

General

ABDO College has developed a series of distance learning courses which currently include Mathematics, Human Biology, General Science, English and Optics & Dispensing.

These Access courses are primarily for students who do not have the required number of GCSEs to obtain entry onto the Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing or the Fellowship Dispensing Diploma course (5 GCSEs of Grades A* to C, which must include English, Mathematics and a Science subject). They are also a useful refresher for those unfamiliar with distance learning or who have been out of education for some time. There is no limit to the number of courses you can take at any one time.

Each Access course is approximately 20 weeks and based on continuous assessment. The student must obtain an average of 70% in their coursework to pass. There will be no final examination. Students are required to submit one assignment per week to their personal Tutor for marking. Failure to keep up with this schedule will affect the student's ability to pass and may cause them to be withdrawn from the course.

Access Mathematics

Those who achieve a satisfactory pass and wish to join either of the dispensing courses will be exempt from the requirement for Mathematics but will still require a Science subject, English and two further GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade A* to C.

The course may also be used by students whose mathematics education did not include subjects necessary for the understanding of optics.

This course is approximately 21 weeks in duration and includes the following subjects:

- basic arithmetic
- fractions
- ratio and proportion
- decimals
- use of calculators
- percentages
- graphs from data
- basic algebra
- expansion of brackets and factorisation
- algebraic functions
- solution of simple equations
- formulae
- quadratic equations
- simultaneous equations
- graphs of functions
- indices
- angles
- triangles
- trigonometry
- further trigonometry
- vectors

Access English

Those who achieve a satisfactory pass and wish to join either of the dispensing courses will be exempt from the requirement for English but will still require a Science subject, Mathematics and two further GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade A* to C.

This course is approximately 22 weeks in duration.

The following subjects will be included in the course:

- Essays:
 - planning
 - descriptive essays
 - telling a story

- Language:
 - writing in sentences
 - punctuation
 - making words agree
 - apostrophes

- Words:
 - how to say it
 - saying it briefly
 - using the right words
 - saying it more powerfully
 - common mistakes
 - technical terms

- Comprehension:
 - factual passages
 - imaginative passages
 - tables and graphs

- Summarising:
 - making notes
 - the final version

- Factual writing:
 - memoranda and reports

Access Optics & Dispensing

Those who achieve a satisfactory pass and wish to join either of the dispensing courses will be exempt from the requirement for a Science subject but will still require Mathematics, English and two further GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade A* to C.

This course is approximately 16 weeks in duration.

The following subjects will be included in the course:

- introduction to the eye
- how the eye works
- maths revision
- electromagnetic spectrum, refractive index & refraction of light
- spherical lenses
- optical correction of refractive errors
- lens measure and lens thickness
- prescriptions and their transposition
- prisms 1
- prisms 2
- bifocal & multifocal
- lens material & their properties
- lens tints & coatings
- facial & frame measurements
- frame selection & adjustment
- reflection of light

Access Human Biology

Those who achieve a satisfactory pass and wish to join either of the dispensing courses will be exempt from the requirement for a Science subject but will still require Mathematics, English and two further GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade A* to C.

This course is approximately 17 weeks in duration.

The following subjects will be included in the course:

- cells, tissue & terminology
- the blood
- the circulatory system
- the respiratory system
- essential nutrition
- the digestive system
- the urinary system
- the skin
- the nervous system
- the special senses
- the endocrine system
- the reproductive system
- the skeleton, joints & muscles

Access General Science

Those who achieve a satisfactory pass and wish to join either of the dispensing courses will be exempt from the requirement for a Science subject but will still require Mathematics, English and two further GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade A* to C.

This course is approximately 10 weeks in duration.

The following subjects will be included in the course:

- living things
- support & movement
- senses & responses
- our effect on the environment
- raw materials, elements & compounds
- the environment—air & water
- particles
- metals & alloys
- acids, bases & salts
- the chemical industry
- energy & fuels
- motion
- force
- energy transfers
- energy & waves
- light & colour