



Subject: Optometry Education and Training in Ocular Injections

Dear Legislator,

The education standards for Doctors of Optometry are publicly available and itemized by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). Additionally, we have legal affidavits from optometry schools across the country confirming that their curricula include the procedures outlined in this bill.

The procedures and services that optometrists seek to perform are comprehensively taught throughout their education. These skills are:

- Introduced in the classroom and integrated into basic and clinical science courses,
- Developed through hands-on training in labs and workshops, and
- Observed and performed under the supervision of qualified faculty and clinicians.

Doctors of Optometry complete a rigorous four-year doctoral program that includes:

- 10,000 hours of education focused on the eye and visual system,
- 2,000 patient encounters before taking national and state board exams (both written and practical).

Before handling any instruments, optometry students receive extensive training in:

- Anatomy and physiology,
- Ocular disease,
- Pre- and postoperative care,
- Risks and benefits of surgical procedures.

A strong indicator of competency is the record of successful outcomes in states where optometrists have performed these procedures for decades. Notably, no state has ever rolled back the scope of optometric practice after expanding it to include these services.

Doctors of optometry have extensive schooling and continued learning. All 50 states and the District of Columbia require doctors of optometry to participate in ongoing education courses to stay current on the latest standards of care and to be eligible for license renewal.

Below is a look at the topics and classes a doctor of optometry will become knowledgeable in long before receiving their license. In addition to these many specific focuses, they are also educated in general medicine.

YEARS ONE AND TWO

- Optics • Vision Science • Binocular Vision
- Ocular Pharmacology • Color Vision
- Human Anatomy (Human Cadaver Dissection)
- Neuro Anatomy & Physiology (Brain Dissection)
- Epidemiology/Biostatistics and Public Health
- Pharmacology (Animal Lab)
- Pathology • Respiratory Systems
- Histology and Cell Biology
- Dermatology • Microbiology • Endocrinology
- Reproductive Systems and STDs
- Clinical Diagnosis • Gastroenterology
- Clinical Methods/Interviewing/Physical Exams
- Infectious Disease • Cardiovascular Systems

YEAR THREE

- Evidence Based Health Care
- Glaucoma/ Neuro Eye III and IV
- Specialty Rotation (Advanced Eyecare)
- Specialty Rotation (Vision Rehabilitation)
- Specialty Rotation (Pediatrics/Binocular Vision)

YEAR THREE (cont.)

- Specialty Rotation (Cornea/ Contact Lens)
- Patient Care Program (Primary Eyecare)
IV, V, VI, and VII
- Community-Based Patient Care (CPS)
- Eyewear Center II
- Contact Lenses II
- Infant/ Child Development and Management
- Clinical Medicine I and II
- Retina I and II • Binocular Vision Disorders
- General & Ocular Emergencies
- Ocular Disease Seminar
- Strabismus and Amblyopia, I and II
- Injections and Minor Surgical Procedures
- Business of Optometry
- Ophthalmic Lasers • Practice Management III

YEAR FOUR

- Externship Rotations (20 CR hrs each):
- Eye Institute Patient Care Rotation
- VA/Hospital Based Externship Rotation
- Specialty Externship Rotation

By the time they've reached the end of their initial schooling, before licensure, doctors of optometry have gained approximately 10,000 hours of training.



Minnesota Optometrists

Injectable Authority

