

Draft Learning Outcomes for Optometry Students

NB: The referenced standards in brackets following each learning outcome refer to our Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians.

Domain 1. A knowledgeable and skilful clinician and scientist.

1.1 Has a knowledge of relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role. **[Standard 7]**

1.2 Ability to conduct a safe and competent assessment for the purposes of the optometric consultation, including symptoms and, where necessary, any relevant medical, family and social history of the patient. This may include personal beliefs or cultural factors. **[Standard 7]**

1.3 Understands and is able to perform a wide range of ocular examination techniques and diagnostic procedures and is able to use diagnostic drugs to examine the eye health of the patient. **[Standard 7]**

1.4 Understands and applies knowledge of visual processing to the measurement and management of normal and abnormal visual function including binocular vision and its development. **[Standard 7]**

1.5 Understands and applies knowledge of geometric and visual optics, and accommodation, to measure and manage refractive error and binocular vision, and to prescribe spectacles, contact lenses or dispense low vision devices. **[Standard 7]**

1.6 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement. **[Standard 7]**

1.7 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice. **[Standard 7]**

1.8 Understands and applies knowledge of pharmaceuticals, pharmacology and microbiology to patient care. Understands the principles of independent prescribing and the legislation relating to the use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs. **[Standard 7]**

1.9 Understands and fulfils own role as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases. **[Standards 7 and 10]**

1.10 Understands and applies the methods of selecting and fitting of contact lenses (including complex lenses) and the importance of safe aftercare regimes for patients with both rigid and soft contact lenses to maintain ocular health. **[Standard 7]**

1.11 Ability to safely and competently fit contact lenses, monitor anterior eye health and address any signs or complications that may arise through these processes. **[Standard 7]**

1.12 Understands and applies knowledge of spectacle frames and lenses, contact lens (including therapeutic and prosthetic) and low vision aid design and materials, to

provide patients with suitable optical appliances based on their visual function, lifestyle, and occupational, sporting and protective needs. **[Standard 7]**

1.13 Has the ability to prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate. **[Standard 7]**

1.14 Demonstrates an understanding and ability to communicate with patients with diverse needs, including people with disabilities. **[Standards 7 and 2]**

1.15 Understands and able to use peer-reviewed and clinical literature to make sound clinical judgements, and is able to adapt to emerging standards or technology. **[Standard 5]**

1.16 As a newly qualified optometrist, has all necessary knowledge and clinical skills for the delivery of primary eye care service contracts in the UK.

Domain 2. A trusted eye health and vision professional

2.1 Understands the need to put patients' interests first and demonstrates care and compassion for patients. **[Standards 1 and 4]**

2.2 Has knowledge of what is required for valid consent and how to gain this from patients. Shows an awareness and understanding of the differences in the law surrounding consent in the different nations of the UK. Understands the differences around obtaining consent for children, young people and vulnerable adults. **[Standard 3 in full]**

2.3 Understands and recognises the need for professional boundaries in practice, particularly to avoid exploiting or unduly influencing patients or the public, whether politically, financially, sexually or by other means. **[Standards 15 in full]**

2.4 Understands and respects the principles and laws relating to equality, diversity and inclusion, and does not discriminate when providing patient care. **[Standard 13]**

2.5 Is able to communicate effectively with patients, carers and colleagues and is able to adapt communication style where necessary. Demonstrates a sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news and is able to pick up on unspoken signals which could indicate a lack of understanding, discomfort or lack of consent. **[Standard 2 in full]**

2.6 Understands own personal responsibility to protect and safeguard patients, colleagues and others from harm. Possesses knowledge of the legal requirements related to safeguarding, particularly in relation to children, young people and vulnerable adults. **[Standards 11]**

2.7 Understands and demonstrates the ability to maintain confidentiality in accordance with legislation. **[Standard 14]**

2.8 Understands and complies with the law and ethical principles. Able to recognise and appropriately manage uncertainty by using professional judgement. **[Standards 6 and 16]**

2.9 Understands and demonstrates the need for honesty and integrity to maintain public trust and confidence in the profession. **[Standard 16]**

2.10 Understands the professional duty of candour and is able to demonstrate the elements of candour when things go wrong. **[Standard 19 in full]**

Domain 3. A safe and competent practitioner

3.1 Understands and is able to critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need. **[Standard 5]**

3.2 Demonstrates knowledge, understanding and complies with the law and current regulatory standards relating to optical practice, including the role of the General Optical Council and the requirements of registration. **[Standards 9 and 17]**

3.3 Understands the need to raise concerns promptly if patient or public safety might be at risk. Demonstrates knowledge and ability of how concerns can be raised and escalated and has confidence to engage in difficult conversations regarding concerns. **[Standard 11]**

3.4 Demonstrates the ability to maintain accurate, up-to-date and accessible patient records containing all necessary information, and able to adapt to a range of systems and formats including written and electronic. **[Standards 8 in full and 9]**

3.5 Understands the need for lifelong learning/continuing professional development in order to maintain, enhance and develop their practice for the good of patients and the public. Has the ability to reflect on their own practice alone and with others, drawing on a wide range of different information sources, such as significant events analysis, clinical audit, patient feedback and peer review. **[Standard 5]**

3.6 Understands that there are limits to their professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and works within their scope of practice. **[Standard 5]**

3.7 Understands and is able to describe what is required for a safe environment for patients and their own responsibility to ensure this is delivered. Has the confidence to take appropriate action if an environment is compromising patient safety. **[Standard 12]**

3.8 Has the ability to apply skills and professional judgement doing the right thing and putting the patient first. **[Standard 7]**

3.9 Is able to deal appropriately and promptly with an emergency situation in practice, whether an eye-related or medical emergency, taking into account their own scope of practice and training. **[Standard 12]**

Domain 4. A collaborative and effective colleague and manager

4.1 Understands the differences in healthcare systems in each of the four nations of the UK and can describe from the varied scope of individual experience and the range of settings in which patients receive care, including in remote and urban environments. **[Standards 13 and 17]**

4.2 Recognises the social, commercial/financial, legal and political context in which optometric practice is undertaken and has ability to manage these aspects of the role without compromising professional standards and patient care. **[Standard 16]**

4.3 Respects and values the roles and contributions of other health and social care professionals within the healthcare system. Has the ability to work effectively in multi-disciplinary health and social care teams across a range of health and social care settings and across organisational boundaries. **[Standards 10 and 13]**

4.4 Understands that there will be times when they need to consult with or refer to other colleagues within or outside of the optical sector and is aware of different referral mechanisms within the healthcare system. **[Standard 6]**

4.5 Understands the role of eye health and sight loss services within the wider public health context and the need for all health professionals to play a role in health promotion to address changing patient and social demographics. **[Standard 1]**

4.6 Understands the concept of clinical governance which may include, but is not limited to, infection control, information security, operating a complaints mechanism and using data from clinical audit or patient feedback to review and improve practice. Is able to use secure information management systems, clinical guidance and protocols, and has the ability to adapt to different regimes at a local level by healthcare providers and employers and is able to adapt practice accordingly. **[Standards 5, 12 and 18]**