Course Title: Ophthalmic Assistant

Course Number: XHLT 3221

Course Description: Learn the skills necessary to perform ophthalmic procedures and to begin a career in the offices of an Ophthalmologist or an Optometrist. Procedures will include: taking medical histories, ocular anatomy and physiology, taking visual acuities, color vision testing, reading patient's prescriptions on a Lensometer, glaucoma testing, clinical optics and contact lenses, principles of fitting and adjusting eyeglasses, general medical knowledge, optical instrument maintenance, and the skills to assist in minor eye care surgery. Outlines and guidance will be given to assist those who desire to become certified by JCAHPO, the National Certifying Agency. The Ophthalmic Assistant Examination, offered by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, will be given at the end of the program. The course will include 60 hours of lecture and 20 hours of clinical experience to be arranged with instructor. Students must pass an examination given by the instructor at the end of the course to receive a certificate of completion from Collin College. Students must work in the field for 6 months before they would be eligible to take the examination for certification from JCAPHO.

Hours: 80  Sessions: 30

Course Prerequisite(s): High School diploma or GED

Instructor Notes: 20-hours of clinical experience to be arranged with instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Learn the skills necessary to perform ophthalmic office procedures.
2. Learn to take medical histories, ocular anatomy and physiology.
3. Learn to take visual acuities, color vision testing and reading patient's prescription on a lensometer.
4. Learn how to examine pupils, learn basic pharmacology and drug delivery techniques.
5. Learn topical and oral glaucoma testing, clinical optics and contact lenses.
6. Learn to fit eyeglasses and adjustments.

Textbook: (Contact bookstore for current edition and cost)
The Ophthalmic Assistant - A Guide for Ophthalmic Medical Personnel; Authors: Harold A. Stein, Bernard J. Slatt, Raymond M. Stein (Approximate cost $90)

Withdrawal Policy: See the current Career Skills Training catalog for the tuition refund policy.
Collin College Academic Policies: See the current Collin Student Handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-G200 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

Meeting Location: Courtyard Center

Attendance Policy: Students must be in attendance for at least 90% in order to pass competencies.

Lesson Plan:
Session 1: Introduction to ophthalmic medical terminology
Process of taking patient history
Concept of the chief complaint and “reason for the patient’s visit”
Office triage
Session 2: History taking continued
Patient’s past history
Problems with past prescriptions for glasses and contact lenses
Age of current eyewear
Past history of injuries to the eyes and lasting effects of some injuries
Patient’s history of past diseases, both ocular and full body (systemic)
Session 3: Patient history taking continued
Patient’s family history
Common family diseases such as glaucoma, diabetes, hypertension and muscle imbalances
Genetic predisposition
Ocular consequences of these diseases
Session 4: Patient history taking continued
Patient’s past and present systemic illness
Introduction to diseases such as heart disease, arthritis, sickle cell disease, pulmonary conditions, major infections
Obtaining surgical procedures patient has had
Session 5: History taking continued
Patient’s medications
Patient’s current medications and ocular effects
Discussion of aspirin-containing pills, diuretic, blood pressure medication, birth control pills and steroids
Common medications that have known ocular side effects
Session 6: Patient history taking concluded
Allergies
Drug interactions and reactions
Environmental allergies, especially those found in the eye care office such as latex allergies
Drugs that have common reactions: penicillin, sulfa, anesthesia, fluorescein and others
Treatments of above

Session 7: Partially sighted and visually handicapped patients
Introduction to low vision aids
Problems associated with low vision
Dept. of motor vehicle vision requirements

Session 8: Concepts of color vision testing – tests that are available
Physiology of color vision in the rod/cone system
Macular/retinal function testing with the Amsler Grid
Lensometer

Session 9: Lensometry continued with basic concepts of ophthalmic optics
Optical prescriptions – theory behind optical prescriptions

Session 10: Ophthalmic optics continued
Continued lectures in optical prescription analysis and measurement

Session 11: Conclusion of ophthalmic optics
Writing optical prescriptions and their theory
Optics applied to eyeglasses and contact lenses
Introduction to existing lens parameters

Session 12: Neurology of the human pupil
Pupil testing and process behind pupil action
Medication effects on pupils
Tear film evaluation
Taking A-scan measurements of the human eye

Session 13: Ocular bandages and dressings
Concepts of “pressure patching”
Concepts of delivery of ocular medications: drops, ointments and injections
Complications associated with drug delivery

Session 14: Surgical assisting in minor surgery
Office surgical procedures
Assisting and preparing the patient in surgical settings
Sterilization techniques covered

Session 15: Opticianry is covered
The fitting of spectacle eyeglasses and facial measurements

Session 16: Opticianry concepts
Adjusting and fitting eyeglasses continued
Various types of lens systems: single vision vs. multifocal
Measuring for progressive lenses
Taking interpupillary measurements to avoid induced prism effects in glasses

Session 17: Opticianry completed
Correlate the optical prescription to lensometry readings
Common complaints related to eyeglasses: fitting problems vs. prescription problems
Solutions to common complaints
Session 18: Concepts of Intraocular pressure
Various techniques of taking pressure measurements
Concepts of glaucoma
Session 19: Tonometry is covered
Session 20: Glaucoma and other diseases related to intraocular pressure
Session 21: Ophthalmic instrument use and maintenance in the eye care office
Minor repairs and bulb replacements
Session 22: Continuation of repair and maintenance of ophthalmic instruments
Equipment found in the eye care office not previously discussed
Hand tools and cards
Session 23-28: General Medical knowledge –
a series of lectures intended to give the student an introduction to the medical field as a whole
Session 29: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
Principles of both “one-man” and “two-man” CPR
Concepts of artificial respiration
Session 30: Review
Handouts dissecting the examination given by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Professions in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO)

Sessions listed are a guideline to indicate all topics that will be covered during your course. Do not plan your personal calendar based on these sessions. Your instructor will give you a calendar for your class that will indicate specific topics, labs, and days.

**Method of Evaluation:** Students must achieve a minimum of 75% final average and must be in attendance 90% of the class time in order to pass competencies.