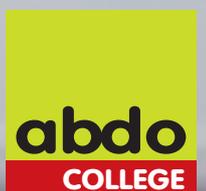


ABDO COLLEGE
**TRAINING FOR YOUR
OPTICAL SUPPORT TEAM**
2019-20

COURSES LEADING TO
WCSM QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE
THROUGH ABDO COLLEGE





ABDO COLLEGE COURSES LEADING TO WCSM QUALIFICATIONS

DEVELOP YOUR TEAM WITH ABDO COLLEGE COURSES LEADING TO WCSM QUALIFICATIONS

ABDO College offers courses to help your staff develop their skills. These courses can:

- Lead to stand-alone qualifications.
- Prepare team members to study for the FBDO qualification.

From introductory Optical Support programmes, which can be studied from work or home, through to Level 4 for Optical Assistants and Lab Technicians, ABDO College courses allow you to develop your team in house.

A planned training programme will help you retain great staff who know your practice and patients. You will save on recruitment costs too.

ABDO College courses are flexible, allowing your staff to learn online or through block release, minimising time out of practice. The courses in this prospectus lead to recognised qualifications awarded by the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers (WCSM).

Your staff member could start at the lowest level and continue all the way through to qualifying as a contact lens optician or specialising in low vision.

DEVELOP YOUR CAREER WITH ABDO COLLEGE COURSES LEADING TO WCSM QUALIFICATIONS

Whether you are starting out in optics or an optical assistant looking to develop your career, ABDO College has courses to help. ABDO College courses can:

- Allow you to earn while you learn.
- Lead to stand-alone qualifications.
- Prepare you to study for the FBDO qualification.

Whether you have just started working in optics, or have been in practice for some time and want to formalise what you have learnt, the Level 2 Optical Support is for you.

Continue studying with Level 3 and Level 4 Optical Support and you will uncover just how much there is to working in eyecare. Your knowledge of frames and lenses will grow, allowing you to develop what you can offer patients with growing confidence and knowledge.

Follow the ABDO College pathway, and you can continue all the way through to becoming a DO, qualifying as a contact lens optician or specialising in low vision.

ABDO College courses are flexible, allowing you to learn online or through block release. Many of the courses lead to recognised qualifications awarded by the WCSM or ABDO.

ABDO COLLEGE

In 2001 the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) established its own College, ABDO College, as a centre of excellence raising the standards in optical education for the whole profession.

ABDO College is based in Godmersham, Kent and specialises in distance and blended learning education for the optical profession. It is the only college in the UK devoted solely to the teaching of the theory and practical aspects of ophthalmic dispensing and its related specialist areas. Offering a range of courses through Access, Diploma, Degree, Advanced and Honours, ABDO College provides quality programmes leading to WCSM and ABDO examinations, thereby offering optical professionals the opportunity to enhance their own knowledge and career progression and enabling development for practice staff at many levels. Extensive professional knowledge equips students with the understanding and skills for their chosen progression. ABDO College has an impressive reputation for high standards and exemplary pass rates.

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SPECTACLE MAKERS

The Spectacle Makers' Company (WCSM) is a City of London Livery Company and a nationally recognised Awarding Organisation.

The Company was founded in 1629 when there was little more that could be done for people with vision impairment other than to ensure that the spectacles issued to them were fit for use – hence the Company's name. Today, there are many more services available and patient care is very different but the Company's purpose has remained exactly the same – to support those who prevent, and treat, vision impairment.

For almost a hundred years, the Company trained and qualified 'high street opticians'. You may still see the qualifications 'FSMC' and 'SMC(Disp)' displayed in some optical practices today. In the 1980s the Company played a prominent role in the establishment of the College of Optometrists and the Association of British Dispensing Opticians. Since that time, it has focused on developing knowledge and skills among optical technicians, optical assistants and other support staff.

WCSM Qualifications at levels 2, 3 & 4 are accredited in England (OFQUAL) Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA).

Members of the Company include people training in optical professions, dispensing opticians, optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmologists and researchers, right through to world-leading experts in vision science.

Through those members and through these qualifications, WCSM remains at the heart of a craft that every day changes people's lives.

Since 2015, ABDO College has been providing training courses aimed specifically at WCSM qualifications. The courses operate through distance learning and are designed to support people who are training at the same time as working in an optical environment.

WCSM remains the awarding body. It sets the syllabus for each qualification and awards final certificates of achievement to those who pass its examinations. Successful candidates are invited to receive their certificates and diplomas in a special Presentation Ceremony held by WCSM in October each year in the historic Apothecaries' Hall, its London home. There they can celebrate their achievement with employers, friends and family.

WCSM qualifications lay a solid foundation for the development of essential optical skills and open up a clearly defined career pathway for those entering optical professions at the lower levels.

OPTICAL SUPPORT COURSES AVAILABLE THROUGH ABDO COLLEGE

ABDO College provides training courses aimed specifically at WCSM qualifications. Courses in this prospectus consist of mandatory modules covering core knowledge and then a range of optional modules. Learners can build up credits rather than having to do a qualification in one hit.

Please note that examination fees are separate and are not included in course fees. See enclosed sheet for fees.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For details of the next intake, fees, deadline and how to apply:

- visit www.abdocollege.org.uk
- call the courses team at ABDO College on **01227 738 829 (Option 1)**
- email info@abdocollege.org.uk

ABDO College Operational Services, Godmersham Park,
Godmersham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7DT

For examination fees and examination application forms contact:

ABDO Examinations and Registration
The Old Dairy, Godmersham Park,
Godmersham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7DT
tel: 01227 732 921
fax: 01227 733 641
email: examinations@abdo.org.uk

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Optical support courses in this prospectus consist of mandatory modules covering core knowledge and then a range of optional modules. Learners can build up credits rather than having to do a qualification in one hit.

OPTICAL CAREER PROGRESSION PATHWAY



LEVEL 2 OPTICAL SUPPORT

DURATION OF COURSE

Flexible eg between 26 and 34 weeks, depending on the modules chosen. At least four modules are required to gain a certificate.

MODE OF STUDY

Distance learning.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None.

TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDY EACH WEEK

Two to four hours.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Most modules are assessed with a final examination. The usual method is to take all written modules in one go and this will typically mean one 30 minute examination per module, online or at a suitable venue.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Regular access to a computer and the internet.

START DATES

February.

TUITION FEES

See enclosed sheet.

AWARDING BODY

WCSM.

LEVEL

2

This course is designed for staff working in optics who do not have a qualification registerable with the General Optical Council.

This could be for you whether you work in retail optics, manufacturing, sales or technical support.

There are three mandatory modules, plus optional modules for you to choose from. You can choose optional modules which are most applicable to your own role. Each optional module is detailed on the next pages along with a recommendation as to which role it would best suit.

The Level 2 Optical Support qualification is the same level as a GCSE.

You can study just one module or add on more modules and work towards a certificate or diploma. You will need at least 26 credits for a Level 2 certificate and 37 or more credits for a diploma, which is equivalent to five GCSEs.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For details of the next intake, fees, deadline and how to apply:

- visit www.abdocollege.org.uk
- call the courses team at ABDO College on **01227 738 829 (Option 1)**
- email info@abdocollege.org.uk

MANDATORY MODULES

MODULE

1**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN OPTICS****7 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is to help the learner to understand the roles and responsibilities of staff within the optical profession, including how to communicate and deal with patients and patients' entitlements and the procedures required within the health service. It also gives clear guidance on the limits of responsibilities of all

staff and the requirements for contractors working under the GOS contract. It therefore gives all within the profession an insight into the roles across all disciplines and outlines the role of the representative bodies and the GOC.

MODULE

2**COMMUNICATION IN OPTICS****6 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to know how to provide customer service within optics and the skills required for effective communication. It will include communication across all professional

disciplines and between suppliers, practices and patients. It includes customer service and how good communication can improve all working relationships.

MODULE

3**THE EYE AND AMETROPIA****8 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to understand the basic anatomy, function and pathology of the eye and the common eye conditions including myopia, hypermetropia, astigmatism, presbyopia as well as binocular vision and visual fields. The learner will understand optical prescriptions and transposition, and gain a

basic understanding of cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes and their treatment and the advantages and disadvantages of the treatment. This unit will therefore give the learner all the underpinning knowledge required when working within any environment within the optical profession.

MODULE

4

THE PROVISION OF SPECTACLE LENSES IN OPTICS**8 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to gain an understanding of the optics of lenses and their design and form including the significance of optical centres, decentration, prisms and their application, and the types and uses of special and safety lenses, coatings and tints.

This unit is strongly recommended for anyone working in practice who dispenses, or in a lab. It would be useful for any member of staff working within customer services within a lens manufacturing situation or as a representative for a lens company.

MODULE

5

THE PROVISION OF SPECTACLE FRAMES IN OPTICS**7 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to understand the components of a spectacle frame, the materials used in construction and manufacture, the standard measurements of a frame and how to assist patients in choosing suitable frames to match their facial shape and features. This unit is strongly recommended for

anyone working in practice who dispenses, or those working in a laboratory. It would be useful for any member of staff working within customer services within a frame manufacturing situation or as a representative for a frame company.

MODULE

6

THE PROVISION OF CONTACT LENSES IN OPTICS**7 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to understand the different types and wearing modalities of contact lenses, their advantages and disadvantages, the general principles of fitting and lens care, and the importance of good record keeping, customer hygiene and aftercare visits. This unit is strongly recommended for anyone working

in practice who deals with contact lens queries. It would be useful for any member of staff working within customer services within a contact lens manufacturing situation or as a representative for a contact lens company.

OPTIONAL MODULES

MODULE

7

SUPPORTING THE PROVISION OF OPTICAL SCREENING**6 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for you to understand the purpose of and be able to use a range of screening equipment typically used in practice. It also covers conditions that are screened for in practice and the diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care of these conditions.

It covers the restrictions on the screening function as a delegated function by the optometrist. This module is recommended for anyone working in practice or hospital with any involvement in screening.

MODULE

8

REPAIRING SPECTACLES**5 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to understand the processes involved in the adjustment and repair of spectacles and be able to

adjust and repair spectacles. This unit would be useful for any member of staff working within practice and manufacturing.

LEVEL 3 OPTICAL SUPPORT

DURATION OF COURSE

Flexible. For example, to gain a certificate you need to complete at least four modules which takes 26–34 weeks depending on the modules chosen.

MODE OF STUDY

Distance learning.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None but it is recommended that those applying are working in optics and have had some experience or who have left school already with GCSE maths, English and science. It is equivalent to an 'A' Level.

TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDY EACH WEEK

Two to four hours.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examinations at Level 3 last 30–90 minutes per module. They can be taken at a central venue or online.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Regular access to a computer and the internet.

START DATES

February.

TUITION FEES

See enclosed sheet.

AWARDING BODY

WCSM.

LEVEL

3

This course is for you if you work in optics and do not have a qualification registerable with the General Optical Council. You might work in retail, manufacturing, sales or technical support. The 'Managing people in optics' mandatory module makes this a great course for anyone moving into their first management or supervisory role.

There are three mandatory modules plus optional modules to choose from. You can pick modules which are most applicable to your own role. Each optional module is detailed on the next pages along with a recommendation as to which role it would suit.

The Level 3 Optical Support qualification is the same level as an 'A' Level. It is ideal for those considering studying for SMC (Tech) or SMC (OA) but are unsure if they have the required knowledge base.

All courses have been designed to help you progress on the optical career pathway. If you have already passed a WCSM exam at Level 2 you may be exempt from some Level 3 modules. You will also find that if you are considering a Level 4 qualification, you are exempt from some modules by studying Level 3 Optical Support.

The type of the qualification will depend on the number of modules chosen. If you complete the three mandatory modules plus one other (at least 21 credits) you will achieve a certificate. 37 credits or more will give you a diploma.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For details of the next intake, fees, deadline and how to apply:

- visit www.abdocollege.org.uk
- call the courses team at ABDO College on **01227 738 829 (Option 1)**
- email info@abdocollege.org.uk

MANDATORY MODULES

MODULE

1**THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS IN OPTICS**

The aim of this module is to help the learner to understand the legal implications including health and safety within an optical practice

3 CREDITS

and how they relate to the role of an optical assistant. There will be elements of employment law, health & safety and GOC requirements.

MODULE

2**MANAGING PEOPLE IN OPTICS**

The aim of this module is for learners to know how to effectively manage relationships with colleagues including communication and supervisory skills, and how to develop other people's performance in optical practice. The learner will have the knowledge to

7 CREDITS

communicate with patients/customers with impaired vision, to improve service, deal with conflict and improve selling and supervisory skills. This unit is strongly recommended for anyone with a managerial or supervisory role within the optical profession.

MODULE

3**SUPPORTING THE PROVISION OF SPECTACLES**

The aim of this module is for the learner to know and understand the principles and factors underlining the choice of particular lenses used in spectacles and for the learner to know and understand the benefits of the various alternatives available, including low vision appliances. The learner will learn about the principles, designs and

8 CREDITS

fitting of frames, including facial measurements, and the importance of protective and other specialist eyewear. This unit is strongly recommended for anyone who is working in optical practice, either in a retail or community setting.

MODULE

4

SUPPORTING THE PROVISION OF OPTICAL SCREENING**7 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to be able to interpret and understand the relevance of common optical prescriptions. The learner will learn about the principles of optical screening equipment and processes for tonometry, auto refraction and visual fields and

how to obtain the best data or measurements. The learner will understand the actions required when confronted with an optical emergency and the limits of authority in practice.

MODULE

5

SUPPORTING THE PROVISION OF CONTACT LENSES**7 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to understand the key types, principles, designs and wearing modalities of contact lenses and for the learner to understand the more complex designs of toric and multifocal lenses and the legal framework that regulates contact lenses and solutions. The learner will learn how to identify and

manage those customers who have not complied with contact lens care regimes. This unit is strongly recommended for anyone who is involved in supporting contact lens practice, especially those that perform insertion and removal appointments under the supervision of a contact lens practitioner.

OPTIONAL MODULES

MODULE

6

MATHEMATICS FOR OPTICAL ASSISTANTS**7 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to be able to understand and apply the mathematical principles used within optics. It will include

calculations that require the use of geometrical mathematical principles.

MODULE

7

THE EYE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF OPTICS**9 CREDITS**

The aim of this module is for the learner to understand the structure of the eye and the principles upon which sight-correcting lenses are based. It will include the functions of the gross anatomical features

of the eye and how refractive error is corrected. The underpinning theory of optics will be included in this unit.

LEVEL 4 DIPLOMA FOR OPTICAL ASSISTANTS

DURATION OF COURSE

Two years.

MODE OF STUDY

Distance learning and workshop.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None. However it is recommended that if you do not have a maths or science GCSE you start at level 2 or 3, depending on your experience.

TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDY EACH WEEK

At least six to eight hours of work per week is required, plus individual research and written assignments.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Written examination, portfolio, viva and practical assessment.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Regular access to a computer and the internet.

START DATE

September.

TUITION FEES

See enclosed sheet.

AWARDING BODY

WCSM.

LEVEL

4

This course is aimed at receptionists, optical advisors and optical assistants who want to progress within optics. It gives you the underpinning knowledge to understand the principles behind many of the tasks undertaken by optical assistants. It is tailored to the needs of those who aspire to become senior optical assistants, supervisors, practice managers and provides the next step for people who want to develop their future career. It is a significant step up from courses leading to the WCSM level 3 qualifications. Holders of the qualification are entitled to use the letters SMC (OA) after their name.

ASSESSMENT

To obtain the diploma, students must pass both Part I and Part II. Part I includes five mandatory modules and three optional modules from a choice of six. All these modules are assessed by written examination. The assessment for Module 11 is an extended essay which the candidate writes in their own time. Part II involves submission of a portfolio of evidence, on which further questions may be asked in a viva, and a practical assessment. Students are assessed at the end of each year of a two-year course, but those claiming exemptions may be able to complete the qualification in a shorter time. A typical pattern would be as follows:

- Part I Examinations at the end of year one.
- Written papers on each of Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4. Modules 1, 2 and 4 will require written answers. Module 3 is assessed by a paper of 15 multiple choice questions plus a case study.
- Written paper on one further optional module.
- Part I Examinations at the end of year two.
- Written paper on Module 5 and a further two optional modules.
- Part II – Practical assessment, (Module 12) at the end of year two.

If a candidate fails any module, the module can be retaken on its own, up to three times. All modules must be completed within a period of five years.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For details of the next intake, fees, deadline and how to apply:

- visit www.abdocollege.org.uk
- call the courses team at ABDO College on **01227 738 829 (Option 1)**
- email info@abdocollege.org.uk

Exemption may be granted for modules already taken and passed at Level 3 (Modules 1 and 2), or for Module 6 if the student can demonstrate they have equivalent current knowledge or have achieved a certificate equivalent to grade 4–9 (C or above) in GCSE mathematics within the last five years.

The practical assessment requires submission of a portfolio of evidence which must be signed off by a GOC registered supervisor.

NOTE: Candidates who may be thinking of advancing to higher level qualifications such as the Level 6 Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing are strongly advised to take optional modules 6, 9 and 10. Those who pass modules 6, 9 and 10 will be eligible to apply for recognition of prior learning for exemptions from course elements of Year 1 of the ABDO College Fellowship Dispensing Diploma course.

MANDATORY MODULES

MODULE

1

THE EYE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF OPTICS

9 CREDITS

- The nature of light and the electromagnetic spectrum.
- The reflection of light when incident at plane and curved surfaces.
- The refraction of light when incident at plane and curved surfaces.
- The basic anatomical structure of the eye and how it relates to refractive errors.

MODULE

2

PRINCIPLES OF OPTICAL RETAIL PRACTICE SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT

12 CREDITS

- The legal requirements that apply in an optical practice and their relevance to the role of an optical assistant.
- The regulatory requirements governing optical practice.
- The health and safety requirements in an optical practice and their relevance to the role of an optical assistant.
- The skills required for communication in optical practice.
- The principles of managing staff and developing individuals' performance in an optical practice.
- How to achieve excellent customer service in an optical practice.
- How to sell in an optical practice.
- The rules of provision of services through a national health care scheme.

MODULE

3

THE PROVISION OF OPTICAL SCREENING AND CLINICAL SUPPORT

12 CREDITS

- How to interpret optical prescriptions.
- The applications of visual field screening.
- The application of auto-refraction.
- The application of non-contact tonometry in measuring intra-ocular pressure (IOP).
- The importance of fundus photography and optical coherence tomography (OCT).
- Eye conditions typically encountered in an optical practice.
- The actions required when confronted with an ocular emergency and recognised pathways for referral.

MANDATORY MODULES

MODULE

4

THE PROVISION OF SPECTACLES IN OPTICAL PRACTICE

12 CREDITS

- The design principles for spectacles.
- The selection process for dispensing multi-focal lenses including bifocals and trifocals.
- The measurements required prior to the supply of spectacles.
- The materials used for spectacle lenses.
- The principles of fitting spectacles.
- The importance of the care of spectacles.
- The use and limitations of protective eyewear.

MODULE

5

THE PROVISION OF CONTACT LENSES IN OPTICAL PRACTICE

8 CREDITS

- The legal implications of the supply of contact lenses and aftercare.
- The legal implications of the supply of contact lens solutions.
- The key designs of contact lenses.
- The wearing modalities of contact lenses.
- How to advise those customers who have not complied with contact lens care regimens.

OPTIONAL MODULES

MODULE

6

MATHEMATICS FOR OPTICAL ASSISTANTS

7 CREDITS

- How to perform arithmetical calculations.
- How to use a scientific calculator to solve mathematical problems in an optical environment.
- The principles of geometry and how to apply them in optical practice.
- How to extract information from line and bar graphs.
- How to solve problems involving simple algebraic expressions.

If the learner has already achieved this unit at Level 3 or if they can demonstrate they have equivalent current knowledge or have achieved a certificate equivalent to grade C or above (grade 4 or above from 2017) in GCSE mathematics within the last five years, they will receive exemption from this unit at Level 4.

MODULE

7

THE PROVISION OF LOW VISION AIDS IN OPTICAL PRACTICE

8 CREDITS

- The terms relating to low vision.
- The importance of the case history for patients with low vision.
- The anatomy of the retina, and anterior chamber and related structures and the relevant pathological conditions.
- The importance of illumination for low vision patients.
- The care requirements for people with low vision.
- The use of low vision appliances.

MODULE

8

ANTERIOR EYE AND OCULAR SUPPLEMENTS

8 CREDITS

- The use of refractive surgery to correct vision.
- The identification and management of blepharitis.
- The identification and management of dry eye.
- The use of ocular nutritional supplements.

OPTIONAL MODULES

MODULE

9

THEORY OF OPTICS

12 CREDITS

- The propagation of light formation.
- Reflection.
- Refraction at a plane surface.
- Refraction at curved surfaces.
- Photometry.
- The use of colour in optics.
- How to use thin lenses.

MODULE

10

THEORY OF OPHTHALMIC LENSES

12 CREDITS

- How to measure interpupillary and centration distances.
- Lens form.
- The parameters of sphero-cylindrical lenses.
- The parameters of toric lenses.
- Lens measure and lens thickness.
- The nature of ophthalmic prisms and prismatic effects.
- Elements of ametropia.
- Line foci and disc of least confusion.

MODULE

11

BUSINESS PRINCIPLES FOR OPTICAL PRACTICES

8 CREDITS

- The factors for success of an optical retail practice.
 - How regulatory bodies, professional organisations and trade bodies influence the restrictions on marketing and advertising in optical practice.
 - The effectiveness of different marketing techniques.
 - The financial impact of decisions taken by optical assistants.
 - Systems typically used within an optical practice.
- Candidates will be required to submit a written business/development plan which brings together the learning developed during the course and which could be of benefit to their own practice. The work will be undertaken in the candidate's own time and submitted by a given deadline towards the end of year two.

MANDATORY MODULE

MODULE

12

PRACTICAL

OPTICAL SKILLS IN PRACTICE

12 CREDITS

- Effective patient communication.
 - Spectacle repairs and adjustments.
 - Spectacle dispensing.
 - Spectacle verification.
 - Optical screening.
 - Contact lenses.
- This unit will be assessed by submission of a portfolio of evidence, plus a viva and one day practical assessment.

LEVEL 4 DIPLOMA FOR OPTICAL TECHNICIANS

DURATION OF COURSE

Two years.

MODE OF STUDY

Blended learning, with online study and 4 workshops.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None. However it is recommended that if you do not have a maths or science GCSE you start at level 2 or 3, depending on your experience.

TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDY EACH WEEK

At least six to eight hours of work per week is required, plus individual research and written assignments

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Written examinations, practical project, one day assessment and viva.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Regular access to a computer and the internet.

START DATE

September.

TUITION FEES

See enclosed sheet.

AWARDING BODY

WCSM.

LEVEL

4

HOW DO I APPLY?

For details of the next intake, fees, deadline and how to apply:

- visit www.abdocollege.org.uk
- call the courses team at ABDO College on **01227 738 829 (Option 1)**
- email info@abdocollege.org.uk

This course is regarded as the Gold Standard for the industry. Holders of the qualification are entitled to use the letters SMC (Tech) after their name. It is tailored to the needs of those who aspire to become senior technicians and supervisors. Holders of this qualification will be eligible to apply for exemptions from course elements of Year 1 of the ABDO College Level 6 Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing course.

The aims of each module, together with the number of credits, are shown on page 15–17. In the second year, students choose a surfacing or glazing 'pathway' (module 8 or module 9). You will need to access a laboratory for these modules.

Students are assessed at the end of the first and second years. Candidates must pass the year 1 examinations before continuing to year 2.

YEAR 1 EXAMINATIONS

- Module 1: written paper
- Module 2: written paper
- Module 3: written paper

YEAR 2 EXAMINATIONS

- Module 4: written paper
- Module 5: written paper
- Module 6: written paper
- Module 7: written paper
- Module 8 or 9: practical project, practical examination and viva.
- Module 10: written paper
- Module 11: written paper

If a candidate fails any module, the module can be retaken on its own, up to three times. All modules must be completed within a five-year period.

YEAR 1

MODULE

1

MATHEMATICS FOR OPTICAL MANUFACTURING**3 CREDITS**

The mathematical principles used in the optical workshop.

MODULE

2

THE EYE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF OPTICS**9 CREDITS**

The structure of the eye and the principles of sight-correcting lenses.

MODULE

3

THE PROPERTIES OF OPHTHALMIC LENSES**12 CREDITS**

Properties of spherical and astigmatic lenses, prisms and prismatic effects.

MODULE

7

THE PROPERTIES OF SPECTACLE FRAMES AND GLAZING**12 CREDITS**

Properties, applications and the process of manufacture; glazing techniques.

YEAR 2

MODULE

4

THE THEORY OF LENS SURFACING**10 CREDITS**

Surface generation of spherical and toroidal lenses; processes and standards.

MODULE

5

THE PROPERTIES OF OPHTHALMIC LENSES**12 CREDITS**

Design principles of spectacle lenses and how these relate to manufacture.

YEAR 2

MODULE

6

SPECTACLE LENS MATERIALS

Properties of spectacle lens materials and what makes them suitable.

9 CREDITS

MODULE

8

PRACTICAL

GLAZING PATHWAY – OPTICAL WORKSHOP TASKS AND GLAZING SPECTACLE FRAMES

The full range of tasks in an optical workshop; non-routine glazing.

12 CREDITS

MODULE

9

PRACTICAL

SURFACING PATHWAY – OPTICAL WORKSHOP TASKS AND GLAZING SPECTACLE LENSES

The full range of tasks in an optical workshop; non-routine surfacing.

12 CREDITS

STUDENTS WILL NEED TO TAKE ONE OF THESE YEAR 2 PRACTICAL UNITS

MODULE

10

SPECTACLE LENS TREATMENTS

Spectacle coating and tinting; ISO standards.

10 CREDITS

MODULE

11

THE SPECTACLE INDUSTRY AND STANDARDS

How the processes work to produce high standards for the UK consumer.

5 CREDITS

FAQ

OPTICAL SUPPORT COURSES

HOW DOES DISTANCE LEARNING STUDY WORK?

You receive your course material and assignments via our virtual learning environment. Log in details are sent to you after enrolment. This will include your tutor details. All contact can be made via the online resource. You work through an assignment each week. This is then submitted to your personal tutor. They will mark it for you and return it to you with some feedback. You can expect this coursework to take you several hours per week and you will need to be disciplined to make sure you keep up. You must have a reliable internet connection and access to Microsoft Word.

WHAT IS WORK BASED LEARNING?

While you are studying for your qualification you are working in optics, in a practice, a laboratory or a manufacturing organisation. Your training not only consists of learning coursework but also learning in practice, through asking questions and testing your understanding with your supervisor and colleagues.

You will develop practical skills in your workplace to supplement your learning.

WHO IS RUNNING THE COURSE?

ABDO College runs these courses.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

There is no need to attend for Level 2 and 3 courses.

For Level 4 Diploma for Optical Assistants and Optical Technicians there are practical workshops available (subject to numbers). It is thoroughly recommended that you attend these if you can, to get the best opportunity to learn.

DO I HAVE TO BE WORKING IN OPTICS?

Yes. It is essential that you are working in an optical environment, so that you can receive support from your supervisor and colleagues and in order to gain practical experience. You need the support of your employer to work towards this qualification.

DO I NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF ABDO?

You do not need to be a member of ABDO to study optical support courses, but membership offers a range of benefits and is available to you at a reduced rate if you choose to join.

HOW MUCH DOES EACH COURSE COST?

As an indication, the total cost for a WCSM qualification at Level 2 or 3, if a student takes the ABDO College course and passes all required modules at the first attempt, would be less than £1,000 and could be completed in 12 to 15 months.

Please note that examination fees are separate and are not included in course fees. Please see enclosed sheet for course costs.

FAST TRACK TECHNICIAN TRAINING FOR FBDO

DURATION OF COURSE

One year.

MODE OF STUDY

Distance Learning and revision workshops.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must hold the FBDO qualification awarded by ABDO.

TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDY EACH WEEK

It is recommended that you spend a minimum of six weeks within a glazing environment.

START DATE

January.

TUITION FEES

See enclosed sheet.

AWARDING BODY

WCSM

LEVEL

4

The course covers the elements of glazing and the technician's role that do not form part of the FBDO qualification. The FBDO qualification gains you exemption from all of year 1, Modules 6, 10 and some of the practical sections of the standard level 4 course for Optical Technicians.

There are 18 written assignments. For experienced glazers there is no requirement to attend the workshop.

A theory revision day will be run towards the end of each course.

The distance learning element of the course consists of 10 papers, each one is worth 1 CET point.

The examination will include three theory papers and a practical assessment.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For details of the next intake, fees, deadline and how to apply:

- visit www.abdocollege.org.uk
- call the courses team at ABDO College on **01227 738 829 (Option 1)**
- email info@abdocollege.org.uk

MODULE

1**THE THEORY OF LENS SURFACING****10 CREDITS**

Surface generation of spherical and toroidal lenses; processes and standards.

MODULE

2**THE PROPERTIES OF OPHTHALMIC LENSES****12 CREDITS**

Design principles of spectacle lenses and how these relate to manufacture.

MODULE

3**THE SPECTACLE INDUSTRY AND STANDARDS****5 CREDITS**

How the processes work to produce high standards for the UK consumer.



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