

Optometry Core Competencies (Stage 1)

In order to progress to the pre-registration period each graduate must, at the end of their University education and training:

- Hold at least a 2ii honours degree in an approved optometry course of training
- Be competent in the following “ability to do” competencies:

“Ability to do” competencies to be tracked for each student (n=31)

Communication & Professional Conduct

- (5)
- 1.1.1 Ability to communicate effectively with the patient, taking into account his/her physical, emotional, intellectual and cultural background – building a rapport
 - 1.1.4 Ability to make a patient feel at ease and informed – understanding their fears, anxieties and concerns about their visual welfare in the eye examination and its outcome.
 - 1.2.1 Ability to take a structured, efficient, accurate history and symptoms from patients with a range of ophthalmic problems and needs.
 - 1.2.2 Ability to produce comprehensive, legible and organised record keeping with appropriate detail and grading
 - 1.3.2 Ability to interpret and respond appropriately to patient records and other relevant information.

Visual Function & Ametropia

- (4)
- 3.1.1 Ability to measure visual function of patients of any age with appropriate tests and techniques
 - 3.1.3 Ability to assess visual function in patients with visual impairment.
 - 3.2.2 Ability to use subjective and objective techniques to identify and quantify ametropia
 - 3.2.3 Ability to use appropriate ocular drugs diagnostically and to aid refraction.

Optical Appliances

- (3)
- 4.1.1 Ability to advise on, order and to dispense the most suitable form of optical correction taking into account durability, comfort, cosmetic appearance, age and lifestyle.
 - 4.1.2 Ability to adjust a spectacle frame or mount to optimise physical and optical performance.
 - 4.2.1 Ability to measure and verify optical appliances, taking into account relevant standards.

Ocular Examination

- (8)
- 5.1.1 Ability to examine for abnormalities of the external eye and adnexa using appropriate instruments and techniques
 - 5.1.2 Ability to examine for abnormalities of the cornea using appropriate instruments and techniques
 - 5.1.3 Ability to use contact and non-contact tonometers to measure intraocular pressure and analyse and interpret the results.
 - 5.1.4 Ability to examine for abnormalities in the anterior chamber.
 - 5.1.5 Ability to examine for abnormalities in the iris and assess pupil reflexes
 - 5.1.6 Ability to examine for abnormalities in the crystalline lens using appropriate instruments and techniques
 - 5.1.7 Ability to examine for abnormalities in the vitreous and fundi using appropriate instruments and techniques
 - 5.1.9 Ability to select appropriate, and use safely, the range of ophthalmic drugs and diagnostic stains available to an optometrist

Ocular Abnormalities

(2 + 2 Grey)

- 6.1.1 Ability to take a structured ophthalmic history taking into account awareness of risk factors of ocular and systemic disease (see 1.2.1).
- 6.2.1. Ability to assess visual function and the appearance of the eye and adnexa (see 3 & 5)
- 6.3.1 Ability to interpret signs and symptoms of ocular abnormality.
- 6.4.1. Ability to make an appropriate management plan, including the ability to make appropriate urgent referrals, for each patient and to involve the patient in the decision making process.

Contact Lenses

(4 + 3 Grey)

- 7.1.1 Ability to take an appropriate history and symptoms including previous contact lens wear (see 1.2.1).
- 7.1.2 Ability to assess anterior eye health (see 5.1.1 and 5.1.2).
- 7.2.1 Ability to quantify corneal shape and size, and pupil (see 5.1.2).
- 7.2.2 Ability to select the optimum lens.
- 7.3.2 Ability to assess and optimise lens fit.
- 7.4.1 Ability to teach a patient to safely insert, remove and care for contact lenses.
- 7.5.1 Ability to monitor and manage the anterior eye health of contact lens wearers.

Binocular Vision

(4 + 1 Grey)

- 8.1.1 Ability to take an appropriate binocular vision and/or child's history (see 1.2.1).
- 8.2.1 Ability to assess eye alignment and eye movements.
- 8.2.2 Ability to assess sensory fusion and stereopsis.
- 8.2.3 Ability to assess oculomotor function.
- 8.2.4 Ability to assess accommodation.

Visual Impairment

(1 + 2 Grey)

- 9.1.1 Ability to take an appropriate history of a visually impaired patient (see 1.2.1).
- 9.1.3 Ability to accurately quantify visual impairment and relate it to the underlying pathology and functional consequences (see 3.1.1).
- 9.3.2 Ability to advise on the use of optical and non-optical aids.