



ISSUE MEMORANDUM

DATE	April 23, 2021
TO	Members, Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC)
FROM	Alexnader A. Juarez, Enforcement Analyst
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #5: Presentation by Optician Training Programs and Professional Associations; Discussion and Possible Action

As part of the DOC's statutorily mandated duties under [BPC §3020](#), the DOC is charged with recommending registration standards and criteria for the registration of dispensing opticians, nonresident contact lens sellers, spectacle lens dispensers, and contact lens dispensers. A critical component of these duties is to understand the issues surrounding educational programs and job requirements in the field.

Previously, the DOC indicated a desire for various optician schools and professional associations to present on their programs and issues they face. As a result, staff invited optician education programs and professional associations to make a short presentation at the DOC meeting on September 17, 2020. Each presenter provided an overview of their programs, history and views on the practice of opticianry in California.

As a follow up to September's meeting, Board Staff contacted previous presentors and additional interested parties to present updated information regarding their programs. The following programs/associations are scheduled to present:

- Ruby Garcia, California State Society of Opticians
- Erin Soutas, Target Optical
- Lynnette Garcia, Kenyatta University

Additional information or materials provided by the program/association is included as attachment A.

Memo

Date: March 31, 2021

To: Dispensing Optician Committee

From: M. Ruby Garcia, CSSO Executive Officer

Subject: Educational Development

Educational program updates, updated statistics, and current number of students enrolled.

Current College Program Plans

Open indicates college programs will open enrollment during listed sessions

<p>Canada College - Hybrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABO Certificate Program 12 to 16 weeks • NCLE Certificate Program 12 to 16 weeks 	<p>2020 - Fall Session: 23-Students 2021 - Spring Session: Currently Enrolling</p>
<p>Moorpark College - Hybrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABO Certificate Program 8 weeks • NCLE Certificate Program 8 weeks • 2-Year AS- Degree Program 	<p>2021 - Summer Session: Open</p>
<p>College of Marin - Hybrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABO Certificate Program 12 to 24 weeks 	<p>2021 – Fall Session: Open</p>
<p>Sacramento City College - Hybrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABO Certificate Program 12 to 16 weeks • NCLE Certificate Program 12 to 16 weeks • 2-Year AS- Degree Program 	<p>2022 – Fall Session: Open</p>
<p>CSSO & College 1-Year Apprenticeship - Hybrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 144-hours Class • 1,000-hours On-the-Job 	<p>2021 – Summer Employers, CSSO & Colleges processing agreements</p>

New College Program Plans: COVID19 has a hold on plans for universities to open more **Pre-Optometry Programs** and new **Bachelor of Science Optician Programs and Internships**. Updates to come.

Curriculum updates and methods of instruction. Current COVID19 teaching methods through Zoom Meetings with 4 to 5 times in person instruction, following county safety guidelines. Once COVID19 is lifted, methods of instruction will be in-person and Zoom Meetings. Campus labs will open at each college for in person instruction.

Views on the practice of Opticianry in California:

SLD: ABO examination tests for optician occupation practices.

CLD: NCLE examination tests on fitting tools and techniques of contact lenses is not widely practiced in dispensaries. Students present concerns about not practicing fitting of contact lenses. College will teach on-campus NCLE fitting contact lenses. College Professors addressing teaching instruction on the following pathways.

- Dispensaries only dispensing boxes of contact lenses
- Dispensaries practice fitting contact lenses

Unified Standards – Professional Codes applicable dispensing. College Professors face the challenge of teaching professional codes that may not apply to all practices. Students present concerns about dispensaries professional codes applicable differently through optician practices. College Professor addressing teaching instruction on the following pathways.

- Professional Codes applicable to RDO Firms
- Professional Codes applicable to Private Practices

Positive impact of education instruction: The purpose is increase passing ABO & NCLE examination rates.

- CSSO launched online CSSO Modules with results of 90% passing ABO rate.

26-CSSO Students passing the ABO examination
3-CSSO Students not passing the ABO examination

State colleges and CSSO working together to increase ABO & NCLE passing examination rates

Influence Diversity & Access to Eye Care: By developing Opticians colleges programs colleges plan on meeting diversity goals. Encouraging diversity into Eye Health Care influences access to diversity eye care.



Cañada College

&

SM SAN MATEO ADULT &
CAREER EDUCATION

Optician Dispensing Training Program



Lynnette Garcia, ABOC - NCLE

Lynnette Garcia is an American Board Certified Optician with over 25 years of experience in the Optical (eye care) field. She has managed and worked in optical boutiques, private practices, and retail corporate settings such as Oakley Sport Performance where she contributed as a consultant and lead optician aiding in the development of a program to disrupt the eyewear industry.

Lynnette also brings to the classroom her training as a Health and Leadership Coach and outstanding interpersonal skills which have given her the ability to work with individuals, executives, doctors and staff at all levels over the course of her career.



Anne Nicholls, MBA

Anne Nicholls-Waterman has been involved in many aspects of the opticianry field over the last 38 years. She began her career at Cañada College as a student in the Ophthalmic Dispensing Program, passing both ABO and NCLE certified exams.

She worked in several optical dispensaries was the coordinator of the Ophthalmic Dispensing Program at Cañada College. Upon the program closing in 1991, Anne and her late husband Bill Waterman opened optical dispensaries as well as The Waterman Training Institute in San Mateo and Union City and Martinez, working with Opticians, Optometrists and Ophthalmologists, before Bill's retirement in 2010.

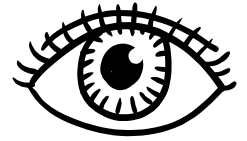
Anne continues to teach full time at Cañada College, currently coordinates the Cooperative Education Work Experience and Internship Program. She is excited to be working with and training optical dispensing students once again.



Our Mission

- The Dispensing Opticians Training Program offers students the foundational work to not only begin a career in optical, but to also acquire ABO board certification, leading to better paying jobs and more opportunity for career advancement in the optical industry.
- Upon completion of this program, students will take the national ABO examination to obtain a license to practice in California. Students will have a selection of job opportunities through large to small optical retail locations, hospitals, private practices with optometrists and ophthalmologists.



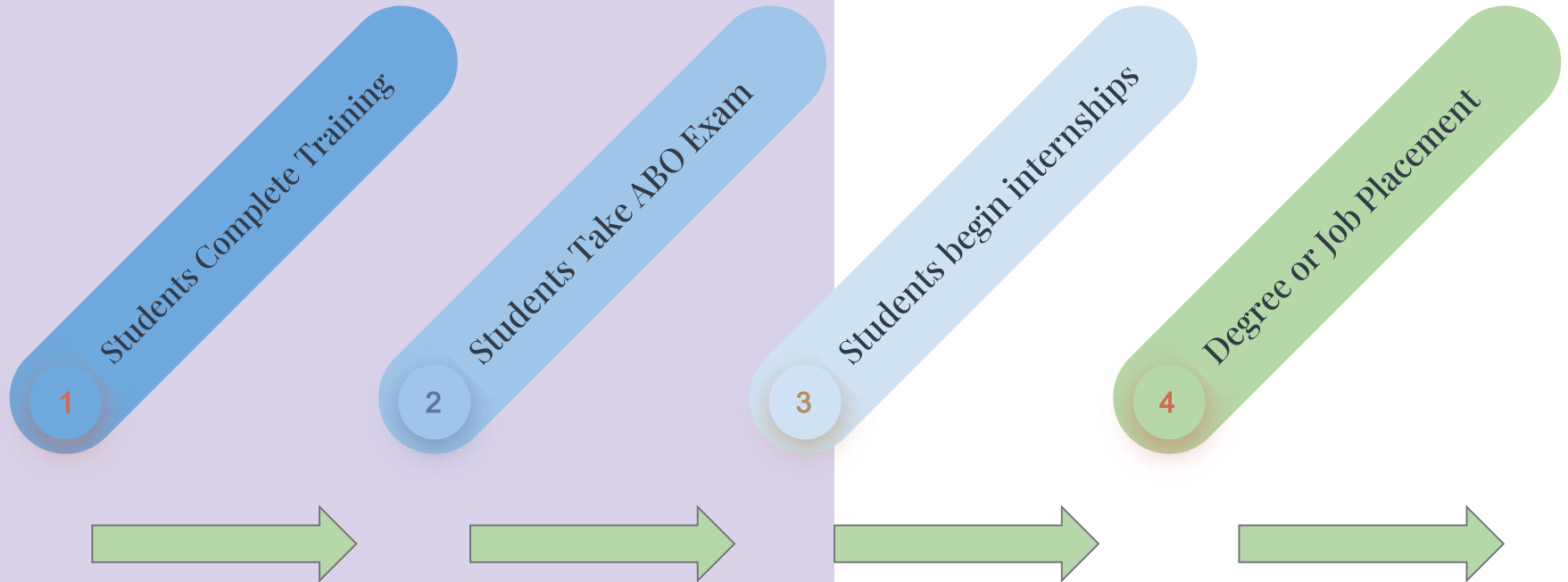


Curriculum Overview

In this program students learned..

- ✓ Anatomy of the eye
- Interpreting and Transposing Rx's
- Refractive Properties of the eye
- Eye Movement
- Ophthalmic Instruments / Vocabulary
- Tear System
- Frame Materials and Construction
- Protective coats of the eye and retina
- Prism Overview
- Uvea and eye diseases
- Customer service follow up
- Vertical imbalance and induced prism
- UV and its effect on the eye
- Cornea
- Orbit of the eye
- HIPAA
- Blood and nerves of the optical system
- Verifying finished eyewear
- Intro to contact lenses (teaser)
- ABO review

Program Model: Path for Students



At the completion of the final we took a survey

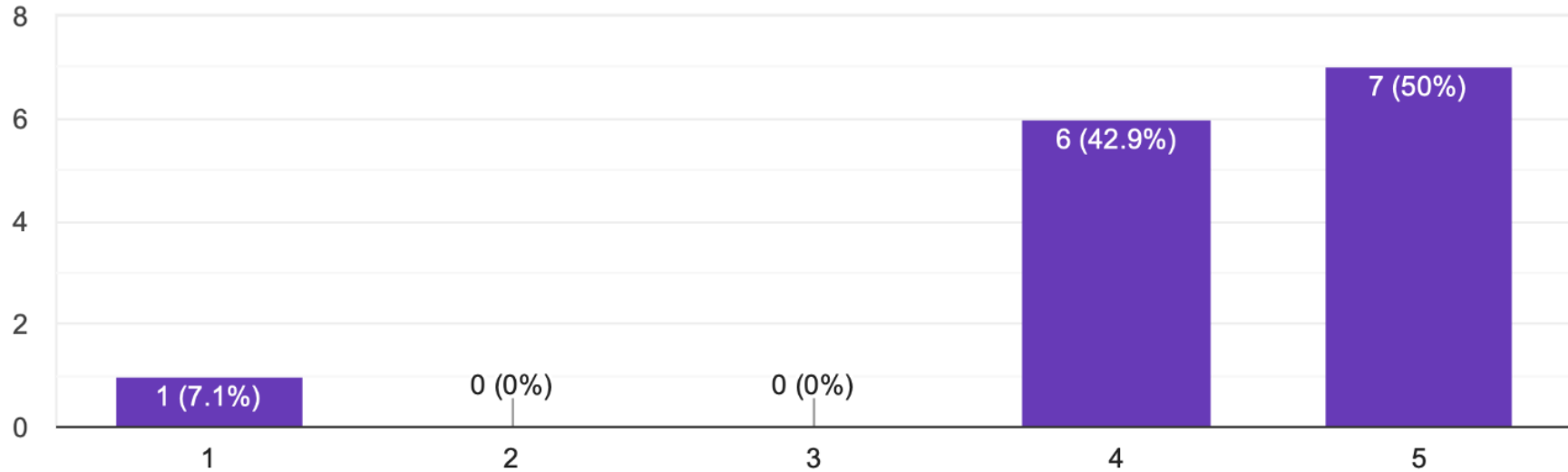
Let's see what the students have to say...

We started with 22 students with 15 completing and passing the course.



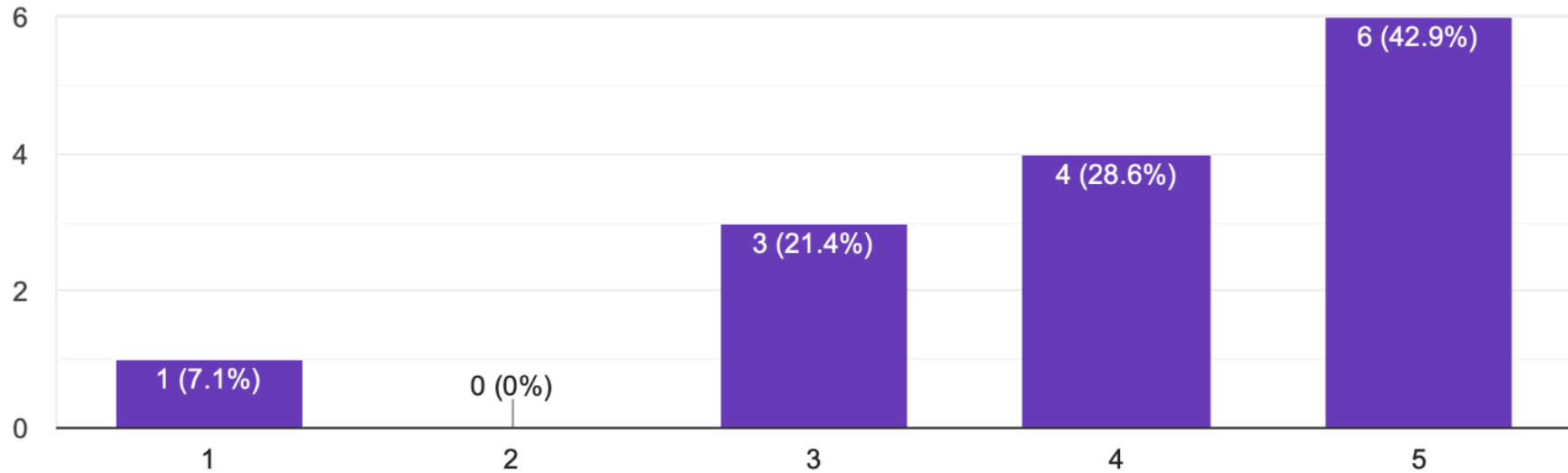
The course curriculum covered useful information.

14 responses



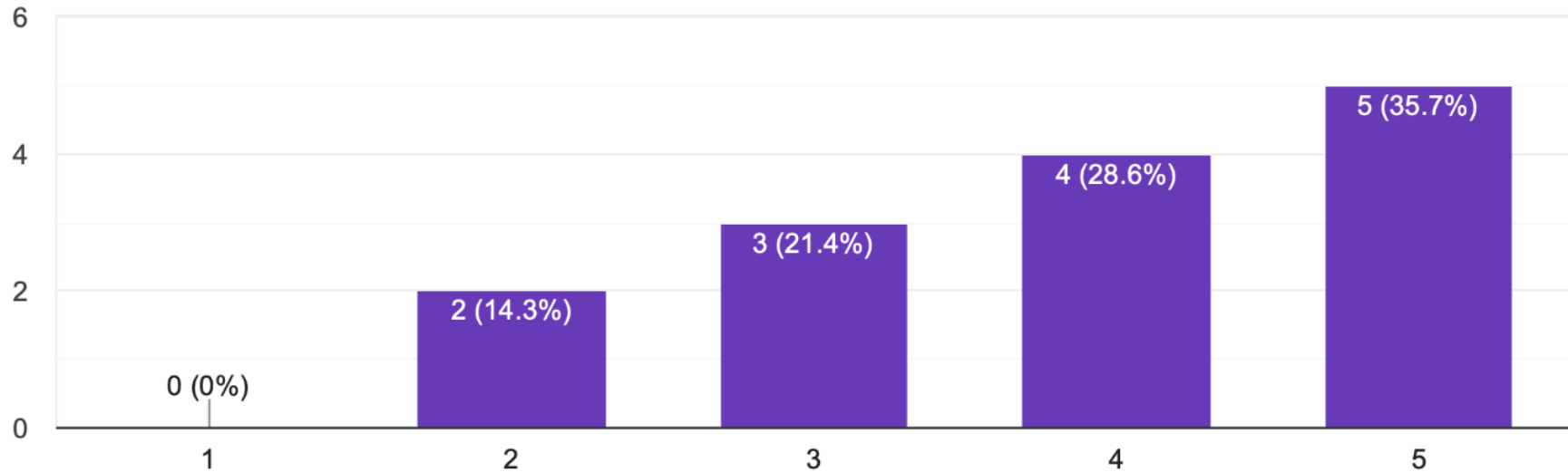
The course activities helped to reinforce the information I learned.

14 responses



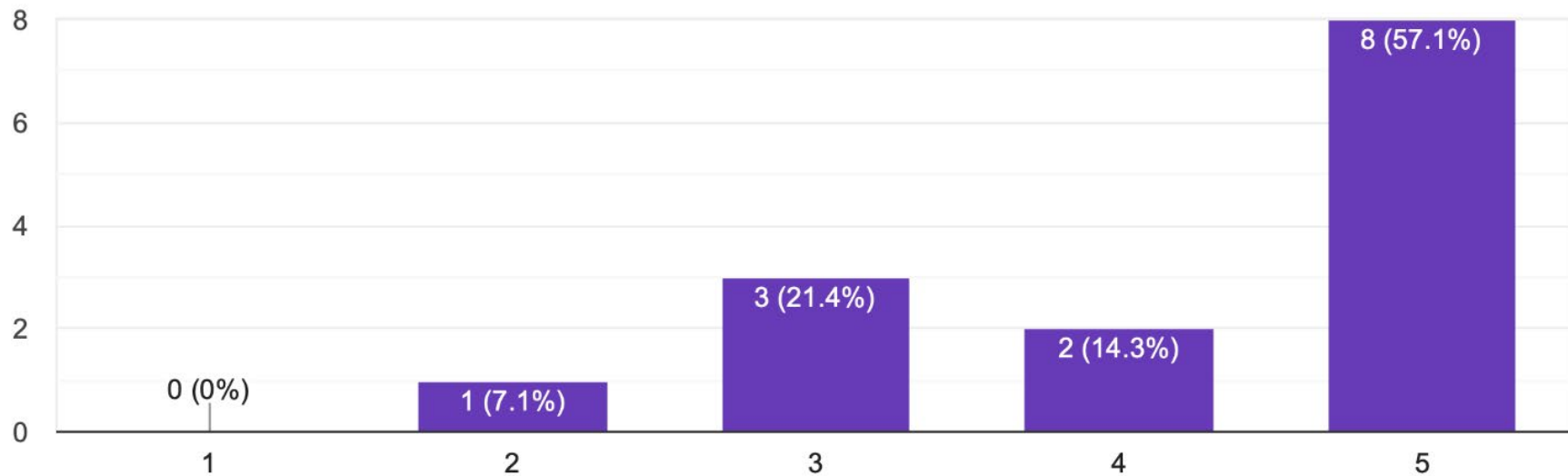
The coursework prepared me to take the ABO exam.

14 responses



The in-person labs were helpful.

14 responses



Please tell us more about your experience with the in-person labs. What skills did you learn or improve? What activities do you find most beneficial? 14 responses

loved using the manual lens-meter. it helped so much more to be able to use one since I've only ever used a digital one.

Hands in is always great

It was kind of hard to focus and learn.

It was better to see the materials and ask questions

All of it

I felt like they could have been more organized

I think going through more hands on activities could be done. Taking SEG Heights, frame adjustments, etc.

I learned to use the different machines and equipment.

Due to covid, I hoped that the labs would only cover topics that we could absolutely only cover in person, as to make the most of our time/risk but felt we spent time covering things we could have gone over on zoom.

Is very helpful learning with real hands on experience, specially learning to adjust frames.

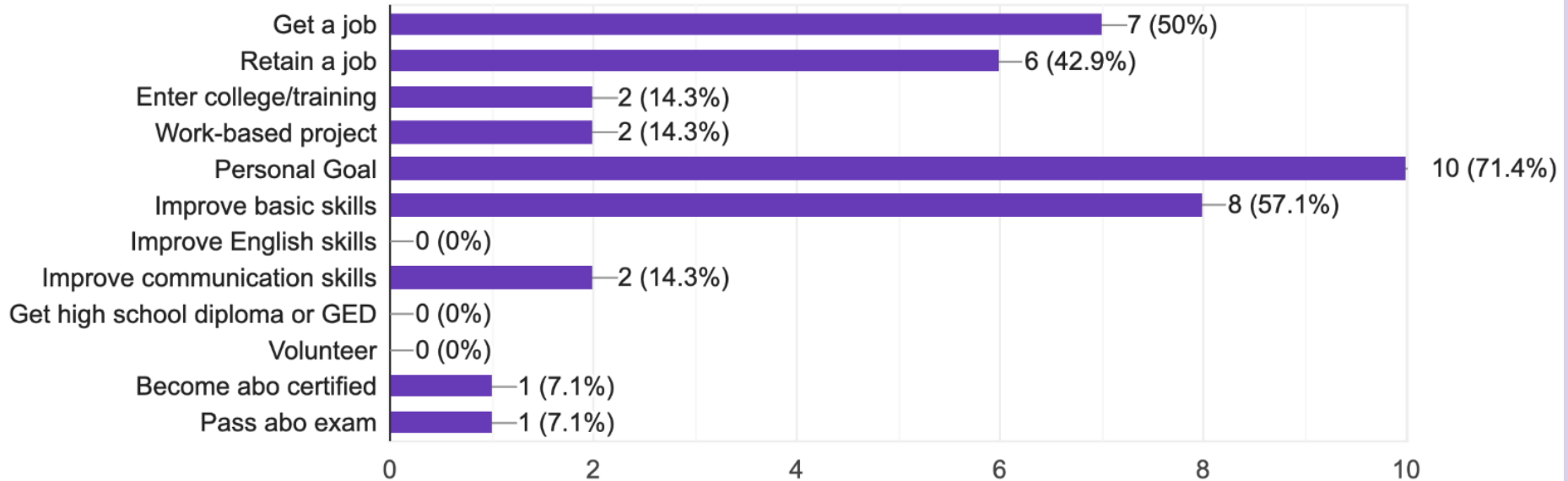
I really enjoyed the in class labs because it made it easier to interact without connection failures. Also the hands on materials and practice was great

The in person labs were very useful, was able to learn about the different types of equipments.

it was awesome to put all the knowledge in practice

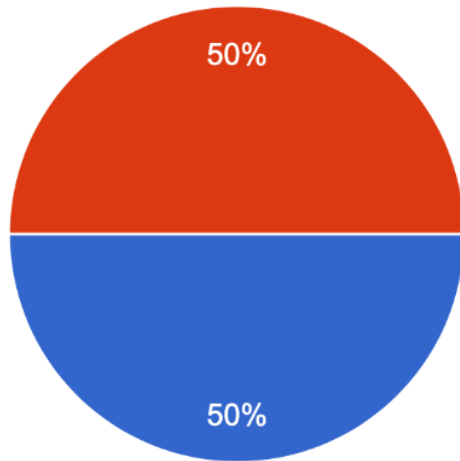
What goals did you have when you enrolled in this course? (check all that apply)

14 responses



Are you currently working in or new to the optical industry?

14 responses



- Currently employed in the optical industry
- New to the industry

Industry Partners

Industry partners have faith in our program and some have supported us with equipment, financial donations (grants), as well as paid student internships.



Better Sight.
Better Life.

California State Society
For Opticians (CSSO)



WARBY PARKER



WALMAN
OPTICAL

Program Schedule



Start Date: April 15, 2020

End Date: July 15, 2021

Cost: \$99

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Via Zoom

6pm - 9pm

Lab Dates: Located at San Mateo Adult and Career Education Campus

May 5th

May 27th

June 10th

June 29th



Contact Us

Any questions?

Program Coordinators:

- ☐ Mercedes White: white@smccd.edu
- ☐ Stephanie Kriebel: skriebel@smuhsd.org

Instructors

- ☐ Lynnette Garcia: lgarcia@smuhsd.org