Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Ophthalmic Technician Program at Volunteer State Community College. This packet will introduce you to The College's Associate of Applied Science Degree, Ophthalmic Technician option. This is a "one-plus-one" program consisting of one year of general education plus one year of ophthalmic-specific technical courses. Upon graduation, students will be eligible to take the Certified Ophthalmic Technician exam.

Ophthalmic technology is a wonderful career wherein demand for technicians far outweighs the number of graduates we can supply. Historically, students are offered jobs weeks to months prior to completion of the Program.

An ophthalmic technician works under the direction of an ophthalmologist (an M.D.) with duties including, but not limited to, taking patient medical histories, visual acuity testing, refractometry, ophthalmic photography, visual field testing, assisting in ophthalmic surgery, ophthalmic ultrasound, and performing a variety of technology-based diagnostic testing and patient services.

After reviewing the enclosed information, you may want to ask additional questions or tour our program facilities on campus. Additionally, I have listed some helpful websites for more information on this unique career. The link for the last website will show you the other ophthalmic programs in the U.S. and show that we are an accredited program.

www.jcahpo.org
www.atpo.org
www.icaccreditation.org

If you are already a Vol State student, you may apply for the program online by completing the "Application Form" on the Ophthalmic Program website: http://www.volstate.edu/oph. The program's "Information Packet" can also be found on this website and will give information on the sequencing of courses and the process for application to the program.

I look forward to meeting you and helping you in your pursuit of this wonderful profession.

Sincerely,

Alisha Cornish, O.D.

Director, Ophthalmic Technician Program
Volunteer State Community College
1480 Nashville Pike
Wallace Building South, S-219
Gallatin, TN 37066
Office: 615-230-3723 Fax: 615-230-3251

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Ophthalmic Technician?

Ophthalmic Technology is a career of service to others. It is an opportunity to become part of a team in a medical setting providing quality eye care to the public.

Ophthalmic technicians work under the direction of an ophthalmologist in a variety of settings including private practices, hospital ophthalmology clinics, and academic eye clinics.

Duties of the Ophthalmic Technician generally include:

- Case history
- Visual acuity measurement
- Visual field testing
- Imaging: Photography, optical coherence tomography, optical biometry, B scan ultrasonography
- Refractometry
- Contact lenses
- Caring for and maintaining ophthalmic instruments
- Assisting the doctor in minor ophthalmic surgery
- Administering diagnostic tests
- Providing patient services
- Performing a variety of clinical skills

Successful completion of the program allows graduates eligibility to apply for and to take the certification examination to become a Certified Ophthalmic Technician. Certification is available through the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO).

How do I apply for the Program?

1. Apply to the college. Click on the attached link to the visit the Admission's Office website for details.
2. Submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities previously attended.
3. Complete all prerequisite courses, including OPHT 1205 Introduction to Ophthalmic Technology with job shadow. The job shadow is completed while in OPHT 1205. Further instructions are given once the course begins.
4. Complete the online application form, found under the "Application Form" heading on the Ophthalmic Program Website. **Please do not complete the application until you have completed most or all the prerequisite courses.**
5. Complete formal interview process which takes place in June.

Does completion of the Ophthalmic Technician Program result in a degree?

Upon completion of the Ophthalmic Technician Program and all prerequisite courses, students will earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

What courses must I take prior to the screening and official admission into the Program?

You will be required to complete all general education/prerequisite courses as listed on page 9 of this information packet, including OPHT 1205 Introduction to Ophthalmic Technology and AHC 115 Medical Terminology, prior to being eligible for formal admission into the Ophthalmic Program. These courses (also referred to as "prerequisites") must be completed before you can begin the program.

What if I have not completed all the prerequisite courses prior to the program deadline date?

Discuss your options by contacting Alisha Cornish if you will not complete all prerequisite courses by the end of the spring semester in which the application is due.

When does screening occur and how many are admitted each year?

The deadline for application to the program is May 31st. The screening and interview process will be conducted in June. All eligible applicants are notified by their Volunteer State email with the specific date and time of their interview. The program has a maximum class size of 15. Selection is based on GPA in the prerequisite courses, performance and completion of OPHT 1205 with imbedded job shadow, Anatomy and Physiology I, and effectiveness in the interview setting.

What are the requirements for admission?

Acceptance is contingent upon completion of the general education/prerequisite courses, with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better in the prerequisite courses. **A grade lower than a "C" in a course required for entrance into the program, will not be accepted.**

If I am officially admitted into the program, what other costs besides tuition and maintenance fees should I expect?

The costs listed in the table below are approximate costs for items needed for the Ophthalmic Program. The costs are not reimbursable should plans change and a student decide not to enter the program.

Extra Ophthalmic Costs	Approximate Cost
Textbooks	$500
Website membership	$150
Web camera	$25
Thumb drive	$30
CPR course (provided after admission to program)	$60
*Background check	$50
*10 Panel drug screen	$40
*Professional liability insurance	$40
Scrubs	Approximately $40 per pair
*TB skin test	$25
Tetanus vaccination	$50
Varicella vaccination	$125
MMR vaccination	$70
Hepatitis B	$75 each (3) total needed
Health Insurance	Various cost

Certified Ophthalmic Technician Exam (end of program)	$325
Health Science Course Fee	$25 per credit hour

***Requirements to be completed only after formal admission to the program and notification from program personnel.**

Students must provide proof of the immunizations below to attend clinical rotations. If documentation of proof of immunization cannot be located, titers can be drawn to prove immunity.

- MMR: Proof of **two** live measles (rubeola and rubella) and mumps vaccinations (if born after January 1, 1957)
- Varicella: **2 doses or credible history** of disease if born on or after January 1, 1980
- Hepatitis B: **proof of 3 doses** before the start of patient care
- Tetanus: **within last 10 years**

How long is the program?

After completion of all prerequisites and formal admission, the Ophthalmic Technician Program is 12 months (3 semesters) in length. The program begins in the fall.

How will I pay for my education?

Every student has a unique financial situation. You are encouraged to discuss your situation with a member of the Financial Aid Department in the Ramer Building room 129, as you begin your college education and again if you are admitted into the Ophthalmic Technician Program. You can find information online regarding financial aid at the Volunteer State Financial Aid Website.

For information on current tuition and fees, visit the college's Tuition and Fees Website.

Will TN Promise and TN Reconnect pay for my education in the Ophthalmic Program?

Yes, both TN Promise and Reconnect will cover the courses in the Ophthalmic Program provided a student meets all the qualifications for those programs. Students should discuss their financial situation with personnel in the Financial Aid Office.

What are the technical aspects of the program that I must meet if accepted into the program?

In order to perform the duties of an ophthalmic technician an individual must be able to:

1. Visually assess patient's condition.
2. Visually assess results of ophthalmic testing.
3. Demonstrate adequate visual acuity to assess a patient's condition, read patient charts, check proper function of equipment, and to distinguish colors.
4. Push and pull wheelchair with patient seated in wheelchair.
5. Lean over to lock wheelchair and lift footrests.
6. Verbally instruct patient in a clear, concise, easily understandable manner.
7. Interact appropriately with patients, co-workers, and visitors.

8. Read and comprehend written communications. Provide written communication to medical and technical staff.
9. Demonstrate manual dexterity in handling of syringes for injection, manipulation of small knobs and equipment controls, and preparation of equipment while maintaining sterile technique.
10. Ability to ascend and descend stairway in case of fire or emergency in absence of an elevator.
11. Bend and rest on knees for performing chest compressions.
12. Use extended arms and force of shoulders and upper back to compress chest 2 inches.
13. Respond appropriately to sounds, i.e. patient voice and movements, at a normal conversational volume.
14. Respond appropriately to equipment signals such as sound and light.
15. Manipulate mechanical and patient care equipment simultaneously, i.e. dials, switches, push buttons, keyboards, and blood pressure equipment.
16. Perform for a prolonged period without breaks, e.g., typical shift of eight hours.
17. Oral communication skills sufficient to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency with patients, their families, and other members of the health care team, including non-verbal communication, such as interpretations of facial expressions.

Who on the Vol State campus can answer other questions that I might have?

The Ophthalmic Program website lists dates for program information sessions. Attending an information session is a great opportunity to learn more about the program and field of ophthalmic technology.

Alisha Cornish, located in the Wallace Health Science Building South, room S-219, will be glad to answer any questions you may have. To schedule an appointment for advising, contact Alisha Cornish by email at: alisha.cornish@volstate.edu. To ensure your questions are answered fully, please review the information on the Ophthalmic Program Website, prior to setting up your advising appointment.

The Advising Center, located in the Ramer Building, Suite 141, can also answer advising questions. Please see the Advising Center's website for specific information on speaking with an academic advisor. Advising Center Website

Will the courses I took at another institution transfer to Volunteer State?

Once you have completed the "Application for Admission" to the college, an official transcript for each college attended, should be mailed to the Office of Admissions. Once your transcripts are posted as "received" in the Admissions Office, your transcript will be forwarded to the Records and Registration Office to be evaluated by a transcript analyst. You can view more details about transfer of various types of credits on the school's website, https://www.volstate.edu/records/transfer.

Curriculum changes for pre-requisites and The Ophthalmic Program are subject to change at the end of the academic year. Please visit the college catalog to view the most up-to-date curriculum information. College Catalog: Ophthalmic Technician Program

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM
COURSE DESCRIPTION BY SEMESTER

The OPHT course below will be completed as a <u>prerequisite</u> to The Ophthalmic Program.

INTRODUCTION TO OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGY - OPHT 1205

COURSE CREDIT: **2** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to the history of ophthalmic technology, including roles and responsibilities in the field. Ethics of patient care and medical economics will also be discussed.

FALL

OCULAR ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY - OPHT 2202

COURSE CREDIT: **2** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will present the normal anatomy of the adnexa, globe and visual pathway and the physiology of ocular movements and vision. In addition, some of the more common pathophysiology will be discussed and identified. Thirty lecture hours per semester.

OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES I - OPHT 2350

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Basic principles and skills for ophthalmic procedures will be taught. These include visual acuity measurement, lens measurements, tonometry, charting, medical history documentation, use of slit lamp, OSHA requirements, and papillary exam.

CLINICAL OPTICS - OPHT 2312

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will learn the basic physical, geometric, and physiologic optical principles as applied to the eye and visual system including the visual pathway, light transmission, absorption, reflection and refraction.

INTRODUCTION TO OCULAR DISEASES - OPHT 2223

COURSE CREDIT: **2** Credit Hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Basic characteristics of common ocular disorders will be presented in this course. Included are: the anterior segment, ocular adnexa,

posterior segment diseases and conditions most common to the ophthalmology practice. A review of systemic diseases relating to ocular conditions will be presented as well as common diagnostic and therapeutic treatments. Triage for ocular emergencies will be presented in detail.

CLINCAL APPLICATIONS I - OPHT 2310

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Supervised practice of clinical skills learned during the Fall Semester. 300 clinical hours for the semester.

SPRING

BASIC OPHTHALMIC PHARMACOLOGY - OPHT 2221

COURSE CREDIT: **2** Credit Hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will acquaint the student with ocular pharmacology including diagnostic agents, therapeutic agents, antibiotics, topical anesthetics, antivirals, antihistamines/anti-allergic agents, and many of the systemic medications with which they come into contact. Indications for these agents and their common side effects will be discussed. A review of the autonomic nervous system as it relates to medications and their actions will be presented.

RETINOSCOPY and REFRACTOMETRY - OPHT 2327

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce students to the principles and techniques of retinoscopy and intermediate refractometry measurements with emphasis on skill development using various retinoscopes. Principles and techniques of spectacle fitting and adjustment will also be included.
Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES II - OPHT 2351

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the student to the fundamentals of surgical assisting, microbial control procedures, and safe handling of equipment and supplies Students will learn to use specialized equipment to perform acuity testing, ultrasonography, ophthalmic photography, and corneal topography. Basic interpretations of fluorescein angiography and laser procedures are also included.
Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

OCULAR MOTILITY - OPHT 2226

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Principles and techniques of exophthalmometry and basic and advanced motility are presented with emphasis on skill development in these procedures. Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

CLINCAL APPLICATIONS II - OPHT 2320

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Supervised practice of clinical skills learned during the Spring Semester. 300 clinical hours per semester.

SUMMER

OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES III - OPHT 2352

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the student to the fundamentals of contact lens fitting and patient instruction techniques will also be covered. The course will also cover various other ophthalmic skills and procedures.
Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester.

OPHTHALMIC PROCEDURES IV - OPHT 2353

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

This course introduces the student to the principles and techniques of visual field measurement, causes of visual field loss, basic external ophthalmic exam and the documentation of all testing and exam results.
Thirty lecture and 30 lab hours per semester

CLINCAL APPLICATIONS III - OPHT 2230

COURSE CREDIT: **3** Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Supervised practice of clinical skills learned during the Summer Semester. 150 clinical hours for the semester.

Volunteer State Community College
Ophthalmic Technology Program
AAS Degree Student Check List

Name: _____Date: _____

The following must be completed and turned in with application to program.

General Educational/Prerequisites	Courses part of Associate Degree	HRS	Taken
AHC 115	Medical Terminology	3	
Fine/Arts/Humanities Choose one	PHIL 1040-**recommended** ART 1030-Intro to Art MUS 1030-Music Appreciation ENGL 1030-Intr Film	3	
COMM 2025 or 2045	Fundamentals of Communications 2025 Public Speaking 2045	3	
BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy & Physiology I(Lecture/Lab)	4	
ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3	
MATH 1010 or MATH 1130 or higher	Math Liberal Art 1010 College Algebra 1130	3	
PSYC 1030	General Psychology	3	
OPHT 1205	Introduction to Ophthalmic Technology	2	
	Total Gen Ed	**24**	

*If you have not completed all of the requirements at the time of the application process, please contact an advisor in the Health Sciences Department to discuss your eligibility.

REQUIREMENTS AFTER FORMAL ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Fall	Course	HRS
OPHT 2202	Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	2
OPHT 2350	Ophthalmic Procedures I	3
OPHT 2310	Clinical Applications I	3
OPHT 2312	Ophthalmic Optics	3
OPHT 2223	Introduction to Ophthalmic Disease	2
	Total	**13**

Spring	Course	HRS
OPHT 2320	Clinical Applications II	3
OPHT 2221	Basic Ophthalmic Pharmacology	2
OPHT 2326	Ocular Motility	3
OPHT 2327	Refractometry/Retinoscopy	3
OPHT 2351	Ophthalmic Procedures II	3
	Total	**14**

Summer	Course	HRS
OPHT 2230	Clinical Applications III	3
OPHT 2352	Ophthalmic Procedures III	3
OPHT 2353	Ophthalmic Procedures IV	3
	Total	**9**
	Total Major Core	**36**