



**NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

*Dr. James C. Williamson*

*President*

September 18, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Presidents  
Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Wesley E. Beddard, Associate Vice President  
Programs

SUBJECT: State Board Action September 15, 2017

On September 15, 2017, the State Board of Community Colleges approved the following new curriculum standard:

**Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate) (C45880)**

A Tier 1B funding classification for the new Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant curriculum prefix (OSA) has been approved. A copy of the new Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant curriculum standard and courses are attached.

You may view all curriculum standards and courses by visiting the Academic Programs website at: <http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/academic-programs>.

If you have any questions concerning the September State Board action item listed above, please contact Ms. Jennifer Frazelle at 919.807.7120 or [frazellej@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:frazellej@nccommunitycolleges.edu).

WB/JF/gr  
Attachments

c: Dr. Lisa M. Chapman  
Ms. Jennifer Frazelle  
Ms. Elizabeth Self  
Program Coordinators

CC17-045  
Email

# CURRICULUM STANDARD

*Effective Term  
Fall 2018  
[2018\*03]*

Curriculum Program Title	<b>Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate)</b>	Program Code	<b>C45880</b>
Concentration	<b>(not applicable)</b>	CIP Code	<b>51.0909</b>

## ***Curriculum Description***

This curriculum is designed to prepare qualified Ophthalmic Personnel with the educational preparation necessary to assume the role of the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant.

Students will apply theoretical knowledge to the care of ophthalmic surgical patients and develop the skills necessary to prepare supplies, equipment, and instruments; maintain aseptic conditions; prepare patients for ophthalmic surgery; and assist Ophthalmologists during surgery,

Graduates may be eligible to apply for the Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant national certification exam. Employment opportunities include hospitals, clinics, and educational institutions.

*Individuals entering the certificate curriculum must currently be employed as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA).*

## ***Curriculum Requirements\****

***[for associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs in accordance with 1D SBCCC 400.97 (3)]***

- I. **General Education.** Degree programs must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours including at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. Degree programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of communications. Diploma programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of general education; 3 semester hours must be in communications. General education is optional in certificate programs.
- II. **Major Hours.** AAS, diploma, and certificate programs must include courses which offer specific job knowledge and skills. Work-based learning may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit. *(See second page for additional information.)*
- III. **Other Required Hours.** A college may include courses to meet graduation or local employer requirements in a certificate, diploma, or associate in applied science program. These curriculum courses shall be selected from the Combined Course Library and must be approved by the System Office prior to implementation. Restricted, unique, or free elective courses may not be included as other required hours.

	<b>AAS</b>	<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
Minimum General Education Hours	15	6	0
Minimum Major Hours	49	30	12
Other Required Hours	0-7	0-4	0-1
<b>Total Semester Hours Credit in Program</b>	<b>64-76</b>	<b>36-48</b>	<b>12-18</b>

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*\*Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic use of computers.*

## Major Hours

[ref. 1D SBCCC 400.97 (3)]

- A. Core.** The subject/course core is comprised of subject areas and/or specific courses which are required for each curriculum program. A diploma program offered under an approved AAS program standard or a certificate which is the highest credential level awarded under an approved AAS program standard must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit derived from the subject/course core of the AAS program.
- B. Concentration (if applicable).** A concentration of study must include a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit from required subjects and/or courses. The majority of the course credit hours are unique to the concentration. The required subjects and/or courses that make up the concentration of study are in addition to the required subject/course core.
- C. Other Major Hours.** Other major hours must be selected from prefixes listed on the curriculum standard. A maximum of 9 semester hours of credit may be selected from any prefix listed, with the exception of prefixes listed in the core or concentration. Work-based learning may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit.

### Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (Certificate) (C45880)

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
<b>Minimum Major Hours Required</b>	<b>49 SHC</b>	<b>30 SHC</b>	<b>12 SHC</b>
<b>A. CORE</b>			<b>13 SHC</b>
<b>Required Courses:</b>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding-left: 40px;"> <div style="width: 15%;">OPH 151</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Ocular Anatomy and Physiology</div> <div style="width: 15%;">2 SHC</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding-left: 40px;"> <div style="width: 15%;">OSA 101</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Intro to Ophthalmic Surg Asst</div> <div style="width: 15%;">3 SHC</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding-left: 40px;"> <div style="width: 15%;">OSA 102</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Ophthalmic Skills &amp; Procedures</div> <div style="width: 15%;">7 SHC</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding-left: 40px;"> <div style="width: 15%;">WBL 111</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Worked-Based Learning I</div> <div style="width: 15%;">1 SHC</div> </div>			
<b>B. CONCENTRATION (if applicable)</b>			
<b>C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS</b> <i>To be selected from the following prefixes:</i>  <i>BIO, CIS, HEA, MED, OPH and OSA</i>  <i>Up to two semester hour credits may be selected from ACA.</i>			

## **Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant Courses**

### **OSA 101 Intro to Ophthalmic Surg Asst**

Class: 3      Lab: 0      Clinical: 0      Credit: 3

Prerequisites:    None

Corequisites:    OPH 151 Ocular Anatomy and Physiology

This course is designed to introduce the primary responsibilities of an Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant. Emphasis is placed on the operative environment, professional roles, and moral/legal/ethical responsibilities. Upon completion, students should be able to apply theoretical knowledge of course topics to the operative environment.

### **OSA 102 Ophthalmic Skills & Practices**

Class: 5      Lab: 6      Clinical: 0      Credit: 7

Prerequisites:    OSA 101 Intro to Ophthalmic Surg Asst

Corequisites:    None

This course introduces students to ophthalmic surgical procedures and minor surgery. Emphasis is placed on basic aseptic technique, surgical set-ups, gowning, and gloving, ophthalmic surgical instruments, and essential steps in common ophthalmic surgical procedures. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the principles and practice of aseptic technique, sterile attire, basic ophthalmic case preparation, and other relevant skills.