

Lily Jones

Speice 3A

Independent Study and Mentorship

18, December 2018

The Logistics of Being an Optometrist

Assessment 11- Interview

Name of Professional: Darlene Jones

Title: O.D.

Company: Contact Lens and EyeCare Gallery

Date of Interview: November 28, 2018

Works Cited:

Jones, Lilian M, "The Logistics of Being an Optometrist." 18 Dec. 2018.

Assessment: The fourth interview was a phone interview with Dr. Darlene Jones.

Fortunately, this interview was scheduled quickly and was conducted during ISM school hours. Dr. Jones was able to inform me of a typical day she would experience and the straightforward details about how optometry works in reality. Interestingly, Dr. Jones received her major in Biochemistry. This is important to know because she was able to explore a more specific field of biology. Rather than having a degree directly in Biology, Dr. Jones was able to witness a more detailed and intricate branch. If general biology does not interest me and I would like to get a more detailed degree, biochemistry may be a valid option.

When asking Dr. Jones about what advice she would give to young college students who have just received their Doctorate in Optometry, she highlighted the fact that individuals should be advised to first work in a large cooperation, and then take the business skills learned to later apply in an individual practice. By having business experience over time, this will significantly help a young individual with their private practice, either being a success or failure in the world. In addition to her advice, Dr. Jones told me her favorite and most frustrating parts of her job.

While asking Dr. Jones what the best and worst parts of her job are, her answers were very similar to what other optometrists have said and their opinions about the occupation. Dr. Darlene Jones noted that the most rewarding part of her day is being able to help people and influence their lives positively. Assisting vision and providing proper eye care for patients is the best part of her job. However, there are negatives to the title also. One major issue that many optometrists have voiced, especially the ones that have been interviewed, is that managing insurance is a large frustration in this field. When working with people, health insurance levels differ, depending on the income and financial situations. She thinks that communicating with various insurance companies and dealing with the feedback is the most challenging obstacle as an optometrist. Getting everything filled and secured is a major problem that many medical offices have to deal with. This issue is mainly behind the scenes of many medical fields and primarily depends on the patient and their personal needs. Since all optometrists that have been interview thus far have claimed that insurance is tricky to deal with, it would be interesting to find out why and how this problem is a struggle everyday. With the first Mentor Visit coming up, this question would be great to ask my

mentor. More patients should be aware of these common issues and how their insurance policies will respond. Insurance complications are probably preventable, but it would be captivating to learn the differences between how insurance is dealt with in both private practices and large businesses.

As the interview came to a conclusion, Dr. Jones gave an idea for an Original Work piece. With her observations and years in the field, Dr. Jones pointed out that making people more aware of the idea that they need to take better care of their eyes, is essential. Many patients are unaware of the potential diseases and detrimental blindness that is associated with poor eye care.

With these ideas, I am trying to correlate these thoughts into the Original Work piece. With the planned “Free Eye Exams Drive” for children in need, I would like to start the process in an elementary school. Reaching out to kids, specifically elementary students, pertains to the target audience most in need. Children will best benefit from this drive because most children and their parents are not aware that their kid is in need of corrective lenses. In addition to asking about insurance, topics such as sponsorships and more details will be discussed during the first mentor visit, in order to hopefully make the drive a success.

[Interview Notes](#)