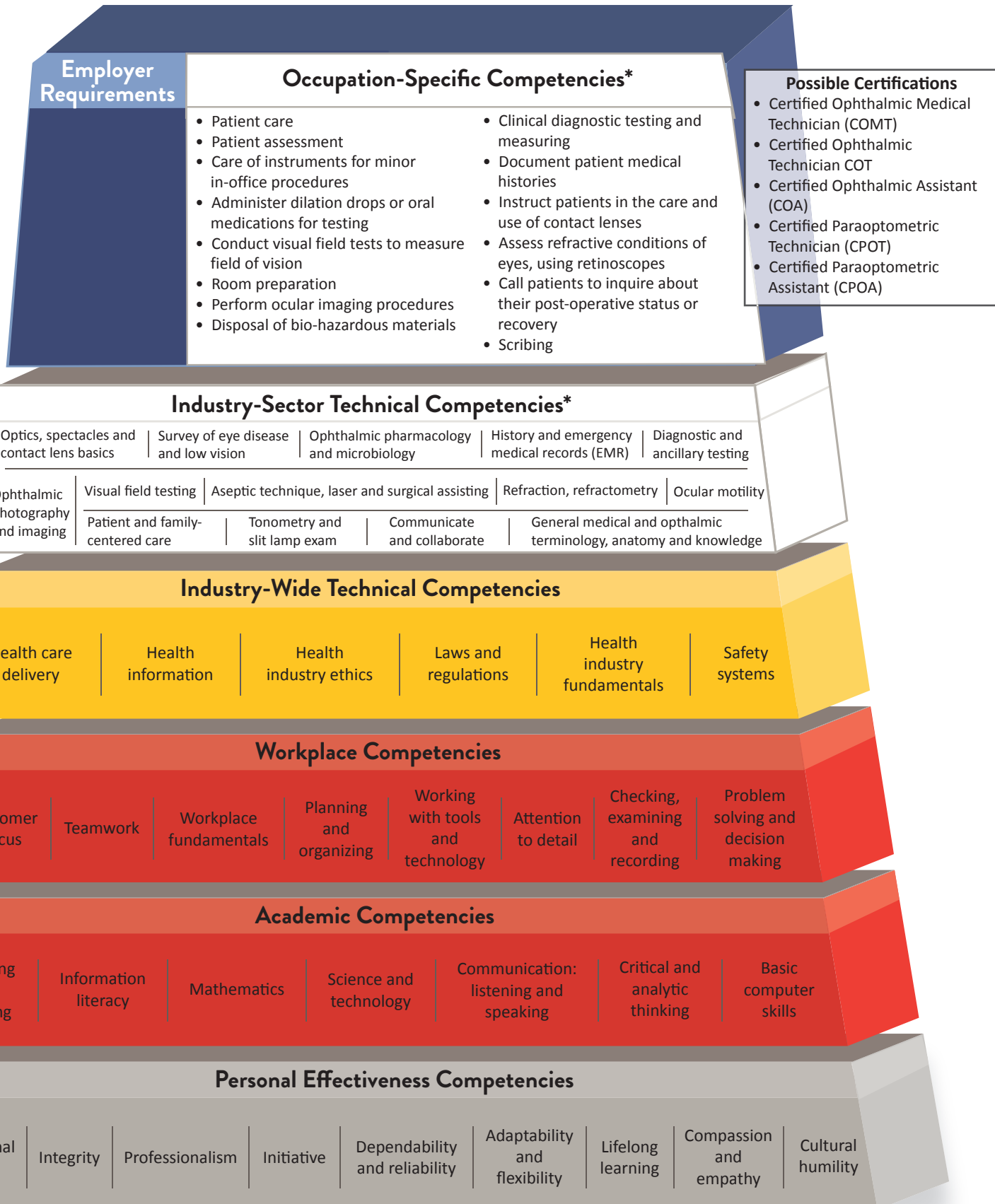


Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline

Competency Model for Health Care Services

Occupation: Ophthalmic Technician



Based on: Health: Allied Health Competency Model Employment and Training Administration, United States Department of Labor, December 2011.

* Pipeline recommends the Industry-Sector Technical Competencies as formal training opportunities (provided through related instruction) and the Occupation-Specific Competencies as on-the-job training opportunities.



Competency Model for Health Care Services

Ophthalmic Technician – a valuable member of the health team working to preserve and improve vision. This individual performs various diagnostic tasks and measurements under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician who specializes in ophthalmology.

Occupation-Specific Competencies*

- Patient Care – assist with ophthalmic procedures, as well as scheduling, triage phone calls and appointment scheduling.
- Patient Assessment – process of identification of the condition, needs, abilities and preferences of a patient.
- Care of instruments for minor in-office procedures – proper cleaning of medical devices is a critical step in decontamination, prior to disinfection and sterilization.
- Administer dilation drops or oral medications for testing – to enlarge pupils of the eye or aid with treatment and/or recovery.
- Visual assessment and eye exam – a series of tests that measure a person’s ocular health and visual status, to detect abnormalities in the components of the visual system, and to determine how well the person can see.
- Room preparation – complete cleaning and turnover of rooms
- Perform ocular imaging procedures – offers a better view of the eye and early detection of various ocular diseases.
- Disposal of bio-hazardous materials – procedures of infectious waste that can be deemed a threat to public health or the environment.
- Clinical diagnostic testing and measuring – knowledge of medical tests performed to detect, diagnose or monitor diseases.
- Scribing – charting physician/patient encounters in real time, such as during ophthalmic medical examinations.
- Document patient medical histories – log of patients medications, diagnosis’ and treatments.
- Instruct patients in the care and use of contact lenses – the application, removal and care and cleaning of contact lenses.
- Assess refractive conditions of eyes, using retinoscopes – measuring the sharpness or clarity of close-up and distance vision by testing with different lenses to determine if vision can be improved or corrected with glasses or contact lenses.

- Call patients to inquire about their post-operative status or recovery – customer service for after surgery or treatment follow up.

Industry-Sector Technical Competencies*

- Patient and family-centered care – training in the human values necessary to implement patient and family-centered care.
- Survey of eye disease and low vision – terms used to describe determining disease of the eye and of significant visual impairment that can't be corrected fully with glasses, contact lenses, medication or eye surgery.
- Ophthalmic pharmacology and microbiology – how drugs and medications are used for treating ocular patients and the effects of these substances.
- Ophthalmic photography imaging – specialized medical imaging dedicated to the study and treatment of eye disorders.
- Ocular motility – study of the twelve extraocular muscles and their impact on eye movement.
- Refraction and refractometry – the bending of light that takes place within the human eye. Refractive errors include nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.
- Visual field testing – method of measuring an individual's entire scope of vision, that is their central and peripheral (side) vision.
- Optics, spectacles and contact lens basics – key elements of vision correction.
- History and emergency medical records (EMR) – log of patient medications, diagnosis and treatments.
- Aseptic technique, laser and surgical assisting – using sterile practices to avoid infection within laser and all ophthalmic surgery.
- General medical and ophthalmic terminology, anatomy and knowledge – knowledge of terms and anatomical science within the ophthalmic field.
- Tonometry and slit lamp exam – parts of a comprehensive eye test that can detect changes in eye pressure and that observes eyes in detail to determine if there are abnormalities that need treatment.
- Diagnostic and ancillary testing – knowledge of ophthalmic tests performed to detect, diagnose or monitor diseases.
- Communicate and collaborate – working closely and cooperatively with peers while communicating effectively to produce positive results.

*The PIPELINE Program recommends the Industry-Sector Technical Competencies as formal training opportunities (provided through related instruction) and the Occupation-Specific Competencies as on-the-job training opportunities.

Possible Certifications

- Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technician (COMT)
- Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT)
- Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA)
- Certified Paraoptometric Technician (CPOT)
- Certified Paraoptometric Assistant (CPOA)

Ophthalmic Technician Training Plan

	List Course/Training Name and Title	Description of Courses and/or Training Program	List Responsible Provider: Company, College, Trainer, or other	Anticipated Completion Date
On-The-Job Training Competencies				
Patient care				
Patient assessment				
Care of instruments for minor in-office procedures				
Administer dilation drops or oral medications for testing				
Visual assessment and eye exam				
Room preparation				
Perform ocular imaging procedures				
Disposal of bio-hazardous materials				
Clinical diagnostic testing and measuring				
Scribing				
Document patient medical histories				
Instruct patients in the care and use of contact lenses				
Assess refractive conditions of eyes, using retinoscopes				

Call patients to inquire about their post-operative status or recovery				
Related Instruction Competencies				
Patient and family-centered care				
Survey of eye disease and low vision				
Ophthalmic pharmacology and microbiology				
Ophthalmic photography imaging				
Ophthalmic equipment				
Ocular motility				
Refraction and refractometry				
Visual field testing				
Optics, spectacles and contact lens basics				
History and emergency medical records (EMR)				
Aseptic technique, laser and surgical assisting				
Tonometry and slit lamp exam				
Diagnostic and ancillary testing				
Communicate and collaborate				