

**YOUR SERVICE,**  
**YOUR LEADERSHIP,**  
**YOUR PASSION:** Transition to a career as  
an Ophthalmic Technician

**From one great team to another**



INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON ALLIED  
HEALTH PERSONNEL IN OPHTHALMOLOGY®



Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology



## Job Demand

Ophthalmic Technicians are in high demand worldwide. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a growth rate of 25% for this career field over the next 10 years.

## Job Benefits

- Rewarding profession
- Work with people in clinics, hospitals, and universities
- Great salary and advancement potential

## A Career Difference

A career as an Ophthalmic Technician is rewarding. You make a difference in people's lives:

- 90% would choose the career again
- Countless opportunities for career advancement
- Competitive compensation
- Flexible hours in a comfortable office environment
- Clinics are hiring across the country

## What Does An Ophthalmic Technician Do?

- Gathers and documents patient health histories
- Performs patients' initial exam to assist ophthalmologists in assessing diseases and/or if corrective lenses or surgery is needed
- Administers eye medications
- Assists ophthalmologist in surgical setting

# JOIN US. HERE'S HOW:

**Educational Programs:** Enroll in an ophthalmic training program sponsored by colleges, universities, hospitals, medical schools, or other institutions that meet national accreditation standards.

—OR—

**On the Job:** Most Allied Ophthalmic Professionals (AOP) are trained on the job in an ophthalmologist's office. They complete an approved independent study course while gaining clinical experience.



**Salaries for entry-level assistants begin at \$35,000. Experienced staff average between \$68,000 - \$76,000.**

*"I currently serve as a Lead Ophthalmology Technician at a National Medical Center. I hold three different certifications in Ophthalmology. I often tell my peers that we are the heart of the clinic – meaning the core! As residents rotate and then graduate and active duty physicians are deployed or out on TAD, we are the one constant in this clinic and our patients appreciate it.*

*The eyes are the most sensitive spot on the body and sight is the most treasured sense of them all. It is rewarding to play a vital role in helping others to maximize and/or maintain their vision. I can honestly say that I LOVE what I do!"*

— Latosha A., COA, OSC, OSA  
(GS-Civilian)

Active duty military personnel, their spouses and veterans can explore reimbursement for their education and certification expenses through various government funded programs:

- Qualified active duty Service members have funding access through branch-specific Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) programs:

Army: <https://www.cool.army.mil/>

Marines: <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/>

Navy: <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/>

Air Force: [https://afvec.us.af.mil/afvec/](https://afvec.us.af.mil/afvec/Public/COOL/)  
Public/COOL/

Coast Guard: <https://www.cool.uscg.mil/>

- The Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) Scholarship provides up to \$4,000 of tuition and certification assistance to eligible military spouses: <https://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/military-spouse-career-advancement-accounts-financial-aid.html>
- Veterans may apply for funding through their GI Bill benefits: <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/test-fees/>
- Previous experience in eye care is not required.
- 90% of ophthalmic technicians are trained on the job.
- More than 73% of employers pay for continuing education and recertification.



## TASKS PERFORMED BY CERTIFIED OPHTHALMIC PROFESSIONALS:

- History Taking
- Refraction
- Tonometry
- Pupillary Assessment
- Visual Assessment
- Ophthalmic imaging
- Lensometry
- Keratometry
- Ocular Motility
- Contact Lenses
- Assisting in Surgical Procedures

*"I have excelled in civilian practice, as well as in the military, now running the ophthalmic practice in Tampa, FL, for the USAF. Due to the knowledge I learned in the ophthalmic military technical school, and the IJCAHPO certification, I have been able to expand my career beyond my expectations. Becoming an ophthalmic professional has solidified my foundation for success."*

— MSgt Andrew L., COA  
(Air Force Reserve)

**IJCAHPO** is the non-profit organization that offers certification and continuing education to Allied Ophthalmic Personnel.

**ATPO** is the non-profit ophthalmic membership association that provides support beyond certification and is focused on your future. They can connect you with someone who can provide career information.

### For more information

[www.discovereyecareers.org](http://www.discovereyecareers.org) • [eyecareers@jcahpo.org](mailto:eyecareers@jcahpo.org) • 1-800-284-3937

