

Compulsory modules

Academic Skills Development

The aim of the module is to develop and enhance the skills you will need in order to search for, access and begin to evaluate the value of information for their future academic learning and professional development. This includes the importance of referencing, plagiarism and an understanding of the range of library sources available to you.

The assessment for this module is in two parts;

1. Written assignment demonstrating the skills and methods used to develop a search strategy, access, extract and understand relevant information from credible evidence based sources, on a relevant clinical practice topic of professional interest. (3000 words, 75%)
2. A 1000 word reflection on the knowledge & skills used to complete the first essay of their degree (25%).

Understanding Evidence Based Practice

The aim of the module is to develop understanding of the 'evidence' related to work practices and to gain a better understanding of the methods of enquiry. The module will enable you to develop skills necessary to evaluate research evidence, keep up to date with scientific advances in the field and to prepare you to become authors of your own research.

The assessment for this module is a research critique using a formal critiquing framework - 3000 words. There should also be a reflective piece of 1000 words. Total assignment length 4000 words.

Transforming Ophthalmic Practice

The aim of the module is to enable you to review service delivery in your practice environment, and to critically evaluate a pilot or small scale development initiative which will enhance service provision.

Transforming ophthalmic practice gives you the opportunity to evaluate service delivery in your practice and develop a project aimed at improving service delivery. This includes making use of SWOT analysis, Gantt charts, workplace audits and liaison with stakeholders. This module will also develop project management skills.

The assessment for this module is a project report based on an area of development you will identify during the programme which will include a project plan (methodology and ethical considerations) and recommendations for further practice (4,000 words).

Optional modules

Concepts of Ophthalmic Public Health

The aim of this module is to enable you to understand and explore the wider public health agenda and to undertake a critical review and analysis of an ophthalmic issue in public health.

You will need to produce an academic poster on a local enhanced eyecare pathway. This will include a summary of the background to the scheme, reasoned arguments justifying and supporting the need for pathway, the impact it has had on eye health and exploring the role of Dispensing Opticians. 4000 words equivalent.

Dry Eye and Ocular Surface Disease

Dry eye has become a common symptom reported by patients and there are many different causes. This module aims to cover the current theories regarding the constituents of the human tear film and considers the relevance of the traditional tear tests used in practice; as well as evaluating more modern techniques for dry eye assessment and treatment.

The assessment for this module will be a written essay of 4000 words considering the evidence base to support the use of a dry eye assessment test of the students choosing (and in agreement with the module leader).

Principles of Low Vision Practice

The aim of this module is to enable you to demonstrate an in depth understanding of the patho-physiology and assessment of low vision, the application of bio psycho social models to the management of people with low vision. This will better equip students for the increasing number of visually impaired patients they come into contact with in practice.

The assessment is in two related parts:

a. A presentation

Produce a presentation (2000 words equivalent) suitable for a community based talk, explaining: 'What it is like to be partially sighted', indicating the difficulties they face and describing the types of help available. This should be on a specific condition causing central visual field loss. The presentation will need to clearly show a creative aspect to the work, as well as the topic area to be covered, supported by appropriate research, theory and critical thinking behind the presentation.

b. A case study report of 2000 words on how the low vision assessment procedure must be altered for a patient who has peripheral visual field loss. Including the types of aids which could be supplied and advice given.

Principles of Contact Lens Practice

The aim of the module is to enable you to critically apply person centred assessment in the assessment and fitting of contact lenses and to reflect on and evaluate the role of the Dispensing Optician in health promotion approaches and management of complications associated with contact lens use. This module will help to prepare those who wish to progress to the Contact Lens Opticians course.

You will submit a 4000 word essay on one of the following topics:

- a. Comparing the different methods of toric lens stabilisation, which is best?
- b. Correcting the presbyopic patient; which multifocal is best?
- c. The uses of modern mini-scleral lenses in contact lens fitting.

The essay must be evidence based and be fully referenced to justify the advantages and disadvantages of different products, methods and fitting strategies. A reflection is also required in the essay.

Paediatric Care in Ophthalmic Practice

As this is a protected category for dispensing opticians, the aim of the module is to provide you with a detailed understanding and knowledge of how sight testing and paediatric dispensing differs from adult dispensing; including the specialist fitting of optical appliances for those children with additional needs.

You will submit a project comprising of the following elements

- Completion of an eyecare leaflet suitable for a child of a given age (1500 words equivalent).
- A written piece of advice covering a critical analysis and evaluation of the evidence base to support the guidance given in the leaflet (2000 words).
- A reflection on the current guidance and the law covering paediatric eyecare & the role of the DO (500 words).

Independent Study

The aim of the module is to enable you to undertake an independent study on a topic of your choice applied to an area of professional practice, using a range of graduate attributes.

The assessment for this unit will be a written essay of 4000 words (100%) on a topic relevant to practice. This will take the form of an extended essay comprising a critical analysis and evaluation of the body of literature relevant to a negotiated work-place situation in order to deepen knowledge and understanding of the main issues and theoretical underpinnings. The essay explores all relevant perspectives, demonstrates personal development and proposes reasoned, practical responses applicable to the workplace.