

# OPTOMETRIST

## KAIMĀTAI WHATU

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**Kia Ora Hauora**  
Supporting Māori into Health

## WHAT IS AN OPTOMETRIST?

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For people with eye infections, major eye allergies, eye disease and glaucoma, ocular therapeutics (medicine treatments for the eye) are often required. A therapeutic optometrist is approved to provide these treatments where appropriate to their patients.

Optometrists may do some or all of the following:

- examine eyes to diagnose vision problems and eye diseases
- provide solutions to vision problems, including prescribing glasses and contact lenses
- monitor or manage eye diseases, such as allergies, cataracts and glaucoma
- prescribe medicines to treat eye diseases
- prescribe and fit glasses, contact lenses and other visual aids

## WHERE DO OPTOMETRISTS WORK?

Optometrists can work in clinical rooms, retail optical chains, private practice and hospitals.

## WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

Complete a five-year Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom) at the University of Auckland

The Bachelor of Optometry degree at the University of Auckland is the only programme in New Zealand that will enable a graduate to apply for registration to practice as an optometrist in the country.

## WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

To apply for the Bachelor of Optometry programme directly from secondary school you must have completed a prescribed 120-point Science year at the University of Auckland or equivalent programme of study.

NCEA Level 3 credits in at least three of the following:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Maths
- English
- Te Reo Māori (optional)

