



Eyes on the Future: Exploring Career Paths in Optometry



NEURO OPTOMETRIC REHABILITATION OPTOMETRIST

Visual problems are often overlooked during initial treatment of a brain injury and in some cases; symptoms may not be present until sometime following the injury. A standard eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist may not fully reveal the extent of the impact on the visual process.

People who have suffered a neurological insult, like a concussion, and are encountering visual symptoms, can find value in undergoing a vision assessment by a Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Optometrist. This specialized eye care professional focuses on diagnosing, treating, and rehabilitating neurological conditions that have a negative impact on the visual system.

Neuro-optometry examines not just the quality of vision, but also how vision is impacted by neurological events like traumatic brain injury or concussion. It also focuses

on conditions like multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, Parkinson's disease, and cerebrovascular accidents (strokes). Additionally, neuro-optometry addresses other conditions that can advance to affect the nervous system, such as Lyme disease. Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Optometrists also collaborate with a range of other rehabilitation team members, including neurologists, rehabilitation physicians, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, neuropsychologists, and audiologists.

Training and Resources

Neuro-optometry is a highly specialized field that requires continuous learning and development. This involves attending conferences, keeping up with specialized literature, and engaging in networking opportunities with other professionals in the field.

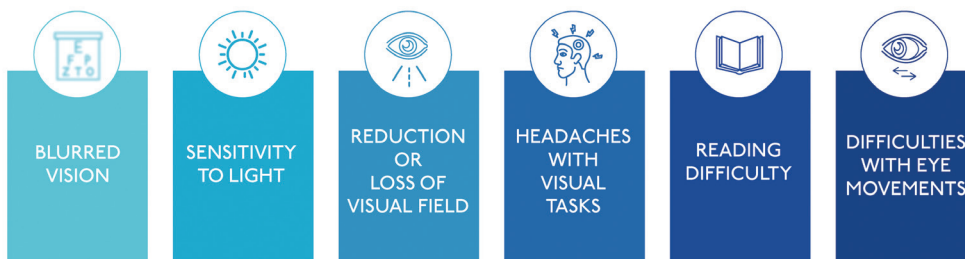
Once you have obtained your license as an optometrist, you have the opportunity to specialize in neuro-optometry. One way to do this is by seeking mentorship from an experienced neuro-optometrist who can guide you in this specialized field. Another option is to pursue fellowships provided by reputable organizations such as:

- **Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association (NORA)**
noravisionrehab.org
- **Optometric Vision Development & Rehabilitation Association (OVDRA)**
<https://www.covd.org/>

These fellowships can offer valuable training and experience to further develop your expertise in neuro-optometry.

Note: These credentialing programs can take anywhere from 4 to 10 years to complete for fellowship status.

Studies show that **90%** of Traumatic Brain Injury patients suffer from Visual Dysfunctions such as:



noravisionrehab.org

Opportunity

The field of Neuro-optometry is experiencing growth and expansion due to increasing knowledge about vision and its connection to other brain functions. In addition to offering patients rehabilitation therapy and neuro-optometric vision rehabilitation, there are opportunities to contribute to the progress of neuro-optometry. Researchers in this field are actively investigating the correlation between vision and brain function, with the goal of creating groundbreaking rehabilitation and treatment approaches for a range of conditions.



Why choose this path?

What drew me to neuro-optometry—and what keeps me inspired every day—is the chance to help people in truly life-changing ways. When someone has a brain injury or neurological condition, it can disrupt not only how they see, but how they function in everyday life. Being able to restore visual processing and give someone back their confidence, independence, or athletic performance is incredibly rewarding.

I've also had the opportunity to collaborate with professionals across medicine, rehabilitation, and sports—creating multidisciplinary care teams that help patients heal faster and more completely. This field is constantly evolving, and every day is a chance to learn, innovate, and make a real difference.

DeAnn Fitzgerald, OD

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