



Job Situation

Optical shop, salesroom, office, lab. Dealing with public. Computer, phone, cash register. Reporting to Optician. Regular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$2,500

Student Loan – Owing

\$16,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$225

Duties

Test eyes and fit glasses under supervision. Make sales. Advise, inform customers. Answer phone. Assist in lens lab. Maintain files and records.

Prospects

Licensed optician. Business owner or partner.

Job Title

Apprentice Optician

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

3231

Job Description

You arrive at work a few minutes early to set up the cash register, straighten displays, adjust the room temperature, and give the place a quick vacuum before customers start arriving. Clarity, light, and shiny newness are all part of the visual appeal of your product, so the showroom is all done in mirrors and glass shelves. Keeping it all gleaming is an ongoing campaign, and when there is nothing else to do you polish glass.

People are in and out all day. Mrs. Meyer brings her cute, short-sighted twins, rugged little fellows who have destroyed so many sets of frames between them that she has finally ordered little half-size pro sports frames. The owner oversees as you fit the frames to the two little faces. You're good with kids, entertaining them with silly faces so they'll sit still and look at you while you check the fitting. The clients really appreciate your patience and politeness when you deal with them.

The optician carefully monitors your eye-testing, and double checks any specifications that you send to the lens technician. When things are really quiet you work in back with the technician. You are not qualified to work on contact lenses, but you can help her get caught up by edging the eyeglass lenses to fit the frames. There are many considerations in choosing frames—the shape of the person's face, their lifestyle, and most importantly, the image that they want to project. You like helping them choose the best look for them.

The day ends with a group of teenagers who come in to check out the sunglasses. You quickly size them up and are not put off by their wild clothes and extreme makeup. Unfortunately, you didn't have what they wanted, but you found out exactly what it was and made a note of it. When you showed it to the owner he just snorted "that trendy stuff!" He didn't even pick up the note so you put it in your pocket to add to your ongoing market survey. You haven't forgotten your dream and you're more sure about it