

What does an optometrist do?

Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage disorders of the visual system, eye diseases, and injuries. They perform vision tests and analyze results, prescribing eyeglasses or contact lenses as needed. They provide pre- and postoperative care to patients undergoing eye surgery—for example, examining a patient's eyes the day after surgery. Optometrists also promote eye health by counseling patients, including explaining how to clean and wear contact lenses.

Salary

Optometrists with one to two years' experience usually earn \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year. Those with three to five years' experience usually earn \$80,000 to \$120,000 per year.

What subjects do I need to take at school?

- ❖ Biology
- ❖ Chemistry
- ❖ Physics
- ❖ Maths
- ❖ English

How do I get into it?

To become an optometrist you must:

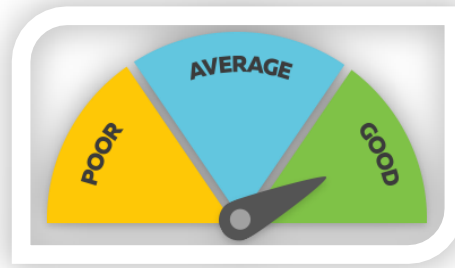
- ✓ complete a five-year Bachelor of Optometry at the University of Auckland
- ✓ be registered with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board
- ✓ hold a current Annual Practising Certificate.

Interpersonal skills

For this role you should be:

- ❖ patient and understanding
- ❖ able to work with a wide range of clients
- ❖ a good communicator and listener
- ❖ accurate, with an eye for detail

Useful experience for optometrists includes work in the health sector, as an optometrist's assistant, business management experience, and scientific or medical research.



Will I get a job after training?

Chances of gaining employment after graduation are high, as a range of factors contribute to rising demand for optometrists. Optometrists mainly work in private optometry practices, corporate retail chains and specialist eye clinics. They may set up their own practice or become partners at existing practices. To increase your chances of getting an entry-level optometrist role, get some work experience in the industry while you are studying and approach employers directly.

Where can I find out more?

- **New Zealand Association of Optometrists**
(04) 473 2322 <https://www.nzao.co.nz/>