BREAK DOWN: The mark breakdown for the course is as follows:

EYEGASSES – YEAR 1

Online Chapter Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Lab Tests	10% of final grade
Online Participation	10% of final grade
Midterm Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	40% of final grade

EYEGASSES – YEAR 2

Online Chapter Post Assessments	10% of final grade
Lab Tests	10% of final grade
Online Participation	10% of final grade
Midterm Exam	30% of final grade
Final Exam	40% of final grade

FIRST YEAR PROGRAM: The first year of the course includes the following LOGs (Learning Outcome Guides):

LOG 1	Learning with LOGs
LOG 2	Introduction to Opticianry and Communication
LOG 3	Frames – Part 1
LOG 4	Ophthalmic Instruments and Tools
LOG 5	Mathematics
LOG 6	Optics
LOG 7	Basic Anatomy and Pathology
LOG 8	Ophthalmic Lenses
LOG 9	Analysis and Interpretation
LOG 10	Frames – Part 11

SECOND YEAR PROGRAM: The second year of the course includes the following LOGs (Learning Outcome Guides):

LOG 11	Advanced Ophthalmic Lens Design	LOG 15	Conflict, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
LOG 12	Advanced Ophthalmic Optics	LOG 16	Legal and Ethical Issues
LOG 13	Lens Finishing	LOG 17	Introduction to Business 1
LOG 14	Analysis and Interpretation	LOG 18	Business Management and Marketing 11

To become licensed, a student is required to successfully pass the NACOR National Optical Sciences 1-Eyeglasses examination, after completing the NAIT/OAC Eyeglasses Program. To be eligible to sit this examination, you must meet the requirements of the Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians. There is a fee charged for this exam. For information on these requirements, please contact the NSCDO at: nscdo@ns.aliantzinc.ca

EXAMINATIONS: A mid-term examination is held mid way through the academic year (January) and a final examination at the end, (April). The pass mark for the course is letter grade C (63%). If the student does not pass the course after writing the final exam, they are allowed to take a rewrite exam approximately one month after the final, (May). There is a fee for the rewrite exam of approximately \$125.00. If the student fails to pass the course after writing the rewrite exam, and wishes to remain in the program, they must repeat the entire year. A student in this situation can apply to repeat the year at a reduced cost.

2010 First Year - COURSE FEES \$3,995.00

This fee includes all course material, textbooks, lectures, marking of assignments and marking of final and midterm exams. Extra fees are charged for rewrite examinations.

TO APPLY FOR THE COURSE:

Registration deadline is: July 15th

1. Please contact the NSSDO: nssdo@ns.sympatico.ca or (902) 499-7562 and request an application form.
There is a \$50.00 (non-refundable) administration fee which must accompany your completed application.
2. Once we have reviewed your application, you will be notified as to your status.
3. Full payment is due and payable by **August 10th. (Courses will not be ordered unless full payment is received - no exceptions.)**

WITHDRAWALS/REFUNDS - A full refund, minus a \$100.00 administration and restocking fee, will be given on course material (in re-sellable and unmarked condition) for any student who notifies the NSSDO of their withdrawal within two weeks of receiving their course material. **No refunds will be given after this date.**

WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL IS REQUIRED.