

Target Group:



Occupational Profile

# Optometrist

Standard Occupational Code 29-1041.00

## What They Do

Diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. Examine eyes and visual system, diagnose problems or impairments, prescribe corrective lenses, and provide treatment. May prescribe therapeutic drugs to treat specific eye conditions.

## Is This For You?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

**Realistic** - Enjoy work activities that involve practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

**Investigative** - Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate, and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

**Social** – Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping, and curing people. They are good with words.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

**Working Conditions** – Offer job security and good working conditions.

**Recognition** – Offer advancement, potential for leadership, and may be considered prestigious.

**Achievement** – Results oriented occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Near Vision
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression

## Skills You Need

- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively
- Science – Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents

## Education & Training

Optometrists need a **doctoral or professional degree in optometry**. Optometrists are required to be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Examiners in Optometry.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of optometrists are:

- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- Department Stores
- Federal Government
- Offices of Physicians

## SD Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
130	140	10	11%	10	\$90,420

## Activities: what you might do in a day

- Test patient vision
- Analyze test data or images to inform diagnosis or treatment
- Prescribe assistive medical devices or related treatments
- Fit eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other vision aids
- Develop medical treatment plans
- Prescribe medications
- Treat acute illnesses, infections or injuries
- Prescribe treatments or therapies
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals to plan or provide treatment
- Train patients, family members, or caregivers in techniques for managing disabilities or illnesses

## Additional References

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)