

OPHTHALMOLOGISTS



OPTOMETRISTS

Ophthalmologists and optometrists have dramatically different levels of education and training. Ophthalmologists are trained extensively in:



How medications interact with other drugs.



How a patient's health history must be understood before writing a script.



How to identify and prevent adverse reactions.

Optometrists do not have the same level of training.



Expanding optometrists' scope of practice would be dangerous for patients.



Expanding optometrists' scope is not necessary from an access to care or from a consumer cost standpoint.



Florida is already among the most permissive states for optometrists.



OPHTHALMOLOGISTS



OPTOMETRISTS

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F P
T O Z

EDUCATION

4 years of undergraduate coursework and 4 years of medical school:



Comprehensive training in the human body:

- + ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY
- + CLINICAL TRAINING
- + PHYSIOLOGY
- + PHARMACOLOGY
- + NEUROSCIENCE
- + MEDICINE & BEHAVIOR



Comprehensive training in all aspects of human disease:

- + PREVENTION
- + DIAGNOSIS
- + MANAGEMENT
- + TREATMENT

4 years of undergraduate coursework and 4 years in a college of optometry:



No comprehensive medical education.



Non-surgical management of some eye diseases.



Study of corrective lenses and vision exams.



POST-GRAD TRAINING



8-10 years total training.



3 or more years in a residency program.



1 or more years in internship / fellowship training



None required.



Less than 10% of optometrists participate in a residency program.



PHARMACOLOGY TRAINING



Extensive coursework through medical school, residency programs, and internship training.



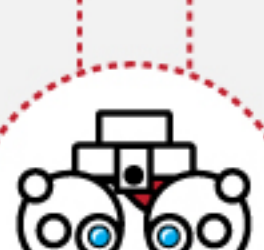
8-10 years of clinical training.



Thousands of hours of clinical prescribing experience.



Inconsistent pharmacological coursework.



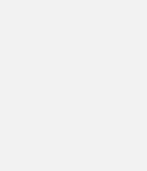
PATIENT CONTACT HOURS



Ophthalmology residents are exposed to more than **15,000** patients before practicing independently.



Over **3,000** hours in first year of Residency Training alone.



Average of **2,000** patient contact hours during optometry school.



Expanding scope of practice would be dangerous for patients:

Oral drugs impact a patient's whole body and can have dangerous side effects that optometrists are not trained to prevent or handle.



Expanding scope is not necessary from an access to care or consumer cost standpoint:

Going to an ophthalmologist is generally not any costlier for a patient, and Florida has no shortage of ophthalmologists throughout the state.



Florida is already among the most permissive states for optometrists:

Unlike many other states, Florida does not place co-management or supervision restrictions on optometrists. Most states where optometrists prescribe oral medications impose major restrictions on this authority.

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EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES