



## NAIT/OAC Optical Sciences – Refraction Program

The Optical Sciences Refraction Program is produced by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and is administered by the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC) to students residing outside of Alberta. This program is offered in English only.

**REFRACTION COURSE (OPSC617)** - The 15-week Refraction course is intended for Contact Lens Opticians who wish to enrich their professional development and flexibility in the job market. Explore the theory of and methodologies involved in refraction. Perform tests for objective refraction, subjective refraction, and binocular vision. Examine the instrumentation used in testing and discover how to optimize patient care during the ocular assessment.

**REFRACTION CLINICAL (OPSC695)** - The 6-month Refraction Clinical course may be taken concurrently with OPSC617 or after successful completion of OPSC617. Enhance your opticianry skill set with hands-on practice in performing ocular assessments. Apply your theoretical knowledge of an optical environment through this Refraction Clinical. Gain experience in objective and subjective refraction testing as well as binocular vision testing. Practice patient care under the direct supervision of a certified ophthalmic medical technologist, optometrist or ophthalmologist.

To receive a certificate of completion for the Refraction Program, a student must successfully complete both the Refraction Course and Refraction Clinical.

### Certificate of Completion

Upon successful completion of either the Refraction Course (OPSC617) or Refraction Clinical (OPSC695), a student will receive a letter of completion.

To receive a certificate of completion for the Refraction Program, a student must successfully complete both the Refraction Course (OPSC617) and the Refraction Clinical (OPSC695).

### Licensing

At the time of publication, Refracting (Sight Testing) is not currently within the scope of practice of Opticians in many provinces in Canada, this course is for educational purposes only in those jurisdictions. For further information about Refracting certification in your province, contact your Provincial Regulatory Board/College of Opticians.

*Please Note: International applicants must contact their licensing body for further information about Refracting certification. This program may not meet outlined requirements.*



## Application Deadlines

Next intake dates: *\*The Refraction program will only run if there are enough applicants*

**Fall 2025 Intake (September 2 start) – Application period: June 1 to August 5**

**Winter 2026 Intake (January 3 start) – Application period: October 15 to December 1**

## Entrance Requirements

You are eligible for registration in the Refraction course if you are a Contact Lens Optician (or Optician in ON or QC) registered with your Provincial Regulatory Board/College of Opticians.

You are eligible for registration in the Refraction Clinical course if you are a Contact Lens Optician (or Optician in ON or QC) registered with your Provincial Regulatory Board/College of Opticians AND have successfully completed the Refraction course (OPSC617) or are enrolling in the Refraction course (OPSC617) and the Refraction Clinical (OPSC695) at the same time.

## Tuition

**REFRACTION COURSE (OPSC617) - \$1250.00** (*International\* students: \$3125.00*)

**REFRACTION CLINICAL (OPSC695) - \$250.00** (*International\* students: \$625.00*)

*Tuition fees above do not include cost of textbooks or supplies. Upon acceptance of your application, you will be sent an invoice for your tuition fees. Tuition fees are due a minimum of fourteen (14) days before the course start date.*

## How to Apply

Students who live and work outside the province of Alberta and Territories register directly with the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC). Please refer to 'Application Process' on the [OAC – NAIT Programs site](#) for information on how to apply.

**INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:** This program is not available to international students residing within Canada. This program is only available in Canada to individuals who hold the status of Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada.



## About the Program

### OPSC617 – Refraction Course

Course Length: 15 weeks      Co-requisite: OPSC695 (Refraction Clinical)

Hours: 60.00

The Refraction Program is intended for Contact Lens Opticians who wish to enrich their professional development and flexibility in the job market by learning theories and methodologies involved in refraction.

As a scientific term, refraction refers to the way wave transmissions (such as light) change direction when passed through a medium (such as a lens). In opticianry, a refraction test determines the eye's refractive error, which allows an optician to suggest the best corrective lenses to provide the patient with the sharpest and clearest vision.

The course contains a course of study governed by a prescribed textbook and computer-based online learning. Students must have daily access to a computer with a reliable internet connection, and a designated email address. Course content is accessed online. Students must complete online assessments and assignments within specified time frames. Students are also required to complete an online final examination.

#### **Textbook referenced in the course: Clinical Procedures in Primary Eye Care, 5th Edition**

David B. Elliott, PhD, MCOptom, FAAO

ISBN: 9780702077890

#### **Required Supplies** (for both OPSC617 and OPSC695)

- Retinoscope
- Trial lens kit
- Bernell schematic eye (minimum one; two is preferred)
- Phoropter

### OPSC695 – Refraction Clinical

Course Length: 6 months      Co-requisite: OPSC617 (Refraction Course)

Hours: 16.00

Enhance your Opticianry skill set with hands-on practice in performing ocular assessments. Apply your theoretical knowledge of an optical environment through this Refraction Clinical. Gain experience in objective and subjective refraction testing as well as binocular vision testing. Practice patient care under the



direct supervision\* of your preceptor who must be a Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist, Optometrist or Ophthalmologist.

**Required Supplies** (for both OPSC617 and OPSC695)

- Retinoscope
- Trial lens kit
- Bernell schematic eye (minimum one; two is preferred)
- Phoropter

**A student is required to obtain their own preceptor for the Refraction Clinical.** All training will take place at the preceptor/student workplace who will directly supervise the student. Students will complete a clinical manual within the six-month time frame. All skills within the clinical must be performed under direct supervision of their preceptor.

***\*Individuals supervising a student must abide by and follow the rules and guidelines as outlined by their Provincial Regulatory College as it pertains to supervision of a student, if applicable.***