

# What *Is* [An Eye M.D.]

“We dedicate ourselves  
to enhancing the quality of life  
for every individual we treat  
by helping each to see his or her best,  
and by preserving and protecting  
our patients’ vision  
and eye health throughout life.  
We are committed  
to responding compassionately  
to our patients’ individual needs  
and to advancing the highest standards  
of comprehensive eye care.”

## WHAT IS AN EYE M.D.?

An Eye M.D. is an ophthalmologist – a medical doctor (or DO – doctor of osteopathic medicine) who specializes in all aspects of eye and vision care. Eye M.D.s are specially trained to provide the full spectrum of eye care, from prescribing glasses and contact lenses to complex and delicate eye surgery. Many Eye M.D.s are also involved in scientific research into the causes and cures for eye diseases and vision problems.

## EYE M.D.S’ TRAINING

In addition to four years of medical school and one year of internship, every Eye M.D. spends a minimum of three years of residency (hospital-based training) in ophthalmology. During residency, Eye M.D.s receive special training in all aspects of eye care, including prevention, diagnosis, and medical, laser and surgical treatment of eye conditions and diseases.

Often, an Eye M.D. spends an additional one to two years training in a subspecialty – a specific area of eye care, such as glaucoma or pediatric ophthalmology.

## BOARD CERTIFICATION

Many, but not all Eye M.D.s are “Board Certified”. A Board certified ophthalmologist (Eye M.D.) has passed a rigorous two-part examination given by the American Board of Ophthalmology designed to assess his/her knowledge, experience and skills.

[ *Find an Eye M.D. at [www.aao.org](http://www.aao.org)* ]