

Draft Learning Outcomes for Dispensing Optician 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 systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role. **[Standard 7]**

1.2 Understands a wide range of ocular examination techniques, diagnostic procedures and diagnostic drugs. **[Standard 7]**

1.3 Understands and applies knowledge of theory, product and advancement in technology of ophthalmic lenses, in order to provide patients with the most appropriate optical appliances based on their visual function, lifestyle, occupational, leisure and protective need. **[Standard 7]**

1.4 Understands and applies knowledge of anatomical features and development (especially in paediatric patients), and frame materials, features and construction, in order to provide (and adapt where necessary) the most appropriate fit of frame, mount or appliance to all patients. **[Standard 7]**

1.5 Understands and applies knowledge of geometric and visual optics, and accommodation, in order to dispense spectacles and understands the methods of assessing vision, refractive error, binocular status and visual acuity in all patients. **[Standard 7]**

1.6 Understands and applies knowledge of low vision optics, to conduct a low vision assessment, and to dispense the most appropriate low vision devices. **[Standard 7]**

1.7 Accurately interprets clinical and refractive data to dispense the most appropriate optical appliance for the patient's needs, and recording how and why any adjustment against the prescription is made. **[Standard 7]**

1.8 Understands and recognises a range of common normal and abnormal ocular conditions and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice. **[Standard 6 and 7]**

1.9 Understands and fulfils own role as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team in effectively dispensing complex prescriptions and can adapt to the requirements of the professional environment. **[Standards 6 and 10]**

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

1.11 Has the ability to prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients, and other colleagues where

appropriate. **[Standard 7]**

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

1.13 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]**

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 this is obtained from patients. Shows an awareness and understanding of the differences in the law surrounding consent in the different nations of the UK, in particular the law around obtaining consent from 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. **[Standard 15 in full]**

2.4 Understands and complies with the law 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 their 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. **[Standard 11]**

2.7 Understands and demonstrates 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 dispensing goes 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 optical 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 and 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 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 is 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 benefit 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 the limits of 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 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 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 optical practice is undertaken and has ability to manage these aspects of the role without compromising professional standards. **[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 when 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]**