Introduction to Optometry
What is a Doctor of Optometry?

- A primary health care professional for the eye.
- Examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures.
- Identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.

- American Optometric Association
The Human Eye
The 3 O’s

- **Optician**
  - Fit, grind and dispense spectacles

- **Optometry**
  - Primary eye care provider

- **Ophthalmology**
  - Medical Doctor specializing in eye disease and surgery
Diagnose Eye Disease
Prescribe Glasses
Fit Contact Lenses
Help people see better and look better!
My Story

- First experience in optometry was when I was 9
- Attended Millersville University
- Graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 2000
- Completed optional 1 year residency
- Worked in group practice, and private practice
- Opened Valley Forge Eye Care 2011
Why Optometry?

- Job satisfaction
  - Provide meaningful work
  - Make difference in people’s lives
  - Immediate gratification
  - Clean work
  - Patients like coming to see you!

- Regular hours (full time vs part time)
  - Minimal emergency calls

- Good income

- Freedom in choosing location to live and practice

= Good quality of life
Suconjunctival hemorrhage
Common Prerequisite Courses

- Biology with lab
- Chemistry with lab
- Physics with lab
- Organic chemistry
- Biochemistry with lab
- Microbiology with lab

- Calculus
- Psychology
- Statistics
- English
- Social Sciences
- Other Humanities

- 3 + 4 year program
Colleges of Optometry

- 16 Colleges/Schools of Optometry in the US.
- No valid ranking of Optometry schools.
- Accreditation
- Private vs. state
- University v. Independent
- Ranges in tuition
- Financial aid available
Requirements for Optometry School

- A properly completed application for admission, including a personal essay
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended
- Official Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores (for more info: www.opted.org)
- Letters of recommendation
- Optometry experience/exposure
- Personal interview
Optometric Education

- 4 year curriculum
  - Health science
  - Vision science
  - Ocular disease
  - Systemic disease
  - Optics
  - Binocular vision
- Clinical Rotations
Diabetic Retinopathy
Post-Optometric Education

- Residency
  - Primary Care Optometry
  - Pediatric Optometry
  - Geriatric Optometry
  - Vision Therapy
  - Low Vision
  - Cornea and contact lens
  - Ocular Disease

- Research
  - Masters
  - PhD
Licensure

- Doctor of Optometry degree
- Pass National Board Examinations in Optometry
- Individual State Requirements
Modes of Practice

- Solo Private Practice
- Partnership or Group Practice
- Interdisciplinary Care
- Retail/Optical Settings
- Optometric/Ophthalmologic Professional Settings
- Health Maintenance Organizations
- Military/Public Health
- Academic/Research
- Corporate/Industrial
- Consultants
Significant Future Demand!

- Aging population of baby boomers will increase demand for optometric services
- Replacement of retiring optometrist
# Annual Net Income Potential

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<tr>
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<th>Median</th>
<th>Mean</th>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
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- 2007 American Optometric Association Economic Survey

For estimated figures by location, visit: [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)
Important Websites:

www.aoa.org

www.opted.org

www.youtube.com