

Optical Laboratory Technician

Overview	Optical laboratory technicians operate laboratory equipment to grind, cut, polish and edge lenses for eyeglasses according to prescriptions received and fit lenses into frames. They also make minor repairs for customers such as replacing frame screws or straightening frames. They are also responsible for maintaining and repairing optical laboratory equipment or machinery. With experience they also work in surface marking of the eyeglasses to direct the curving and cutting, and measuring lens power. Some optical laboratory technicians work in specialized contact lens labs. They produce contact lenses according to prescription.			
NOC Code	Optical lab technicians in- Other assisting occupations in support of health services (3414)			
Alias Job Titles	Ophthalmic goods antireflection (AR) coating technician; Ophthalmic goods bench worker; Ophthalmic goods lens coating technician; Ophthalmic goods lens cutter; Ophthalmic goods lens tinter; Ophthalmic lab technician – retail; Ophthalmic laboratory technician – retail; Ophthalmic lens bench worker; Ophthalmic lens cutter; Ophthalmic lens edge grinder; Ophthalmic lens grinder; Ophthalmic lens grinder and polisher; Ophthalmic lens grinder-polisher setter; Ophthalmic lens inspector; Ophthalmic lens marker; Optical and ophthalmic goods lens picker; Optical goods inspector; Optical lab mechanic – retail; Optical laboratory assistant; Optical laboratory technician; Optical laboratory technician – retail; Optical lens grinder and polisher; Optical lens inspector; Optical mechanic; Optical technician			
Qualifications Required	There are no standard education requirements. Usually optical laboratory technicians are trained on the job in optical prescription labs. Learn more			
Salary Range	Average hourly \$23.34	Range hourly \$10.15 - \$32.45	Average yearly \$50,335	Range yearly \$37,739 - \$60,782
Job Demand	High			

	Employment outlook is mostly good across provinces. More information is available here .
Growth Opportunity	This is a very entry-level position. With time on the job, technicians may become supervisors in labs. Or they may move into related fields such as repairing optometric diagnostic tools. Some technicians study to become opticians. Learn more
Years' Experience Required	0-1 year
Training Options (if available)	Generally none. One possible training option might be found here .
Personal Qualities	Customer service, the ability to study and interpret customer issues, the ability to focus on details, diligence, a good sense of spatial relationships, good fine motor skills (to manipulate small objects and instruments), patience and perseverance, teamwork
Notes/Other Information	Optical laboratory technicians work in labs and often on the feet. Allergic reactions to the chemical agents in the lab can be a potential hazard. They usually work a standard 40-hour week. Learn more
Steps towards capacity building to become competitive for this job	Need to connect with an optical lab. Also, completing online optometric assistant courses can be a starting point.
References and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Alberta Learning Information Service ii. Job Bank Canada iii. National Occupation Classification ESDC iv. Neuvoo v. Indeed