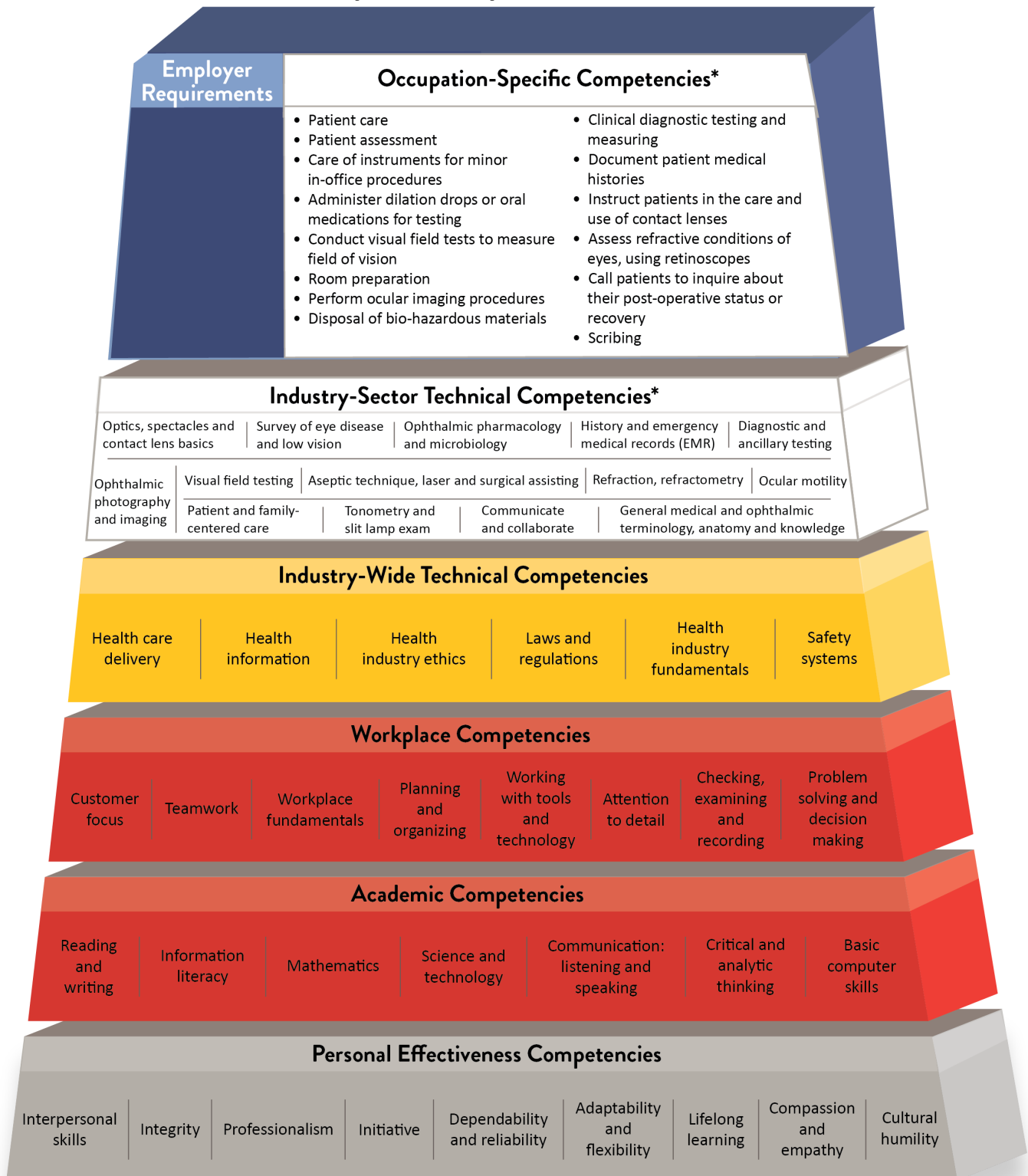


# Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline

## 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 Ophthalmic Technician

**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.

### Industry-Sector Technical Competencies

**Related Instruction** for dual training means the organized and systematic form of education resulting in the enhancement of skills and competencies related to the dual trainee's current or intended occupation.

- **Patient and family-centered care** – Understand the human values necessary to implement patient and family-centered care.
- **Survey of eye disease and low vision** – Know the terms used to describe determining disease of the eye and of significant visual impairment that cannot be corrected fully with glasses, contact lenses, medication or eye surgery.
- **Ophthalmic pharmacology and microbiology** – Understand how drugs and medications are used for treating ocular patients and the effects of these substances.
- **Ophthalmic photography imaging** – Understand specialized medical imaging dedicated to the study and treatment of eye disorders.
- **Ocular motility** – Know about the study of the twelve extraocular muscles and their impact on eye movement.
- **Refraction and refractometry** – Know about the bending of light that takes place within the human eye. Refractive errors include nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.
- **Visual field testing** – Understand the method of measuring an individual's entire scope of vision, that is their central and peripheral (side) vision.
- **Optics, spectacles and contact lens basics** – Understand key elements of vision correction.

- **History and emergency medical records (EMR)** – Be able to keep a log of patient medications, diagnosis and treatments.
- **Aseptic technique, laser and surgical assisting** – Know how to use 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** – Understand the 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** – Be able to work closely and cooperatively with peers while communicating effectively to produce positive results.

## Occupation-Specific Competencies

**On-the-Job Training (OJT)** is hands-on instruction completed at work to learn the core competencies necessary to succeed in an occupation. Common types of OJT include job shadowing, mentorship, cohort-based training, assignment-based project evaluation and discussion-based training.

- **Patient care** – Be able to assist with ophthalmic procedures, as well as scheduling, triage phone calls and appointment scheduling.
- **Patient assessment** – Understand the process of identification of the condition, needs, abilities and preferences of a patient.
- **Care of instruments for minor in-office procedures** – Know how to do proper cleaning of medical devices as that is a critical step in decontamination, prior to disinfection and sterilization.
- **Administer dilation drops or oral medications for testing** – Know how to perform this task in order to enlarge pupils of the eye or aid with treatment and/or recovery.

- **Visual assessment and eye exam** – Understand the 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** – Be able to complete cleaning and turnover of rooms.
- **Perform ocular imaging procedures** – Know how to assist with ocular imaging procedures which offer a better view of the eye and early detection of various ocular diseases.
- **Disposal of bio-hazardous materials** – Know how to dispose of materials that are 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** – Know how to do charting physician/patient encounters in real time, such as during ophthalmic medical examinations.
- **Document patient medical histories** – Be able to keep a log of patient's medications, diagnoses and treatments.
- **Instruct patients in the care and use of contact lenses** – Know how to teach the application, removal and care and cleaning of contact lenses.
- **Assess refractive conditions of eyes, using retinoscopes** – Be able to measure 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** – Understand customer service for after surgery or treatment follow up.

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