

# Opticians

SOC: 29-2081 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

<b>\$46,560</b> Median Salary	<b>79,900</b> Employment	<b>+3.0%</b> Growth Rate
----------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Low Risk** - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.  
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

## ■ Work-Life Balance

**9.5/10** - Excellent work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Business skills, Communication skills, Customer-service skills, Decision-making skills, Detail oriented, Dexterity

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Opticians typically perform the following tasks: • Measure clients' bridge and eye size, temple length, vertex distance, pupillary distance, and optical centers of eyes, using measuring devices. • Verify that finished lenses are ground to specifications. • Evaluate prescriptions in conjunction with clients' vocational and avocational visual requirements. • Recommend specific lenses, lens coatings, and frames to suit client needs. • Assist clients in selecting frames according to style and color, and ensure that frames are coordinated with facial and eye measurements and optical prescriptions. • Maintain records of customer prescriptions, work orders, and payments. • Heat, shape, or bend plastic or metal frames to adjust eyeglasses to fit clients, using pliers and hands. • Show customers how to insert, remove, and care for their contact lenses. • Determine clients' current lens prescriptions, when necessary, using lensometers or lens analyzers and clients' eyeglasses. • Prepare work orders and instructions for grinding lenses and fabricating eyeglasses. • Obtain a customer's previous record, or verify a prescription with the examining optometrist or ophthalmologist. • Sell goods such as contact lenses, spectacles, sunglasses, and goods related to eyes, in general. • Fabricate lenses to meet prescription specifications. • Perform administrative duties, such as tracking inventory and sales, submitting patient insurance information, and performing simple bookkeeping. • Assemble eyeglasses by cutting and edging lenses, and fitting the lenses into frames. • Instruct clients in how to wear and care for eyeglasses. • Supervise the training of student opticians. • Order and purchase frames and lenses. • Grind lens edges, or apply coatings to lenses. • Repair damaged frames.

---

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O\*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/opticians-dispensing.htm>