Do you want to help people see?

A career in this field will offer you the perfect balance between working with people and modern scientific technology.

As an optician, you will interpret and tailor prescriptions for ophthalmic devices in order to correct defects of vision. You will also be equipped to adjust, maintain and repair spectacles and conduct screening for visual defects.

YOU WILL LIKE THIS IF...

- You have strong analytical and communication skills, enjoy working with and helping people, have strong hand-eye coordination for prescription work, be friendly, outgoing and patient, and be able to work under pressure.

YOU WILL STUDY AT...

District Six Campus

YOU WILL STUDY FOR...

Three years, full-time

WHAT YOU NEED

Minimum Admission Requirements

National Senior Certificate (Umakazi, Grade 12) with a Diploma pass:
- English: Home Language or First Additional Language (4)
- Mathematics (3) or Mathematical Literacy (4)
- Physical Sciences (3)
- Life Sciences (3)

The department utilises an Admission Point Score (APS) as selection criteria once your minimum admission requirements are satisfied. You also have to score a minimum of 28 on the APS.

Additional Admission Requirements

- Completion of a questionnaire.
- An interview, dexterity evaluation and colour vision assessment may form part of the selection process.

YOUR SUBJECTS

FIRST YEAR
- Dispensing Optics 1
- Ophthalmic Lenses 1
- Optics 1
- Visual Optics 1
- General Anatomy & Physiology
- Ocular Anatomy and Pathology
- Applied Optometry Science 1

SECOND YEAR
- Dispensing Optics 2
- Ophthalmic Lenses 2
- Environmental Optics 2
- Visual Optics 2
- Practice Management and Ethics 2
- Ocular Anatomy and Pathology 2

THIRD YEAR
- Research Methods and Project 3
- Optometry Practice 3: Workplace Learning and Case Portfolio

YOUR FUTURE SELF

Future studies

The department is in the process of developing a postgraduate course.

Future industries

Successful completion of the Diploma in Opticianry allows you to register with the HPCSA and open your own dispensing practice. You will be able to prescribe and dispense optical instruments, and conduct screening for visual defects. You will also be equipped to adjust, maintain and repair spectacles and conduct screening for visual defects.

Future career

Graduate Opticians are equipped to render a professional ophthalmic service within both the private and public health sectors. You may manage and administer human, financial, technical, and other resources to ensure optimal delivery of eye and vision care products or services. Opportunities are available locally and abroad, with recognition and acceptance of the professional qualification in a number of countries including the SADC community, Trinidad and Tobago, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Canada and several States within the USA.

How to apply

1. Choose a qualification
2. Complete an application form
3. Gather your documents (i.e. certified copies less than three months old)
4. Fill in the application form
5. Pay the application fee
6. Hand deliver or post your form and certified copies of documents to our District Six, District Six, Mowbray or Wellington Campuses (Admin building)

Follow-up and get your admission status via the online application tracking system by visiting www.cput.ac.za/study/track

YOUR on-the-job training

This takes on various forms in the course, including Work-directed Theoretical Learning, problem-based case studies and project-based industry and community learning. The department will ensure that clinical and technical training opportunities are available on a number of platforms, including clinics, labs and the Phelophepa Healthcare train.

Workplace-based learning takes place during each year of the course, and many accredited private practices are available for student placement. You will be required to complete a 120-hour patient case portfolio and pass a final clinical examination before meeting the professional board requirements.