



NAIT/OAC Optical Sciences Advanced Practice Contact Lenses Certificate Program (Distance)

Overview

The Contact Lenses Certificate Program is a two-year independent study program. In addition to the two years of theory, students must complete 4 levels of practicum including 500 hours under direct supervision. Similar to an apprenticeship, the practicum consists of on-the-job training. It is required as part of the program's practical component.

This program is offered in English only.

After successfully completing the program, you will be ready for the next step towards a license to fit contact lenses. Please refer to "Licensing" on page 2.

Career Opportunities

Registered Opticians play an important role in helping patients see properly. Employers value the specialized skill of Opticians.

Accreditation

The NAIT Optical Sciences Program is accredited by the National Association of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) <http://www.nacor.ca/>. This accreditation is recognized by all the Provincial Regulatory Boards in Canada.

Quick Info

Subject

Health & Safety

Contacts

Certification

Certificate

Outside Alberta within Canada

Phone. 1.800.847.3155

Email. education@opticians.ca

Delivery Method

Distance & Online Learning

Length

2 years

Location

Flexible

Program Model/Completion Requirements

To earn a NAIT Optical Sciences Contact Lenses Certificate, students must successfully complete:



- Two (2) theory courses, where the overall passing grade is 63%
 - Advanced Practice Year One (ODP550)
 - Advanced Practice Year Two – Contact Lenses (ODP552)

Mark Distribution Per Year

A. Midterm Exam	30%
B. Final Exam	40%
C. Online Lab Seminar Quiz	10%
D. Moodle Online Participation	10%
E. Online Post Assessments	10%
	100%

- 4 practicum courses, grades on a Pass/Fail basis
 - Advanced Practice Practicum Levels 1 to 4 (ODP529, ODP530, ODP531 & ODP532)
 - Each level documents 125 hours, for a total of 500 practicum hours, and specific practicum objectives

Certification

Students who successfully complete all program requirements will receive a certificate in Optical Sciences Contact Lenses.

Licensing

Completion of this program is one of the steps towards registration to fit contact lenses. Students must meet all registration requirements of their Provincial Regulatory Board. For further information on registration, contact your Provincial Regulatory Board. For contact information, visit [CLICK HERE](#)

Entrance Requirements

- Successful completion of the NAIT/OAC Optical Sciences Eyeglasses Program, OR registration as a licensed Optician* in good standing with your Provincial Regulatory Body of residence, and
- Employment within the optical industry, consistent with the accumulation of 500 contact lens dispensing hours with a Licensed Contact Lens Fitter or Optometrist over the two-year period.

**Applicants in all provinces, with the exception of Ontario and Quebec, must be licensed Opticians in good standing with their Provincial Regulatory Body of residence*

Registration

Canadian Residents outside of Alberta must apply directly to the Opticians Association of Canada.

Contact the Opticians Association of Canada to request an application package. Application packages must be filled out electronically, therefore, will be sent to you via email.

Phone: 1.800.847.3155 or 204.982.6060
Email. education@opticians.ca



Advanced Practice Year One (ODP550) – Computer Based Learning

Course Length: 32 weeks

Hours: 350.00

Credits: 22.0

Start and End Dates: September 16, 2013 to April 30, 2014

Enrolment Deadline: August 15, 2013

This is the first-year theory portion of the program, provides students with the knowledge and skills to dispense contact lenses.

The program contains a course of study governed by prescribed textbooks and computer-based learning guided by an online instructor. Students must have daily access to a computer and a designated email address. Course content is accessed online. Students must complete online assessments and assignments and participate in online discussions. Students are also required to complete a written midterm examination and complete a written final examination. Examinations are not completed online.

The midterm and final examination venues will be held a maximum of 275 km from your home city/town. Examinations are a maximum of 3 hours in length and consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. **Examinations MUST be written on the scheduled day at the scheduled time. There are no rewrite examinations.**

Textbooks referenced in the Program – Fundamentals for Ophthalmic Technical Personnel (1st Edition), Slit Lamp Examination & Photography (3rd Edition). Purchase of textbooks is the responsibility of the student. A textbook list and contact information for the NAIT Bookstore (Campus Reads & Needs) is included in the course application package, however, students may purchase textbooks from an alternate source.

Major Topics

	Time Allocation
A. LOG 1 - Learning with LOGs	5 hrs
B. LOG 2 – Introduction to Advanced Practice	25 hrs
C. LOG 3 – Anatomy & Physiology I	35 hrs
D. LOG 4 – Anatomy & Physiology II	35 hrs
E. LOG 5 – Ocular Pathology I	45 hrs
F. LOG 6 – Preliminary Assessment	55 hrs
G. LOG 7 – Biomicroscopy	40 hrs
H. LOG 8 – Ocular Pathology II	45 hrs
I. LOG 9 – Pharmacology	45 hrs

Advanced Practice Practicum Level One (ODP529) & Advanced Practice Practicum Level Two (ODP530)

Students are required to complete Advanced Practice Practicum Levels One and Two (ODP529 & ODP530), consisting of 250 practical hours and specific practicum objectives. These courses are to be completed in conjunction with Advanced Practice Year One. These Practicum Levels are prerequisites to moving into Advanced Practice Year Two – Contact Lenses and are due based on the date specified in the Student Handbook, received prior to course commencement.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all requirements of the program are completed within the time-frame specified.



Advanced Practice Year Two – Contact Lenses (ODP552) – Computer Based Learning

Course Length: 32 weeks
Hours: 350.00
Credits: 22.0

Start and End Dates: September 16, 2013 to April 30, 2014

Enrolment Deadline: August 15, 2013

After successfully completing Advanced Practice Year One, Advanced Practice Practicum Level One and Advanced Practice Practicum Level Two, you can enroll in Advanced Practice Year Two – Contact Lenses. Advanced Practice Year Two - Contact Lenses builds on knowledge received in Advanced Practice Year One. The student will learn to fit gas permeable and soft contact lenses, how to perform a pre-fit examination follow up and manage a contact lens practice.

The program contains a course of study governed by prescribed textbooks and computer-based learning guided by an online instructor. Students must have daily access to a computer and a designated email address. Course content is accessed online. Students must complete online assessments and assignments and participate in online discussions. Students are also required to complete a written midterm examination and complete a written final examination. Examinations are not completed online.

The midterm and final examination venues will be held a maximum of 275 km from your home city/town. Examinations are a maximum of 3 hours in length and consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. **Examinations MUST be written on the scheduled day at the scheduled time. There are no rewrite examinations.**

Textbooks referenced in the Program – Manual of Contact Lens Prescribing & Fitting with CD-Rom (3rd Edition), Contact Lens Practice (2nd Edition), as well as the textbooks referenced in Advanced Practice Year One. Purchase of textbooks is the responsibility of the student. A textbook list and contact information for the NAIT Bookstore (Campus Reads & Needs) is included in the course application package, however, students may purchase textbooks from an alternate source.

Major Topics

	Time Allocation
A. LOG 11 - Learning with LOGs	5 hrs
B. LOG 12 – Pre-fit Examination	45 hrs
C. LOG 13 – Optics & Lens Design	55 hrs
D. LOG 14 – Rigid Gas Permeable Contact Lenses	55 hrs
E. LOG 15 – Gas Permeable Problem Solving & Toric Fittings	65 hrs
F. LOG 16 – Fitting Soft Lenses	40 hrs
G. LOG 17 – Specialty Contact Lens Fitting	65 hrs

Advanced Practice Practicum Level Three (ODP531) & Advanced Practice Practicum Level Four (ODP532)

Students are required to complete Advanced Practice Practicum Levels Three and Four (ODP531 & ODP532), consisting of 250 practical hours and specific practicum objectives. These courses are to be completed in conjunction with Advanced Practice Year One. These Practicum Levels



are due based on the date specified in the Student Handbook, received prior to course commencement.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all requirements of the program are completed within the time-frame specified.

A student must complete all academic and practical courses of the two-year program prior to being issued an Optical Sciences Advanced Practice Contact Lenses Certificate.