

BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing Course Information

The BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing programme enables students to complete a programme of study leading towards qualification as a Dispensing Optician. Students will commence with the FD OD and on satisfactory completion will normally progress onto the BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing. These programmes together form a whole, recognised by the General Optical Council as meeting their competences for Dispensing Opticians. Students will need to undertake the ABDO professional qualifying examinations (FQE Theory and Practical examinations) to be eligible to apply to register with the GOC as a Dispensing Optician.

The subjects you will study

The programme consists of six modules which are evenly spread across the year, with continuing workplace learning as for FD OD. You must satisfactorily complete all modules to attain an honours degree award. To be eligible to register with the GOC as a Dispensing Optician you will also need to complete the relevant professional body examinations. The core competences and ABDO syllabus are fully covered within the programme in preparation for the professional examinations.

The following table shows an illustration of the year's work and modules for BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing.

Sept	Jan/June		June/July
Study block 1	Independent study introduction	Study block 2	Independent study main part of work
	Principles of refractive management		Ophthalmic practice theory
	Concepts of low vision		Low vision in ophthalmic dispensing
	Principles of contact lens wear		
Continuing work-place learning of a minimum of 30 hours/week, as for the FD OD			Professional examinations

How you will be taught

ABDO College has considerable experience in delivering content through blended learning and the programme will use this format. The blended learning approach provides benefits, as it includes 2x2 week block attendance (here at our college premises in Godmersham) established for the FD, for important group interaction; students can also benefit from different learning and teaching approaches, including student-led seminars/presentations and workshops. To support this approach, the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) "Blackboard" will be a major

feature of programme delivery. The Faculty has considerable experience in using the VLE for content and graduate skill development using discussion boards to support student work.

How you will be assessed

Each module you will undertake carries a 4000 word equivalent assessment and utilises essays, reports, portfolio, presentations, laboratory work and for your Independent Study, an individually negotiated and supervised piece of work, based in your workplace or a literature review of a topic.

Levels of awards

BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing

To achieve the award of BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing you must satisfactorily complete **all** assessments for **all** modules, with recognition given for passing the separate professional body (ABDO) examinations. To be eligible for the ABDO examinations you **must** pass the five profession specific modules (i.e. all programme modules except the Independent Study). In the event you fail the ABDO examinations you will have the opportunity to re-sit these examinations in accordance with ABDO regulations.

Note: the award of BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing will be conferred after the Independent Study module and the ABDO examinations have been satisfactorily completed, as the title of this award is closely associated with expectation of the holder being eligible to apply to the GOC as a Dispensing Optician, normally providing this is within a maximum period of 3 years of the commencement of the programme.

BSc (Hons) in Health and Social Care

If you pass all the programme modules but fail the ABDO examinations or practice related element of the module (i.e. the PQP) you will be awarded a BSc (Hons) in Health and Social Care. You will not, however, be eligible to practice as a Dispensing Optician.

BSc (Ordinary) in Health and Social Care

If you pass 60 credits at Level 6 and are not eligible to proceed to the professional examinations, you will be awarded an ordinary degree. You will not be eligible to practice as a Dispensing Optician.

If you fail the programme you will be awarded with the credits you have achieved. In discussion with ABDO College, you may transfer to the ABDO College Diploma but this will be considered on an individual basis.