Event: Health Career Display
Competitors: Nathan Stefan & Bethany Stefan
Postsecondary Division
HOSA Chapter #69212
School: The University of Akron – Zips HOSA
State/Assoc: Ohio
Chosen Profession: Optometry

References


Pros and Cons of Optometry. FORESIGHT. (2018, April 26).

Salary.com, S. built by: Hourly wage FOR OPTOMETRIST.

Job Description
Optometrists are trained to diagnose and treat conditions of the eye, including vision problems, eye injuries, and diseases of the eyes.
- Perform eye exams, minor surgeries, and injections
- Order and interpret vision testing equipment
- Diagnose vision problems, corneal diseases, and glaucoma
- Prescribe eyeglasses, contact lenses, and medications
- Provide counseling to patients to promote eye health
- Refer patients to ophthalmologists for major surgeries and treatments

Salary & Wage - (all statistics are for 2021)
National statistics: United States
- Median annual wage = $127,822
- Median hourly wage = $61.05
- Median monthly wage = $1,672
Local statistics: Cleveland, Ohio
- Median annual wage = $118,777
- Median hourly wage = $57.5
- Median monthly wage = $1,170
Global statistics:
- Median annual wage in Canada = $108,082 in Canadian > about $80,000 USD
- Median annual wage in Brazil (BRL) = about $26,000 USD
- Median annual wage in France (EUR) = about $80,000 USD
- Very dependent on economy, value of American dollar, cost of living, etc.

Opportunities for Advancement/Future Earnings:
- Increased salary with more experience
- Larger earnings if you start your own practice
- Pay increases vary depending on if you specialize in a specific field
- Ability to perform duties depending on what field the job exists in
- In the future, states may pass legislation allowing more autonomy to perform duties that were once restricted. This would lead to more autonomy and create additional demand for optometrists

More Fun Facts
- One-half of all optometrists work in private practice, but one can be found working in optometric clinics, hospitals, or federal service. Optometrists also work in retail or academic settings.
- Optometrists often work a 9-5 day, with one day off each week. Some states require a 40-hour work week.
- Optometrists must be licensed to practice in their state. Licensing requirements vary by state. A bachelor’s degree is required for advanced practice optometric training.
- Optometrists are in high demand for nonprofit work, with many optometrists working for non-profit organizations that provide care to those in need.
Education Requirements
Estimated time to complete - 7-8 years
- Premed, biochemistry, or biology Bachelor's degree from a university.
- Classes include chemistry, anatomy, physiology, biology, physics, and calculus.
- Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree from an accredited School of Optometry.
- Coursework includes optics, visual science, and diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the visual system.
- Pass the National Board of Examiners in Optometry exam.
- A state license is required to practice in each state.
- Optional 1 year residency to specialize in a specific discipline of optometry.
- Examples include geriatric optometry, pediatric optometry, sports vision, and ocular health.

Job Benefits
- One-on-one interaction with patients.
- Play an important role in helping to restore/maintain vision and ocular health.
- Flexible work schedule.
- Comfortable and clean work environment.
- Lower stress job compared to a medical device, but still provides vital patient care.

Job Challenges
- Many more of same schooling absent or much so.
- Medical device.
- Medical records, usually paper.
- High volume of patients with various complaints and fitness issues.
- Difficult patients, often require patience.
- Patients, or customers, with defective vision.

Job Description
Optometrists are trained to diagnose and treat conditions of the eye including vision problems, eye injuries, and disorders of the eye.
- Perform eye exams, minor surgeries, and injections.
- Prescribe contact lenses, eyeglasses, and other vision aids.
- Referral patients to ophthalmologists for major surgeries and treatments.