

# CAREERS

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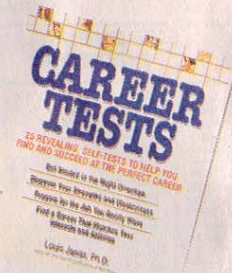


## Career Gear

'Career Tests'

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## Math, science skills combine with professional concern benefits ophthalmologist's patients

**Name:** Dr. Laura Harris

**Occupation:** Ophthalmologist M.D., cataract/cornea and refractive surgeon.

**How long in present position:** I currently practice at Surgical Eye Care. I completed my surgical training five years ago but I performed surgery for four years prior to that during my residency.

**Background:** I received a B.S. in biology from the College of Charleston. I completed my M.S. in bio-chemistry at ECU on a scholarship. I continued to medical school on a full Brody scholarship. I was accepted into four years of residency and fellowship training at John Hopkins School of medicine. I performed research at the National Institute of

Health with a Howard Hughes Research Scholarship in Bethesda Maryland.

**First job:** At the age of 16, I was a waitress/hostess at a fine restaurant in South Carolina.

**Lesson learned from first job:** Regardless of the position you hold it is important to be professional and listen to the customer's concerns. I feel that it is essential to being productive and happy at my job.

**Why did you choose a surgical specialty?** I have always found math and science to be my strong subjects. I like working with my hands so I decided to use my God-given talents to do something important and make a contribution.

Medical school drew me to science and surgery. Helping people to see was very inspiring and I knew that was what I wanted to do.

**What is your typical day:** Each day is a little different. I perform surgery two days a week. Cataract or cornea transplants are done in the hospital. Lasik surgery is done in the office surgical suite with the laser. I have an excellent staff that screens my patients prior to surgery. My job tends to be varied. It is simply not a routine job.

**Best thing about your job:** Post-op day! When the patient can see for the first time they are so grateful and happy. Some even become tearful. That is when I know that I have a great profession.



Dr. Laura Harris, Ophthalmologist M.D., cataract/cornea and refractive surgeon.

AT WORK