OPTH-290 INTERNSHIP IN OPHTHALMIC SCIENCE

I. Basic course Information

A. Course Number and Title: OPTH-290 Internship in Ophthalmic Science

B. Date of Proposal or Revision: Revised: 5/92, Updated: August 2004

C. Sponsoring Department: Health Science Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3

E. Course Developer: Brian Thomas

F. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 hours Bi-weekly Work Site: 5 hours weekly

G. Prerequisites: Permission and placement by Program Coordinator and completion of Ophthalmic Dispensing I Lecture and Lab.

H. Laboratory Fees: NONE

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Permission and placement by Program Coordinator and completion of Ophthalmic Dispensing I Lecture and Lab.
A clinical experience in which the student is placed in an optician’s practice. Specific evaluations of student objectives are conducted in a weekly consultation with the Program Coordinator. In addition, biweekly lecture topics will include refraction, business concepts and current technology.

III. Statement of Course Need:

This course is a requirement for the Ophthalmic Science Degree student.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

The course is required for Ophthalmic Science Degree students. It is suggested that the course be taken in the student’s final semester.
V. Outline of Course Content

In addition to the general objectives required of all students, each student, in coordination with the instructor, will devise a series of objectives to be accomplished during the internship. These objectives should arise from self-study of areas of student interest and professional deficiencies. Realistic objectives will be set to remedy these deficiencies. The student’s employer may be advised of the objectives and their intended accomplishment.

The employer may have input into both the student’s progress towards these objectives and the student’s evaluation. The student will meet on a regular basis with the Program Coordinator to discuss the objectives of the internship, to evaluate progress and to enhance the work experience.

The student will also be required to author a term paper regarding the internship and attend seven lecture sessions. The objectives, solutions, self-evaluation and commentary on the internship experience should be included in the paper. Lecture and discussion topics will include:

LECTURE I – Snellen System refractive abnormalities, types of refraction, trial lenses, phoropter, aphakic refraction, low vision refraction, Jaeger system, bifocals, cycloplegics, miotics, and mydriatics.

LECTURE II – Demonstration and imitation of the usage of the retinoscope, retinoscopy procedure, cross cylinders, muscle balance, fusion, prisms, duochrome test, maddox rod test, pinhole test, trouble-shooting refraction problems. Demonstration of a complete clinical refraction by the instructor.

LECTURE III – Updates on the most recent advances in ophthalmic technology, including: lenses, frames, instrumentation, edging equipment, fitting techniques, contact lenses and contact lens solution.

LECTURE IV - Selling vs. professionalism, manipulative vs. service selling, appearance and personality, education as a sales technique, determining needs, product demonstration, pricing, lifestyle dispensing, merchandising, closing the sale, verbal and visual communication, technical explanations and professional liability, and handling the irate patient.

LECTURE V – New Jersey statutes, Title 52, Chapter 17B-41.1, Title 45, Chapters 1-14, Uniform Enforcement Act, Title 13, Chapter 33. (Laws governing the professional and business practices of ophthalmic dispensing.)
LECTURE VI – Medicare and Medicaid systems, third party payment systems. Interview and presentation skills.

LECTURE VII – Throughout the internship, students will be required to keep journals. These journals will document the patients they have personally attended. They will record the following information: patient’s prescription, history, visual complaints, lenses prescribed, frame prescribed, and follow-up care. In a lecture setting, these case studies will be discussed, analyzed and evaluated.

VI. Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

A. Recognize, describe and analyze the methodology of the clinical, laboratory and business operation of an optician’s practice.

B. Discuss interpersonal skills and patient relations (GE 2).

C. Demonstrate analytical skills in interpreting prescriptions to meet the occupational, avocational and personal visual needs of the patient (GE 7).

D. Discover and demonstrate an understanding of the ancillary function and process of refraction as it applies to the profession of opticianry (GE 7).

E. Demonstrate an understanding of the latest advances in frame, lenses and instrumentation technology according to the course handout.

F. Demonstrate an understanding of the laws and regulations governing the practice of opticianry in the State of New Jersey according the NJ statutes (GE 2 & 7).

G. On an individual basis, each student will be required to select personal objectives that they will pursue in their work environment.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- Lecture/discussion
- Computer assisted instruction
- Laboratory
- Independent study
VIII. Papers, Examinations and other Assessment Instruments

- Laboratory products
- Essays
- Written examinations

IX. Grade Determinants

Grade determinant: Bi-weekly quizzes will assess the previous meetings lecture topic.
Grade determinant: Individual assessments will be established for each students personal learning outcomes.

X. Texts and Materials

A. TEXTBOOK: Ledford, K. Exercises in Refractometry. Thorofare, NJ. Slack; 1996. (Library reserve)

B. Other texts will be assigned as required for the students’ personal objectives.
C. Power point presentations
D. Course handouts

XI. Resources

This course requires computer and projection equipment as well as access to refraction equipment and hand instruments.