

Important Information About Dispensing Optician Apprenticeship Registration

Can I work as an apprentice without being registered?

No. You must be registered with the Secretary of the Department of Health before you can work as an apprentice dispensing optician.

Who can be a supervisor?

A Primary Supervisor can be a licensed optician, optometrist or physician who registered as your supervisor with the Department of Health. Your Primary Supervisor is responsible for your work and must provide a majority of your training and supervision.

What if my supervisor is not available to supervise me all of the time?

If your primary supervisor is not available to provide supervision for you where you work, you may be supervised by another qualified supervisor. No supervisor may have more than two apprentices under their direct supervision at any one time.

What do I do if the supervisor leaves?

If your primary supervisor is no longer able to act as your primary supervisor for any reason, you may not continue to work. You must submit an application to the Department of Health to be registered under a different Primary Supervisor. The application must be approved by the Secretary before you begin your work as an apprentice under the new Primary Supervisor.

What should my supervisor do?

When the supervisor will no longer act as your Primary Supervisor, he or she must send a training certificate to the Department of Health. The training certificate must show the beginning and ending dates that you were under their supervision and give the number of apprenticeship hours you completed during that time.

How many apprenticeship hours are required?

To be able to sit for the optician licensing examination, an apprentice must complete 6,000 hours of training in at least three years, but no more than six years.

How long does the apprenticeship last?

The apprentice is registered for six calendar years. The six year period continues whether or not a person is actively engaged in the practice of an apprentice dispensing optician.