

MATHS SKILL: “Solve problems using equations, formulae or statistical methods to investigate situations and their probability”

Used in the workplace at Norville Opticians:

Independent optician with eleven practices in and around Gloucestershire.



Julie Baines, Manager and Dispensing Optician at Norville Opticians, Stonehouse

“I regularly use formulae in my work as a dispensing optician at Norville when adjusting and fitting prescribed lenses for customers. For example, when I fit a pair of glasses I need to be able to assess if a frame is suitable for a specific prescription – I do this using something called the ‘lens thickness formula’.

When I check the glasses, I make sure the centres of the lenses are in the correct place to get the optimum vision. If they are incorrect I need to use the ‘prismatic effect formula’ to check how much prism is induced. Sometimes the glasses need to be remade if this is too much or too little.

With experience you learn to accurately assess these things through measurement. However, the use of formulae in our work is a skill that never leaves you - we have to be so accurate in our work, so that we can achieve the very best vision for our patients.”

About Norville Opticians

A leading independent optician with eleven practices in and around Gloucestershire. Norville Opticians was founded 100 years ago and is still family owned today. They provide a full range of eye care services including eye examinations, a comprehensive selection of frames and lenses, contact lenses, sunglasses, plus an adjustment service.

Norville only use qualified optometrists and dispensing staff, all of whom are registered with the General Optical Council for eye examinations and fittings.

Who do Norville Opticians Employ?

Currently 60 staff across all practices, including:

- Optometrists
- Managers
- Dispensing Opticians and student Dispensing Opticians
- Receptionists

Range of Salaries: Starting from c£12k-£14k a year for student Dispensing Opticians, rising to c£30k for qualified dispensing opticians. With experience, Optometrists can earn up to £50k.

Skills Shortages: We find it hard to recruit Optometrists with enough experience to work in our practices. Also, it can be difficult to find opticians and optometrists that can communicate well with a wide range of people and put our customers at ease.

Useful Links

www.norville-opticians.co.uk

www.college-optometrists.org

www.abdo.org.uk



See the accompanying film production for more on the use of this skill.

Video summary: dispensing opticians need to solve problems using formulae at Norville Opticians so that...

- The frame is suitable for the prescribed lens
- The glasses fit and sit correctly on the patient's face
- The best vision is achieved for the customer.