HCC’s Ophthalmic Assistant coursework is the first step towards certification!

Comprehensive instruction taught by an area ophthalmologist

Ophthalmic Assistant I

Ophthalmic Assistant II

500 hours Ophthalmic Assisting Workforce Experience*

Ability to sit for the certification exam

*Employment for the completion of work experience is the responsibility of the student. Estimated average work hours average: 20 hours/week over a 1 year period, if part-time

Ophthalmic Assistant Career Coursework

CONTINUING & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OFFERING

ABOUT OPHTHALMIC ASSISTING

Working under the supervision of an ophthalmologist, ophthalmic assistants may take patient histories; provide patient support services such as scheduling and patient education; administer tests and evaluations; take eye measurements; maintain instruments and perform a variety of clinical tasks. While most ophthalmic assistants work in ophthalmology practices, jobs are also available in clinics, hospitals, universities and, industry. Ophthalmic assistant positions may be full-time or part-time.

The Ophthalmic Assisting coursework at HCC prepares students to:

• Develop specialized knowledge and skills necessary for a career as an Ophthalmic assistant
• Become part of the eye-care team,
• Assist doctors who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye (ophthalmologists).
Are you?

1. Currently working in an office as an Ophthalmic Assistant? HCC's Ophthalmic Assistant I and II will help you gain the reasoning and theory behind what you do. This course will prepare you to be successful for the exam. While taking HCC's coursework, current work ophthalmic assistant work experience can be credited towards the 1000 hours needed to sit for the certification exam.

2. A graduate of a health care track in high school or college? Knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy and physiology supports Ophthalmic Assistant I and II coursework.

3. Looking for a career but have no training in healthcare or higher education? Ophthalmic Assistant I and Ophthalmic Assistant II coursework will allow you to achieve in depth knowledge in pursuit of a career specializing in ophthalmology. As an HCC student, you will have access to our Career Resources for resume writing, interviewing skill development and job search assistant to acquire a position in an ophthalmic office and begin the 1000 hours of workforce experience needed towards sitting for certification.

4. Searching for a job or career change to increase income and/or lifestyle or experience another type of work environment? Ophthalmic Assistant I and Ophthalmic Assistant II coursework will allow you to achieve in depth knowledge in pursuit of a career specializing in ophthalmology. As an HCC student, you will have access to our Career Resources for resume writing, interviewing skill development and job search assistant to acquire a position in an ophthalmic office and begin the 1000 hours of workforce experience needed towards sitting for certification.

Program Details

Students in the Ophthalmic Assistant Program take two courses, Ophthalmic Assistant I and Ophthalmic Assistant II. Each 14-week course meets one evening per week from 6:00pm - 9:30pm and one Saturday a month in an ophthalmologist’s office. This program guides students in developing the specialized knowledge and skills necessary for their careers as ophthalmic assistants. After completion of these courses students must work in an Ophthalmology practice to be able to take the certification examination. Students are expected to be paid by the practice for working and learning during this period.

Ophthalmic Assistant I

The first course in a two-semester sequence to prepare students for careers as ophthalmic assistants. The role and responsibilities of the ophthalmic assistant will be introduced. Students will develop entry-level knowledge and skills in office and administrative procedures; patient communication and education; ethical, legal and regulatory aspects of patient care; practices essential for patient and personal safety; medical terminology; basic general and ocular anatomy and physiology; ocular microbiology; ocular pharmacology; and introduction to major disorders of the eye. Students will develop entry-level skills in triage; history taking; examination of the eye; as well as use and maintenance of relevant clinical equipment, instruments and supplies. Learning activities will include attending lectures; active learning with case histories; participating in hands-on learning; observing in an ophthalmology office; and out-of-class assignments.

Ophthalmic Assistant II

This course is a continuation of the development of the knowledge and skills acquired in Ophthalmic Assistant I. Skills relevant to assist an ophthalmologist in the diagnosis and care of patients will be taught in context of the major disorders of the eye. Students will enhance their patient care, education, communication and use of equipment as they learn more details about disorders of the eye. Learning activities will include attending lectures; active learning with case histories; participating in hands-on learning; observing in an ophthalmology office; and out-of-class assignments.

Wage Information

Visit www.Housatonic.edu/OA for wage data

Application Process & Requirements

Applicants should meet these requirements before applying:

- High school diploma or GED
- Express an interest in Health and Sciences
- Good fine-motor skills

To apply, visit: www.Housatonic.edu/OA

Applicants must also provide:

1. High school diploma or GED/official transcripts preferred
2. One reference letter from employer, teacher or guidance counselor, sealed, signed and mailed to: 900 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT 06604, Attention: Rosalee Creighton-Fuller.
3. 900 word essay. Explain why you want to be an ophthalmic assistant and describe two of your characteristics or experiences that would support your application. Upload your essay along with your application by visiting Housatonic.edu/OA.

For More Info Visit: Housatonic.edu/CE