

There's more  
than one way to  
**GET STARTED.**

You can enter the field of  
ophthalmic assisting in  
three different ways.  
There's at least one  
perfect option for you!

- **On-the-job training**

Most ophthalmic practices have their own training programs and procedures for entry-level ophthalmic assistants with no previous experience or training in the field.

- **Academic training in an accredited program**

Many academic institutions offer short-term (three- to six-month or two- to four-year) accredited programs in ophthalmic medical assisting. These programs offer training on state-of-the-art equipment. Students learn professional standards, and often have the opportunity to practice their skills in a clinical setting. Educational institutions also offer job placement programs to assist graduates in finding employment upon completion of their academic program.

- **Independent study and distance learning**

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO), and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) offer independent study and distance learning programs.

## About **JCAHPO**

The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO®) is an international leader in providing certification and continuing education programs for ophthalmic medical personnel.

For more information go to

**My  
Eye Career**   
[www.myeyecareer.org](http://www.myeyecareer.org)

# MY **EYE** **CAREER...**

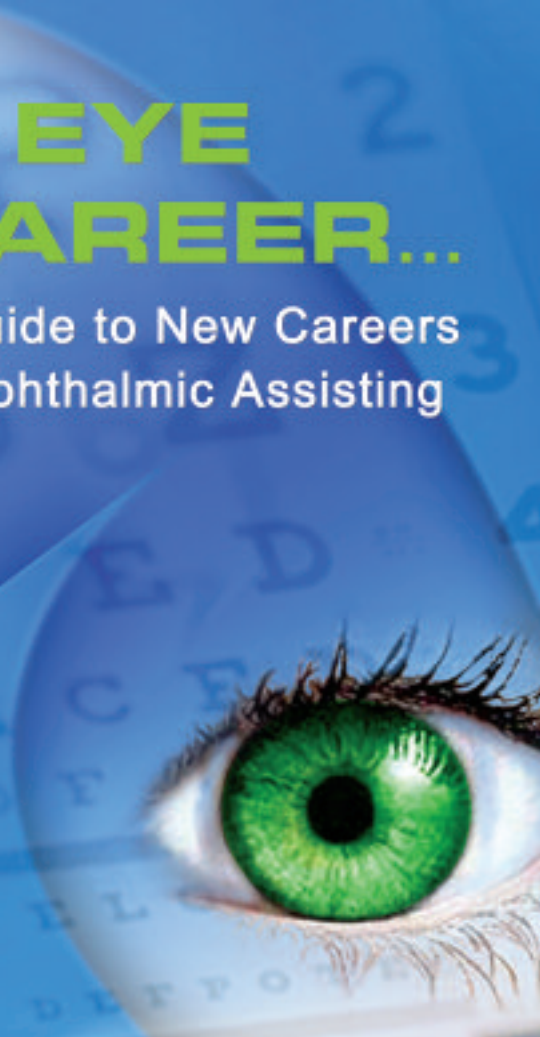
A Guide to New Careers  
in Ophthalmic Assisting



8 0 0 . 2 8 4 . 3 9 3 7

[www.jcahpo.org](http://www.jcahpo.org) ■ [www.myeyecareer.org](http://www.myeyecareer.org)

2025 Woodlane Drive, St. Paul, MN 55125-2998  
© 2007 Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology



## What is an Ophthalmic Assistant?

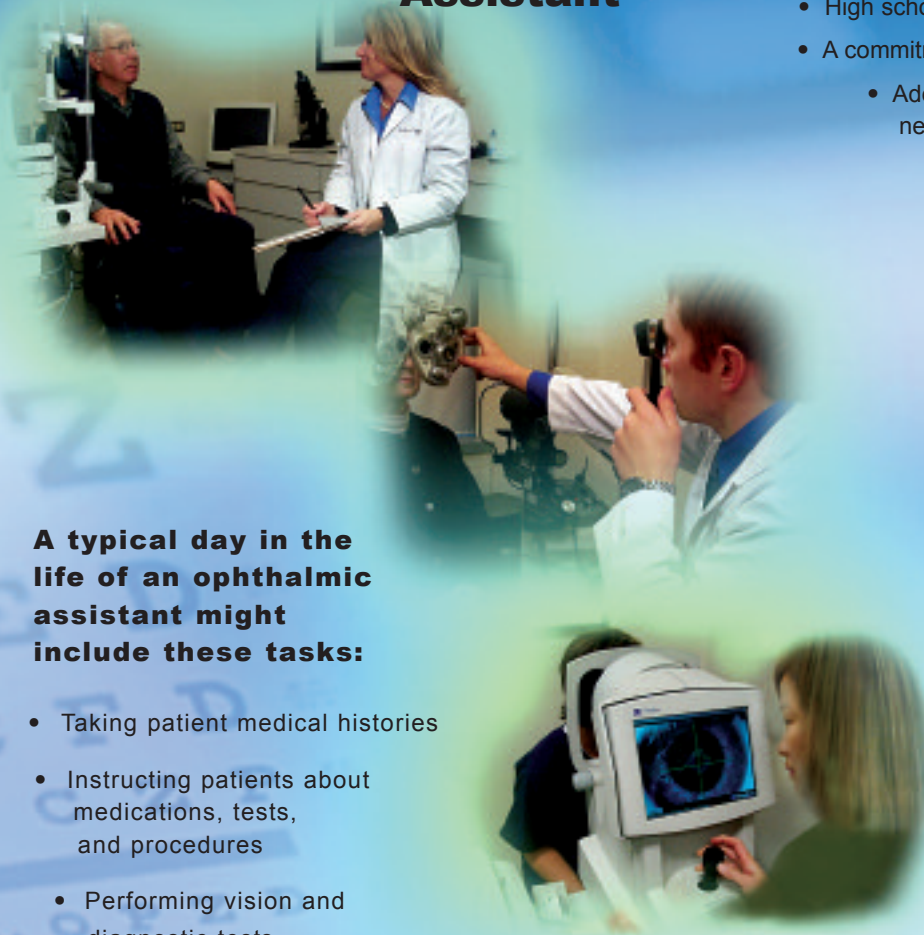
An ophthalmic assistant is a person who works with an ophthalmologist (eye doctor) to provide patient care by performing many different eye-related clinical functions. Their work provides the ophthalmologist with important information to help diagnose and treat patients.

## Why become an Ophthalmic Assistant?

As a professional ophthalmic assistant, some of the benefits you will enjoy are:

- Above-average salaries
- Professional work environment
- Flexible work schedule
- Unlimited job opportunities
- Pride and satisfaction
- Career advancement
- Lifelong learning

## A day in the life of an Ophthalmic Assistant



### A typical day in the life of an ophthalmic assistant might include these tasks:

- Taking patient medical histories
- Instructing patients about medications, tests, and procedures
- Performing vision and diagnostic tests
- Assisting ophthalmologists with patient procedures
- Coordinating patient scheduling
- Supervising and training other ophthalmic assistants
- Performing office management duties

## Qualifications to begin your career

- High school diploma or equivalent
- A commitment to helping people
- Adequate vision and hearing to perform necessary duties
- Problem-solving skills
- The ability to learn how to operate ophthalmic equipment
- The ability to learn new knowledge and skills on the job or from courses

## Do Ophthalmic Assistants need to be certified?

Studies show that certified ophthalmic assistants earn better salaries and have greater opportunities for advancement than those who are not certified.

The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO®) is recognized as an international leader in the development of certification and continuing education programs for ophthalmic medical personnel. JCAHPO offers certifications and continuing education programs for ophthalmic assistants at three levels:

- **Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA®)**
- **Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT®)**
- **Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT®)**

[www.myeecareer.org](http://www.myeecareer.org)