



JOIN US! NOVEMBER 3-9 AOP WEEK 2024



**CELEBRATE AOP
AND THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS**



15th Annual Allied Ophthalmic Personnel Week

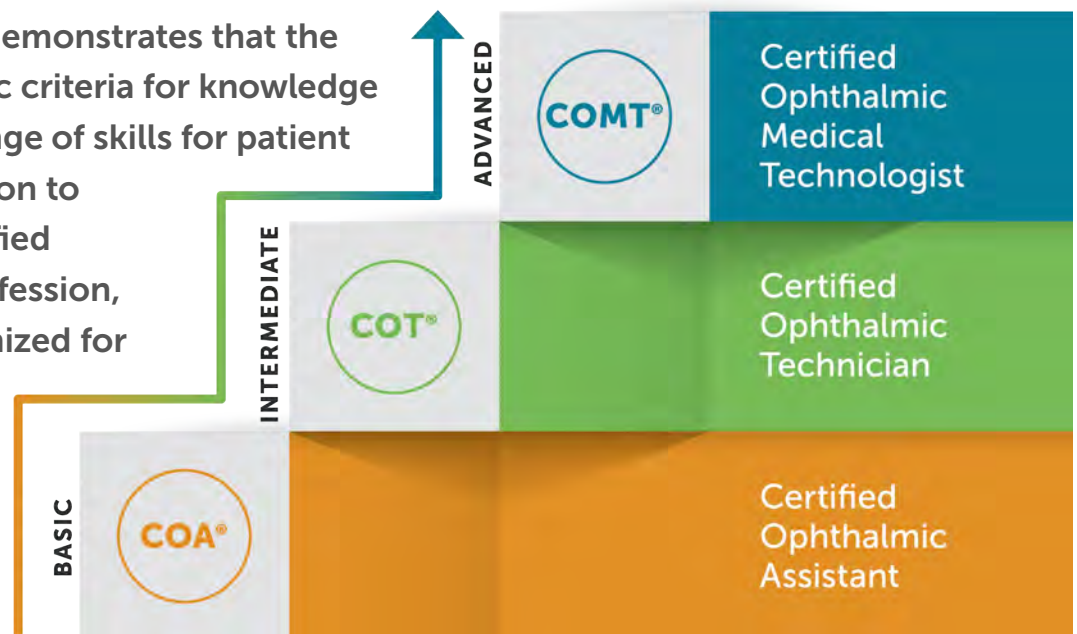


AOP Week is promoted by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO®) to recognize AOP's contribution to eye care and increase public awareness of ophthalmic career opportunities.

AOP improve the quality and delivery of eye care and are crucial members of the eye care team. The role of AOP is constantly evolving; technicians are involved in all aspects of an ophthalmic practice.

Core Levels of Certification

IJCAHPO certification demonstrates that the individual meets specific criteria for knowledge and masters a broad range of skills for patient examination. The decision to become IJCAHPO certified exhibits pride in the profession, motivation to be recognized for proficiency of the certification content, and a commitment to ophthalmic patient care.



Each level of certification has prerequisite eligibility requirements and examination processes. AOP may progress from one level of certification to the next through work experience and examination. Formal training can also serve as an entry point to certification at any of the core levels.

Celebration Ideas

Create an AOP Spotlight:

Shine the spotlight on your amazing AOP team with a "Wall of Fame"! Each day during AOP Week, feature a different staff member in your waiting room or break room, showcasing their fun facts, awesome achievements, and glowing patient feedback. It's a great way to celebrate each team member's unique contributions and show some love for the rock stars who keep your practice running smoothly!

Create an Eye Care Award:

Get your patients in on the fun by asking them to nominate their favorite AOP for an exclusive "Eye Care Award"! The AOP with the most shout-outs will score a special gift card, so let the nominations roll in!

Contribute to AOP Growth:

Support AOP members by contributing to their professional development. Arrange for them to attend a conference or a webinar series, or purchase study materials for their next certification.

Personalize Appreciation Letters from Leadership:

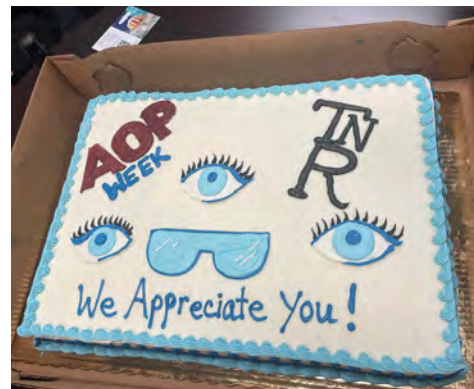
Write personalized letters to each AOP, acknowledging their specific contributions and how they've made a difference in patient care. These can be read aloud in team meetings or delivered in special envelopes.

Share the Love in Your Employee Newsletter:

Feature information on AOP week in your employee newsletter. This is a perfect way to rally support, show appreciation, and make sure the whole team knows how valued your AOPs are!

Recognize Your Team's Accomplishments:

Reward AOP through small gifts such as gift cards, mugs, treats, pupil charts, or pen lights. See some examples from past years below!



Celebrate AOP Week With Style

AOP week is the perfect opportunity to show your AOP how much you appreciate all the work they do. **MAKE THIS YEAR SPECIAL!** Give your whole office a fun celebration. Share **STORIES, BEST PRACTICES, or INTERESTING CASE STUDIES** to strengthen your AOP community. Surprise your staff with a **DECORATED LUNCH ROOM** and **FANCY SNACKS**. Have **LUNCH** or **BREAKFAST CATERED**. **UPGRADE THE OFFICE COFFEE** for a day—or the whole week. Don't forget that **SMALL GESTURES** can have a **BIG IMPACT**.



ONLY \$515
THROUGH NOVEMBER 9th

Clinic CE Subscription SALE EXTENDED

Celebrate AOP Week 2024 with a Clinic CE Subscription

AOP week is a great way to celebrate all the hard work your team does while helping them advance their career. October's Clinic CE Subscription sale is now EXTENDED until November 9th, 2024!



Get The Word Out!

Public Awareness

Host an in-person or virtual open house where people can tour your facility and learn about AOP careers. Invite the media to attend.

Write a press release about your AOP career open house and distribute it to local media (a sample press release is provided).

Send a public service announcement (PSA) to local radio stations (sample PSA is provided).

Display a poster highlighting AOP Week in the reception area of your facility (posters are provided).

Recruitment

Send posters and information about AOP careers to high school counselors and unemployment offices asking them to post the information in a visible location.

Share AOP testimonials with IJCAHPO on how they got started, what they love about their job, and how they celebrated AOP Week. These may be used in future IJCAHPO publications, including the www.DiscoverEyeCareers.org website!

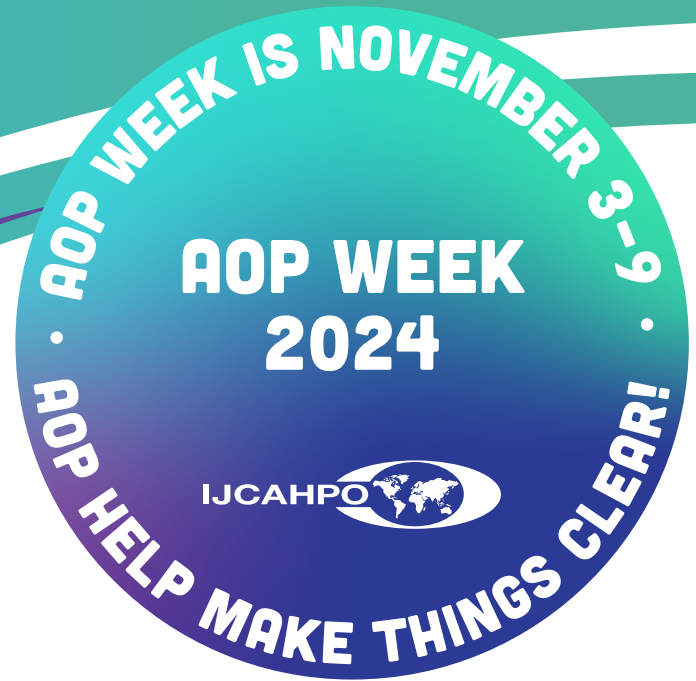
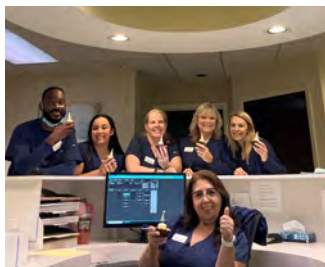
Advertise your AOP Week open house in the "Help Wanted" section of the classified ads in your local newspaper.

Share the video, "There is a Career In Sight for You!" <https://bit.ly/CareersInSight>.



10 Steps to AOP Success

1. Get approval from your doctor or clinic manager to observe AOP Week with planned outreach activities.
2. Recruit a committee of co-workers to brainstorm ideas and then narrow them down to the best two or three.
3. Identify your target audience. Decide how to reach them.
4. Determine a budget for planned activities.
5. Break down each activity into steps so everyone knows what has to be done.
6. Create a plan for getting each step done. Assign tasks and set deadlines for completion.
7. Schedule regular meetings to provide status reports to ensure that assignments are being completed.
8. Take photos of your celebration for follow-up media coverage or for posting online, and share with IJCAHPO.
9. Evaluate results, what worked and what did not, and keep record of both to assist in future planning.
10. Send thank you notes to media and others who helped make your celebration a success.



Tips on Generating Media Coverage

Tell the media about this field and share the importance of eye care and your AOP team.

NEWSPAPERS: Contact the city editor or managing editor with your press release or discuss the possibility of a feature story about your plans for AOP Week.

TELEVISION: Contact the news director with your press release. Remember that TV is all about visuals, so plan something that is visually interesting to attract TV coverage for your open house (i.e., demonstration of diagnostic procedure or interviews with a designated spokesperson).

RADIO: Contact the news director with your press release and the program director to see if there is a local talk show on which your designated spokesperson might call in to promote your open house and discuss AOP careers.

INTERNET: Post your press release and any other information on your organization's website and email it to contacts that might be interested (e.g., college placement directors, high school counselors, and other local organizations).

Sample Press Release

Develop a press release (a sample is provided below) for distribution to media in your area. Your press release should be distributed no more than 10 days in advance to avoid getting lost. Follow up by phone a week before your open house to remind media and ask if coverage can be expected.

- Include who, what, where, when, and why in the first paragraph.
- Keep each paragraph short and the entire release no longer than one page in length.
- Be sure to include basic facts about your facility in the press release as well as contact information for any media desiring more information.
- Remember that organizations do not speak—people do. Attribute direct quotes to a person and not an organization. Identify anyone quoted with full name and title.

<YOUR CLINIC NAME> to Sponsor Eye Care Careers Open House for Immediate Release

Contact: _____

The <INSERT LOCATION> will hold a “Careers In Sight” Open House on <INSERT DATE AND TIME> as part of a national campaign to introduce patients and the public to career opportunities in the eye care field. Allied Ophthalmic Personnel play an important role in patient care and are an essential part of the eye care team.

<INSERT NAME & CERTIFICATION>, open house coordinator, states the event will include information about a day in the life of an ophthalmic medical technician, qualifications needed for entry-level jobs, how career advancement occurs, and an overview of the salaries, benefits, and other advantages of working in eye care. Allied Ophthalmic Personnel with varying levels of education and experience will be on hand to share their personal stories and career insights.

“Almost every day, one of my patients will ask me about my job,” said <NAME AND CERTIFICATION>. “This is a great way for people to learn more about the profession, and how they might become a part of it. It’s quite common for patients or family members to become interested in eye care after experiencing eye problems and receiving or observing the process of diagnosis and treatment.”

<PHYSICIAN’S NAME> said, “Recruiting new people into the eye care field is important because a shortage of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel is a growing problem.”

“We look for people who are interested in health and medicine, who like working as part of a team, and who love helping people,” <PHYSICIAN’S NAME> said. “Most entry-level AOP jobs only require a high school diploma and a willingness to learn on the job.” A variety of continuing education and certification opportunities are also available to those who want to advance in the profession.

More information on the Open House is available by calling <INSERT PHONE NUMBER> or on the clinic’s website, <INSERT CLINIC’S WEBSITE>.

Visit www.DiscoverEyeCareers.org to learn more about the profession.

WE ♥ AOP



Sample Radio Recruitment Announcement

Contact the program director at the radio station to determine the proper procedure for the submission of public service announcements (PSAs). In most cases, the station will use its own on-air talent to record the spot for free. Here is sample copy for a 30-second spot.

Are you interested in a high paying, in-demand, and rewarding career? Stop looking and start seeing yourself as a member of an eye care team in ophthalmology. It's Allied Ophthalmic Personnel Week and to celebrate, <INSERT CLINIC'S NAME> is hosting a Careers In Sight Open House on <date and time>.

Contact <INSERT CLINIC'S NAME> to learn about rewarding careers in eye care. You will talk to Allied Ophthalmic Personnel and learn what they do, how much you could make, and how to get started.

It's "Careers In Sight" Open House at <CLINIC NAME>, in <CITY>. Visit our website <INSERT WEB ADDRESS> to sign up.



Photo Credits

Cover: amaEyes: Agnone Morrison & Associates (2023)

Page 2: Virginia Pediatric Eye Center (2022)

Page 3: From left to right - Hawaiian Eye Center on Oahu (2019), Maumee Eye Clinic (2017), Tennessee Retina (2023)

Page 4: From left to right - TWellstar/MCG Health Eye Clinic (2023), University Center for Vision Care (2023), Virginia Pediatric Eye Center (2023), Illinois Retina & Eye Associates (2021)

Page 5: From left to right - Cullom & Farah Eye and Laser Center (2023), Pennachio Eye (2023)

Page 7: From left to right - WK Eye Institute (2022), Uconn Health (2023)

Publicity Form

Tell us how you celebrated Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Week.

Contact Name: _____ Position: _____

Physician/Supervisor Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Category (Choose one):

- Ophthalmic Clinic
- Ophthalmic Training Program
- Ophthalmic Association
- Other _____

The information you provide will allow us to share your stories and pictures with the ophthalmic community!

In the area below, please provide details on how you celebrated AOP Week. Tell us about any activities or events you held and their successes. Please include any sample materials or photos of the events and/or celebratory activities you participated in. **Make sure to also include** a photo release (provided) for each person in the picture so we can share your images in print and through our digital channels during AOP Week and in the future.

Send this form to IJCAHPO, 2025 Woodlane Drive, St. Paul, MN 55125-2998

You may also e-mail this form and any supporting materials to photos@jcahpo.org

NOTE: Pictures, supporting materials, and content will not be returned.



Consent and Release for Use of Image

I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use by International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology and its assignees and licensees, (hereinafter referred to as "IJCAHPO") of any and all photographs, images, and likenesses taken of me and any reproduction of them in any form in any media whatsoever (hereinafter referred to as the "Image(s)").

Without my further consent, I understand that IJCAHPO may use the Images as IJCAHPO may choose, including without limitation, in connection with all books, brochures, pamphlets, advertising or other works ("Work"), in any medium, including but not limited to, print and electronic, and in any derivative work based thereon throughout the world, and to use them to publicize, promote and advertise such Work, including but not limited to, use for point of sale advertising.

I also irrevocably consent to IJCAHPO's use of my own name or any fictitious name which may be used or associated with the Images.

I hereby release any and all claims of any kind I may otherwise have against IJCHAPO its employees, contractors and agents in connection with the capturing of the Images, use of the Images and association of my name or a fictitious name and the reproduction to the fullest extent authorized under applicable law.

I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect and/or approve the Images or Work or the advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it may be applied. I am over 21 years of age. (If under 21, see attached certification.)

Individual's Signature _____

Individual's Name (Print) _____

Mailing Address (Print) _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

If the individual executing the Release is under the age of 21, the following acknowledgment is required from the individual's parent or legal guardian.

I hereby certify that I am the parent or legal guardian (circle one) of the individual who executed the foregoing Release. Acting both for myself individually and on behalf of said individual, I consent to the execution of the foregoing irrevocable Consent and Release by said individual and the grant of the rights made therein.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Relationship to Minor _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

AOP Week 2024

*Place your eye care
team's photo here.*

Celebrating Our Eye Care Team!



November 3–9