



Schools and Colleges of Optometry:
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
2013

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INTRODUCTION

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) is the only national organization dedicated to serving the needs of individuals and institutions engaged in optometric education. The mission of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry is to serve the public through the continued advancement and promotion of all aspects of academic optometry.

In support of this mission, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry is committed to fulfilling the leadership role in the optometric education enterprise by:

1. Serving as the advocate and spokesperson at the national level;
2. Providing leadership in education policy and research;
3. Supporting member institutions in the advancement of common goals;
4. Encouraging and facilitating interaction and cooperation among member institutions;
5. Serving as a liaison to the larger community of optometric organizations, health professions education associations, other health care professions and industry;
6. Promoting ethnic and cultural diversity, and by supporting member institutions' embracement of diversity in their practices and programs as it embodies the idea of an open and multicultural society, and
7. Supporting the international development of optometric education.

ASCO is pleased to provide "Schools and Colleges of Optometry: Admission Requirements." The purpose of this resource is to inform students, advisors, and career counselors about the professional and personal rewards available to those who pursue a career in optometry, as well as to provide a convenient, up-to-date source of admissions information for the schools and colleges.

Part I contains general information about the profession of optometry, how to prepare for optometry school, how to finance an optometric education, how to select an optometry program, as well as other sources of information.

Part II provides the reader with information about the 21 schools and colleges of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico. Each optometry program presents information about itself that should be of interest to potential applicants. Each school's summary includes information on their admissions requirements, selection factors, application timetable, data on applicants and matriculated students, characteristics of the program and curriculum, costs and financial aid, and where to get further information.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

CHAPTER 1 - BECOMING AN OPTOMETRIST

Optometrists have the satisfaction of helping their patients care for the most highly valued human sense—sight. All optometrists provide general eye and vision care. With favorable working conditions, regular hours, and a minimum of emergency calls, optometry offers many career options and great freedom in choosing a location to live and practice.

Optometry Defined

In 2005, the American Optometric Association (AOA) agreed upon the following definition of the profession: “Doctors of optometry (ODs) are the primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.”

Today, the profession of optometry involves much more than just prescribing and fitting glasses and contact lenses. Doctors of Optometry are trained to evaluate any patient’s visual condition and to determine the best treatment for that condition. They are viewed more and more as primary care providers for patients seeking ocular or visual care.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics’ *Occupational Outlook Handbook 2012-2013*, there were about 34,200 working optometrists in 2010. According to the AOA, approximately two-thirds of primary eye care is delivered by Doctors of Optometry.

What Optometrists Do

Conditions typically cared for by Doctors of Optometry are:

- corneal abrasions, ulcers, or infections; glaucoma; and other eye diseases that require treatment with pharmaceutical agents, management and referral when necessary
- visual skill problems such as the inability to move, align, fixate and focus the eye in such tasks as reading, driving, computer use, and in tasks related to hobbies and employment
- the inability to properly process and interpret information requiring perception, visualization, and retention, such as that needed for most learning tasks
- poor vision-body coordination as one interacts with the environment as in sports, occupations, and other everyday activities requiring spatial judgments
- clarity problems such as simple near- or far-sightedness or complications due to the aging process, disease, accident or malfunction.

Additionally, optometrists diagnose, manage, and refer systemic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and others that are often first detected in the eye; provide pre- and post-surgical care for cataracts, refractive laser treatment, retinal problems, and other conditions that require pre- and post-surgical care, and encourage preventative measures such as monitoring infants’ and children’s visual development, evaluating job/school/hobby related tasks, and promoting nutrition and hygiene education. Some doctors of optometry perform laser refractive or glaucoma and cataract surgeries.

The day-to-day tasks of most Doctors of Optometry can be quite varied and challenging. Patient interaction can range from performing routine visual examinations, removing a foreign body from the cornea, evaluating a child who is not performing well in school, fitting a contact lens patient, prescribing medication for glaucoma, providing follow-up care after refractive surgery, and fitting a legally blind patient with a magnifying device that will enable the patient to read.

Demand for Optometry and Opportunities Available

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Occupational Outlook Handbook 2012-2013*, employment of optometrists is expected to grow 33% between 2010 and 2020, in response to the vision care needs of a growing and aging population.

- **The aging of the U.S. population.** As a large number of practicing optometrists are approaching retirement age, many optometrists are looking for younger doctors who can take over their practices or offer new specialties to their practices. Also, as the population ages, optometry services will be in increasing demand. The growing numbers of senior citizens with age-related eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, hypertensive retinopathy, and macular degeneration will require increased services from optometrists.

Senior citizens are in a better position to consult optometrists following a change in the Medicare law in 1987, which authorized reimbursement to optometrists. Primary eye care examinations for individuals over the age of 65 performed by optometrists have increased since the Medicare law was passed.

- **Greater assistance with eye care costs.** Rising personal incomes, the availability of employer-sponsored vision care benefits, and Medicare coverage for optometry services make regular eye care provided by optometrists even more desirable and affordable. In addition, there are an increasing number of health insurance plans that include vision care.
- **Greater need for vision care.** As our society becomes more highly mechanized, vision requirements become more exacting. The number of persons needing professional help for near-point visual tasks, including both older patients and school children, is steadily growing. Increased demands for vision care result not only from population changes but also from an increased understanding of how good vision relates to driving, workplace requirements, student achievement, leisure activities, adjustments to aging and other areas crucial to a modern computer and technology-driven society.
- **Changes in state laws.** Demand for optometry services is also expected to increase as state laws, which regulate optometric practice (similar to all medical professions), have expanded to place responsibilities for virtually all primary eye care services on optometrists. All states in the United States recognize that optometrists are trained to prescribe medications to treat eye diseases.
- **New technologies in eye care.** New technologies have helped the profession of optometry to expand both the scope and the efficiency of practice. Optometrists and their patients are benefiting from the many advances in eye care and medical technology. There has been a significant increase in the use of new and relatively new lens treatments, designs, and corrective materials such as contact lenses. Today, millions of people wear contact lenses. Doctors of Optometry also play a key role in helping patients determine whether they are candidates for new procedures in laser surgery, and often provide pre- and post-operative care.

Most new opportunities for graduates are created by the retirement of optometrists, the establishment of new offices, the inclusion of optometrists in interdisciplinary practices, and the growth of group practices, in addition to the expanding scope of care provided by optometrists. There are also opportunities for graduates in corporate optometry locations.

Rewards of Practicing Optometry

Optometrists enjoy the benefits of financial security, independence and recognition in their communities. According to the American Optometry Association's (AOA) 2012 Survey of Optometric Practice, the average net income of those responding to the survey who owned their primary practice ("owner optometrists") was \$156,550 in 2011. The average net income for non-owner optometrists in 2011 was \$105,757.

Income may be limited only by the individual optometrist's initiative, since the majority of optometrists are in private practice. Partnerships and group practices are becoming common today because they reduce practice costs and offer specialized services more cost efficiently. Partnership and group practice also give optometrists more flexibility in arranging their work schedules.

The individual net (mean) income of optometrists, like that of most professionals, tends to rise with the number of years in practice. For those responding to the 2012 AOA Survey of Optometric Practice, optometrists who have practiced for 21 to 30 years and who are solo owner optometrists had an average net income of \$171,316 in 2011. Non-solo owners averaged \$203,230 while non-owners averaged \$115,815. Optometrists in practice for fewer than 10 years had an average net income of \$95,000 in 2011.

Career Options

Most optometrists are in general practice, while others are involved in specialty practice such as cornea and contact lenses, geriatrics, low vision services, environmental and occupational vision, pediatrics, sports vision, vision therapy, and ocular disease and special testing. Still others choose to enter optometric education and/or perform scientific research. Optometrists practice in rural communities, suburban areas, and large metropolitan cities. Some practice alone while others are in group practices. Some optometrists practice with other health care professionals in multidisciplinary settings. Other optometrists choose a career in the military, public health, or other government service. Opportunities also exist to practice in hospitals, clinics, teaching institutions, community health centers, the ophthalmic industry, HMOs and retail optical settings.

Demographics of the Profession

The profession of optometry actively seeks men and women of many backgrounds and cultures who want to make a difference. According to the American Optometric Association (AOA), the demographic characteristics of optometrists entering practice today are quite different from those of older optometrists. The majority of active, licensed AOA members younger than forty years old are female. Approximately 65% percent of new optometry graduates are female. More than 1/3 of today's graduates are Asian American, African American or Latino.

There continues to be a significant need for underrepresented minorities in this profession. As a result, minority students are encouraged to consider a career in optometry and apply to the school/college(s) of their choice.

CHAPTER 2 - PREPARING FOR OPTOMETRY SCHOOL

Preparing for optometry school means handling two very important processes: completing the admissions requirements and participating in the admission application process. This chapter will address the general admissions requirements and the application process.

General Admissions Requirements

A student's academic evaluation is based upon overall GPA, science GPA, college attended, degree progress, and course load difficulty. A bachelor's degree is required by four schools and preferred for many of the other programs. Most students major in the natural sciences in college (biology, chemistry, etc.) because the prerequisites for optometry school are science intensive. However, prospective students can major in any degree discipline as long as they complete all of the prerequisite courses for optometry.

Use the following sample undergraduate curriculum and this link to [ASCO's Prerequisites Table](#) **only as a guide**. It is essential that the applicant obtains information directly from the specific school or college of optometry where he or she plans to apply. The science courses that the applicant takes should be those designed for pre-professional students and must include laboratory experience. Brief survey courses in the sciences will not be sufficient preparation for optometry school. Not all courses listed below may be required by all schools, and some schools may require other courses not included in this sample.

FRESHMAN YEAR

General Biology w/lab
General Chemistry w/lab
College Algebra
Trigonometry
English **Total Hours: 30**

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Organic Chemistry
Microbiology or Bacteriology w/lab
Calculus
Physics
Psychology
Statistics **Total Hours: 30**

JUNIOR YEAR

Physiology
Biochemistry
Anatomy
History
Speech
Social Science
Other Humanities **Total Hours: 30**

Generally, colleges of optometry admit students who have demonstrated strong academic commitment, exhibit proficiency in the natural sciences, and who have the potential to excel in deductive reasoning, interpersonal communication, and empathy. Optometry schools are looking for "well-rounded" candidates who have achieved not only in the classroom but also in areas such as leadership ability, a disposition to serve others, and a work ethic characterized by dedication and persistence.

Additionally, most schools consider an applicant's exposure to optometry to be of vital importance. Each applicant should become acquainted with at least one optometrist and, if possible, obtain some first-hand experience to see what optometrists do on a daily basis.

Functional Standards for Didactic and Clinical Optometric Education

To provide guidance to those considering optometry as a profession, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) has established functional guidelines for optometric education. The ability to meet these guidelines, along with other criteria established by individual optometric institutions, is necessary for graduation from an optometric professional degree program.

One of the missions of each school and college of optometry is to produce graduates fully qualified to provide quality comprehensive eye care services to the public. To fulfill this mission, each institution must ensure that students demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skill in the provision of optometric care. Admission committees, therefore, consider a candidate's capacity to function effectively in the academic and clinical environments, as well as a candidate's academic qualifications and personal attributes.

The functional guidelines in optometric education require that the candidate/student possess appropriate abilities in the following areas: 1) observation; 2) communication; 3) sensory and motor coordination; 4) intellectual – conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; and 5) behavioral and social attributes. Each of these areas is described below.

In any case where a student's abilities in one of these areas are compromised, he or she must demonstrate alternative means and/ or abilities to meet the functional requirements. It is expected that seeking and using such alternative means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student. Upon receipt of the appropriate documentation, the school or college will be expected to provide reasonable assistance and accommodation to the student.

OBSERVATION ABILITIES

The student must be able to acquire a defined level of required knowledge as presented through lectures, laboratories, demonstrations, patient interaction and self-study. Acquiring this body of information necessitates the functional use of visual, auditory and somatic sensation enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities. Examples of these observational skills in which accurate information needs to be extracted in an efficient manner include:

Visual Abilities: (as they relate to such things as visual acuity, color vision and binocularity):

- Visualizing and reading information from papers, films, slides, video and computer displays
- Observing optical, anatomic, physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations and experiments
- Discriminating microscopic images of tissue and microorganisms
- Observing a patient and noting non-verbal signs
- Discriminating numbers, images, and patterns associated with diagnostic tests and instruments
- Visualizing specific ocular tissues in order to discern three-dimensional relationships, depth and color changes

Auditory Abilities:

- Understanding verbal presentations in lecture, laboratory and patient settings
- Recognizing and interpreting various sounds associated with laboratory experiments as well as diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

Tactile Abilities:

- Palpating the eye and related areas to determine the integrity of the underlying structures
- Palpating and feeling certain cardiovascular pulses

COMMUNICATION ABILITIES

The student must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients and their families, peers, staff, instructors and other members of the health care team. The student must be able to demonstrate established communication skills using traditional and alternative means. Examples of required communications skills include

- Relating effectively and sensitively to patients, conveying compassion and empathy

- Perceiving verbal and non-verbal communication such as sadness, worry, agitation and lack of comprehension from patients
- Eliciting information from patients and observing changes in mood and activity
- Communicating quickly, effectively and efficiently in oral and written English with patients and other members of the health care team
- Reading and legibly recording observations, test results and management plans accurately
- Completing assignments, patient records and correspondence accurately and in a timely manner

SENSORY AND MOTOR COORDINATION ABILITIES

Students must possess the sensory and motor skills necessary to perform an eye examination, including emergency care. In general, this requires sufficient exteroception sense (touch, pain, temperature), proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) and fine motor function (significant coordination and manual dexterity using arms, wrists, hands and fingers). Examples of skill required include but are not limited to:

- Instillation of ocular pharmaceutical agents
- Insertion, removal and manipulation of contact lenses
- Assessment of blood pressure and pulse
- Removal of foreign objects from the cornea
- Simultaneous manipulation of lenses, instruments and therapeutic agents and devices
- Reasonable facility of movement
- Injections into the eye, lids or limbs

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

Problem solving, a most critical skill, is essential for optometric students and must be performed quickly, especially in emergency situations. In order to be an effective problem solver, the student must be able to accurately and efficiently utilize such abilities as measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, judgment, investigation, memory, numerical recognition and synthesis. Examples of these abilities include being able to:

- Determine appropriate questions to be asked and clinical tests to be performed
- Identify and analyze significant findings from history, examination, and other test data
- Demonstrate good judgment and provide a reasonable assessment, diagnosis and management of patients
- Retain, recall and obtain information in an efficient manner
- Identify and communicate the limits of one's knowledge and skill

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

The student must possess the necessary behavioral and social attributes for the study and practice of optometry. Examples of such attributes include:

- Satisfactory emotional health required for full utilization of one's intellectual ability
- High ethical standards and integrity
- An empathy with patients and concern for their welfare
- Commitment to the optometric profession and its standards
- Effective interpersonal relationships with patients, peers and instructors
- Professional demeanor
- Effective functioning under varying degrees of stress and workload
- Adaptability to changing environments and uncertainties
- Positive acceptance of suggestions and constructive criticism

Candidates with questions or concerns about how their own conditions or disabilities might affect their ability to meet these functional guidelines are encouraged to meet with an optometry school counselor prior to submitting an application.

Application Process

Optometry's centralized application service (OptomCAS) launched in July 2009. OptomCAS is an efficient and convenient way to apply to multiple optometry programs using a single web-based application. It eliminates the need for duplicate transcripts and letters of recommendation for students applying to more than one school or college. Through OptomCAS, applicants will submit:

- A properly completed application for admission and application fee
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended
- Letters of recommendation

Most optometry programs will also have their own supplemental applications. For more information about OptomCAS, please visit the OptomCAS website at www.optomcas.org.

Applicants must also take **the Optometry Admission Test (OAT)**. The OAT is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The test is comprised of four subtests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning. The OAT exam is in a computerized format and examinees are allowed to take the OAT an unlimited number of times but must wait at least 90 days between testing dates. However, only scores from the four most recent attempts and the total number of attempts will be reported.

At least one year of college education, which should include courses in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics, is required prior to taking the OAT. Most students, however, elect to complete two or more years of college prior to taking the exam.

There is a fee to take the OAT exam. This fee includes the submission of official transcripts of scores to five optometry schools, a personal copy, and a copy for the pre-optometry advisor. Additional requests for official score reports to schools (beyond five requested at the time of application) have an additional fee.

For more information or to **register to take the OAT test on-line**, go to <https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>

When deciding where to apply and attend, it is important to remember that **no valid ranking of optometry schools exists**. The best advice to a candidate is to obtain information from the individual schools, talk to recent graduates, visit selected schools and ask pointed questions of faculty and students.

Candidates should be most concerned with the academic rigor of a program, the clinical experience offered, and the availability of faculty and support services. Of course, the cost of the program, availability of financial aid, and the location and environment of the college can be contributing factors in deciding which program is best suited to the candidate.

Traffic Guidelines for Admissions: ASCO Recommendations for Admissions Officers at the Schools and Colleges of Optometry

These traffic guidelines have been established by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry and approved by the ASCO Board of Directors. These traffic guidelines represent the guidelines under which the optometry schools and colleges have agreed to conduct the annual admissions process.

The guidelines will be available for information on the OptomCAS website at www.optomcas.org for prospective optometry students, pre-health advisors, and the optometry schools and colleges.

1. Responsibilities of OptomCAS

- a. Collect application materials submitted by applicants. OptomCAS is responsible for verifying all transcripts and disseminating completed application files to all programs designated by applicants

in a timely and efficient manner. A completed application includes an application that has been e-submitted, applicant fee paid, and transcripts verified for all schools and colleges reported on the application.

- b. Ensure applicant confidentiality and data integrity by maintaining a reliable and secure internet service and program of quality of assurance.
- c. Report year-end data to each participating school or college. ASCO reserves the right to publish aggregate statistics on optometry school applicants.
- d. Support the applicant portal, admissions portal, and advisor portal for pre-health advisors.
- e. ASCO does not sell or otherwise release addresses, emails, phone numbers, or other contact information about applicants to commercial vendors or researchers who are outside ASCO or our member institutions.

2. **Responsibilities of the Schools and Colleges of Optometry**

ASCO encourages each of its member schools and colleges to conduct an application process that is inclusive and professional. The purpose of these traffic guidelines is to allow prospective students to explore their options with each school and college of optometry in a fair manner.

- a. Each school or college should publish, for distribution to prospective applicants and their advisors, detailed information on application and acceptance procedures including a statement of applicant responsibilities.
- b. Each school or college that participates in OptomCAS must abide by all conditions included in the participation agreement that is signed annually by the Deans and Presidents.
- c. Schools and colleges make all admissions decisions based on complete and verified application information provided through OptomCAS.
- d. No school or college will invite an applicant to interview until a completed OptomCAS application is available. A completed application is defined as an OptomCAS application with verified coursework.
- e. Schools and colleges will not make final admissions acceptances prior to the receipt of an OAT official test score.
- f. All offers of admission made prior to May 15 should allow the applicant at least two weeks in which to respond. After May 15, offers of acceptance may require a response time of less than two weeks. A statement of intent should permit the applicant to withdraw if later accepted by a school that he or she prefers.
- g. A school or college of optometry should not ask accepted applicants to relinquish their alternate/waitlist status at other institutions prior to the applicant's enrollment.
- h. The acceptance deposit, less an administration fee as determined by the individual institution, should be refundable until at least May 15. The deposit should be credited toward tuition when the student matriculates.
- i. The schools and colleges should encourage applicants accepted after May 15 to immediately notify and withdraw from schools or colleges where a seat is being held.
- j. Schools and colleges will begin reporting to ASCO all official admissions actions for the current application cycle on March 1 of each year.

3. **Responsibilities of the Applicant**

- a. Applicants are expected to become familiar with admissions requirements, follow application procedures and meet all deadlines at each institution to which they apply.
- b. Applicants are responsible for the collection and timely submission of letters of recommendation, transcripts, standardized exam scores and applicable fees.
- c. Applicants are responsible for reporting and updating any changes in the initially submitted application (only biographical information can be changed).
- d. Applicants are responsible for corresponding promptly with schools/colleges to all interview invitations and offers of admissions.
- e. Applicants who hold a seat in more than one school or college are responsible to choose his/her preferred school by May 15, and concurrently withdraw from all other schools to which he or she has been accepted. Once enrolled in a program, a student has the obligation to withdraw

applications to all other schools or colleges. If an applicant or enrolled student changes his/her mind, he/she should immediately notify the school or college of his/her intent to withdraw.

Admissions-Related Areas

Some schools may offer special programs for advanced standing and/or transferring, combined degree programs, and special requirements for foreign students. Interested applicants should contact the individual schools.

ASCO Recommended Policy and Practices for the Admission of Transfer Students

ASCO recommends that its member schools adopt the following policy and principles of practice to be used as guidelines for the admission of transfer students.

Transfer students as addressed in this guideline are defined as those students who have previously enrolled or are currently enrolled in a first professional degree program at an ASCO school and are applying for transfer to an optometry program at another ASCO school. ASCO fundamentally endorses the concept of student continuity at a single institution in the professional program while recognizing the differences among programs and acknowledging that an uninterrupted, continuous program is, most often, in the best interest of the student. This statement of principles and practice is offered not to encourage the concept of transferring, but to recognize that individual circumstances, at times, may necessitate transfer, even though it is likely to result in a disruption and/or protraction of the student's program.

Policy on Student Transfer

A school or college of optometry accepting transfer students should formulate an institutional policy consistent with the ASCO principles set forth herein. A school or college of optometry should explicitly publish its policy on transfer in the college catalogue, indicating whether the transfer is to advanced standing. It is strongly recommended that no school or college of optometry accept a student who has left a professional program in less than good academic standing. Moreover, no school or college of optometry should accept a student by transfer who is under consideration for or has been dismissed for cause.

Recommended Practices

- I. **Public Information:** Each school or college of optometry should publish a brief statement, descriptive of its policy on the admission of transfer students, in the college catalogue and other appropriate promotional pieces.
- II. **Identification of Transfer Applicants:** Schools and colleges of optometry should attempt to identify, through their admission process, students who have been or are currently enrolled in a professional degree program and who are applying for transfer.
- III. **Counseling of Transfer Students:** Each institution involved with transfer students should attempt to counsel the students on the ramification of transfer on their program of study.
- IV. **Student's Standing Within the Original Institution:**
 - a) Recognizing that good academic standing is evidence of a student's ability to complete the professional program, institutional transfer policies should include a requirement that the student be in good academic standing at the time of application for transfer. College or school policy may allow for an exception to the academic standing requirement, but it is strongly recommended that exception be based on evidence of the student's ability to maintain a satisfactory standing at a new institution.
 - b) Equally important is knowledge of the student's good citizenship and professionalism while in attendance at the original institution. As a future health practitioner, these personal attributes are of equal importance in serving the public's health needs.
 - c) Therefore, a school or college considering an application for transfer should require a letter from the chief academic officer or designee of the original institution stating the student's academic standing.

This letter should also explain whether the student has been dismissed or is presently being under consideration for dismissal for cause.

- V. Reason for Transfer: The applicant for transfer should be required to provide a personal statement along with any supporting documentation, which addresses the reason(s) and motivations for transfer.
- VI. Review of Transfer Applications: An institution's review of transfer applications should include a careful analysis of admissibility and the reason(s) for and advisability of transferring. The appropriate level of placement in the professional program should be stated in the letter of acceptance.

CHAPTER 3 – FINANCING AN OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

Students who are considering a career as an optometrist may be concerned that they do not have sufficient personal resources to cover all of the educational costs. The cost of attendance generally includes tuition, fees, books, equipment and supplies, and living expenses such as rent, groceries, insurance and transportation. The majority of students finance their education by a combination of personal and family contributions, grants and scholarships, federal and private student loans, and work-study opportunities.

As the overall costs of optometric education continue to increase, it is important that prospective optometry students begin to investigate potential financial aid sources as early as possible. Because outside employment during optometry school is a limited option for the majority of students and university sources of funds are also often limited, accepted applicants should contact their school's financial aid office early to explore their options and understand the school's financial aid policies and procedures.

Sources of Financial Aid

Accepted applicants should be aware of loans, scholarships, grants, and work study, which provide the majority of aid to optometry students.

Loans, which are the primary source of financial aid for optometry students, must be repaid after graduation. Some loan programs like the Grad PLUS and private loans will require the student to have good credit. Scholarships and grants, which are merit-based or need-based, do not require the recipient to repay the award. Work–study gives students the opportunity to work part time. In addition, there are state contract programs, which pay a portion of a student's tuition, and U.S. Armed Forces' scholarship programs, which require a service commitment following graduation.

The following list presents an overview of the most commonly used federal sources of assistance. Applicants are cautioned that requirements for the various loan programs may change or programs may be eliminated based on actions of the government.

Loan Programs

1. Federal Perkins loan
2. Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans
3. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS)
4. DHHS Health Professions Student Loan (HPSL)
5. Grad PLUS loans
6. Private alternative loans
7. Institutional loan programs

Scholarship Programs

8. DHHS Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)
9. State contracts
10. Military Health Professions Scholarship
11. Institutional scholarship programs

Applying for Financial Aid

The federal government and the optometry schools sponsor the majority of financial aid money available to optometry students. The applicant should begin by contacting the optometry schools he/she would like to attend. They will provide the applicant with information on the programs they offer as well as forms and deadline dates. The following list identifies the forms and information generally required.

1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
This is the most important form, because the information from it is used to calculate the applicant's expected family contribution and determines eligibility for federal sources of financial aid. The FAFSA asks for information about the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and the applicant's parents. Although an applicant may

be financially independent from his/her parents, parents may still need to fill out sections of the FAFSA because certain financial aid programs require that this information be considered. This form is submitted online at www.fafsa.gov. There is no processing fee for the FAFSA.

2. Verification

If your FAFSA is selected for verification you may need to provide documentation of income. The best way is to use the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DTR) which allows income data from your tax form to populate the FAFSA. If the DTR is not used you will be asked to obtain a Tax Transcript from the IRS.

3. Institutional Application

In addition to the FAFSA, optometry schools may require an institutional form, which is returned directly to the school. Schools do not charge processing fees for their financial aid forms.

4. Direct Loan Online Forms

To apply for Direct Loans you will need to fill out the Direct Loan Master Promissory Note at www.studentloans.gov. You can also complete the online entrance counseling at this website.

5. Certifications

Students receiving funds, especially from federal sources, must attest to certain eligibility requirements. For example, students will need to vouch that funds were used only for educational purposes, that the student is not in default on a loan or owes a refund on a grant, and that the student is in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements.

Managing Educational Indebtedness

The majority of optometry students borrow to pay for the cost of their education. Borrowing means the student has the benefit of using someone else's money now in exchange for paying it back with interest at a later date. Students are legally obligated to repay their loans. Defaulting on a student loan has financial and legal consequences that can have negative personal and professional effects. The vast majority of optometry graduates repay their loans either on time or early. The financial aid office at a specific college can provide information on management of a student's debt. You can review your projected repayment options at www.studentloans.gov and your loan history at www.nsls.ed.gov.

CHAPTER 4 – DECIDING WHERE TO APPLY

No valid ranking of optometry schools exists. The best advice to a candidate is to obtain information from the individual schools, talk to recent graduates, visit selected schools and ask pointed questions of faculty and students.

Candidates should be most concerned with the academic rigor of a program, the clinical experience offered, and the availability of faculty and support services. Of course, the cost of the program, availability of financial aid, and the location and environment of the college can be contributing factors in deciding which program is best suited to the candidate.

Deciding on the optometry program that best fits the applicant's needs is a very personal process. All schools produce graduates who are competent and capable of providing quality optometric care. The applicant must decide what values are personally important and then use those as a basis for evaluating the various programs. Some of the factors to consider are:

1. What is the focus of the optometry school's training and does it match the applicant's interests and needs? Clinical opportunities? Research opportunities? Specialty training? Options for a combined degree? Qualifications of teaching faculty? Qualifications of clinical faculty?
2. What is the structure of the curriculum in terms of what is taught and when? How early does the student see patients? Opportunity for electives? Externships? Community service? Part-time work?
3. What academic resources are available to students? Faculty availability? Numbers and diversity of patients? Community settings? Hospital settings?
4. What services are available to students? Tutoring? Peer advising? Student government? Stress counseling? Housing? Medical care? Parking? Extracurricular activities?
5. Where is the school located? Is a rural or urban setting more desirable? Cultural or sports availability?

CHAPTER 5 – OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION

Many people are available to help the applicant in making decisions. Do not be shy about asking their opinions. The applicant can learn a lot by talking to people with different points of view. Some of the people who can help are:

1. *Optometrists*—Attempt to meet optometrists in different kinds of practices. The more an applicant knows about the profession, the better he/she will do in an interview.
2. *Optometry School Admissions Personnel*—They can provide information about their school and its requirements.
3. *Prehealth Advisors*—They can provide general information about optometry and optometry schools.
4. *Financial Aid Administrators*—They can provide information about costs and how to pay for an optometry education.
5. *Optometry Students*—They can share information about the academic program as well as student support services and social activities.

The following organizations can also provide assistance:

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 420
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 231-5944
www.opted.org

American Optometric Association
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
(800) 365-2219
www.aoa.org

American Optometric Student Association
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
(314) 983-4231
www.theaosa.org

PART II: INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Each school and college of optometry has provided information about its program. The school entries are presented alphabetically by school/college name. Seventeen of the schools and colleges of optometry are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association. The remaining three programs open their doors to their first entering classes in fall 2009, and as such have received the classification of "Preliminary Approval" by ACOE. "Preliminary Approval" is a pre-accreditation status and is the only classification available to a new professional program.

All of the entries were written by the individual optometry school. The format is relatively consistent to make it easier for the reader. Entries generally include information in the following ten categories:

1. **General Information** - Type of institution, history, location, size, facilities, other programs.
2. **Selection Factors** - How information is considered, including OAT scores, GPAs, letters of recommendation, and interviews; timetable for applications; and fees.
3. **Information for Special Applicants** - Underrepresented groups.
4. **Admission Requirements**; chart of admissions requirements including pre-optometry education, OAT and residency requirements, and advanced standing policy.
5. **Application Materials Timetable**
6. **Links to [Profile of Applicants](#) and [Profile of Entering Class](#)**
7. **Characteristics of the Program** - Goals and objectives; degrees offered; curriculum; other programs offered.
8. **Estimated Expenses and Financial Aid**
9. **Where to Get Further Information**

List of Accredited Schools and Colleges of Optometry In the United States and Puerto Rico

ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Office of Admissions
3241 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616
Phone: (312) 949-7400
Toll Free: (800) 397-2424
E-mail: admissions@ico.edu
www.ico.edu

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

Office of Student Administration
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana 47405-3680
Phone: (812) 855-1917
E-mail: iubopt@indiana.edu
www.opt.indiana.edu

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

500 John W. Harris Ave.
Bayamon, PR 00957
Phone: 787-765-1915 (Ext. 1020)
Fax: 787-756-7351 OR 787-767-3920
E-mail: admissions@inter.edu
www.optonet.inter.edu

MCPHS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

Admission Office
19 Foster Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Tel: 508.373.5607
Email: Admissions.Worcester@mcphs.edu
Web: www.mcphs.edu

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

1124 S. State St., MCO 231
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307-2738
Phone: (231) 591-3703
E-mail: askmco@ferris.edu
www.ferris.edu/mco

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY ARIZONA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

19555 North 59th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85308
Phone: (623) 572-3215 or (888) 247-9277
E-mail: admissaz@midwestern.edu
www.midwestern.edu

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Office of Admissions
424 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
Phone: (617) 587-5580
Toll Free: (800) 824-5526
E-mail: admissions@neco.edu
<http://www.neco.edu>

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Director of Student Affairs
1001 North Grand Avenue
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464-7017
Phone: (918) 444-4036
E-mail: batt@nsuok.edu
<http://optometry.nsuok.edu/>

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Office of Admissions
3200 South University Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33328
Phone: (954) 262-1132
Toll Free: (800) 356-0026 (Ext. 21132)
E-mail: optadmit@nsu.nova.edu
<http://optometry.nova.edu>

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Office of Student Affairs
338 West 10th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Phone: (614) 292-2647 or (866) 678-6446
E-mail: admissions@optometry.osu.edu
<http://optometry.osu.edu>

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Office of Admissions
190 SE 8th Ave, Suite 181
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Phone: 1-800-677-6712
E-mail: gradadmissions@pacificu.edu
www.pacificu.edu

**PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
AT SALUS UNIVERSITY**

Office of Admissions
8360 Old York Road
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania 19027
Toll Free: (800) 824-6262 option #3
E-mail: admissions@salus.edu
www.salus.edu

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY**

Admissions Office
2575 Yorba Linda Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831-1699
Phone: (714) 449-7444
Toll Free: (800) 829-9949
E-Mail: ODadmissions@ketchum.edu
www.ketchum.edu
Facebook Pre-Optometry Group Link:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/SCCOadmissions/>

SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

1245 Madison Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
Phone: (901) 722-3224
Toll Free: (800) 238-0180
E-mail: admissions@sco.edu
www.sco.edu
Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/southerncollegeofoptometr>
[y](#)

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
STATE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

Office of Admissions
33 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036-8003
Phone: (212) 938-5500
Toll Free: (800) 291-3937
E-mail: Admissions@sunyopt.edu
www.sunyopt.edu

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT
BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY/THE MEDICAL
CENTER**

Office of Student Affairs
1716 University Boulevard
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0010
Phone: (205) 975-0739
E-mail: admissions@icare.opt.uab.edu
www.uab.edu/optometry

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY**

Admissions and Student Affairs Office
380 Minor Hall
Berkeley, California 94720-2020
Phone: (510) 642-9537
Fax: (510) 643-7111
E-mail: optometry-admissions@berkeley.edu
<http://optometry.berkeley.edu>

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

Office of Optometry Relations
505 J. Davis Armistead Bldg., Rm. 2171
Houston, Texas 77204-2020
Phone: (713) 743-1847
Fax: (713) 743-2046
E-mail: osa@optometry.uh.edu
www.opt.uh.edu

**UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD
ROSENBERG SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY**

9725 Datapoint Drive
CPO 17
San Antonio, TX 78229
Phone: (210) 883-1190
Fax: (210) 883-1191
Email: optometry@uiwtx.edu
<http://optometry.uiw.edu>

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT ST. LOUIS

College of Optometry
Office of Admissions
317 Marillac Hall
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4400
Phone: (314) 516-6263
1-888-EYE-UMSL
E-mail: optometry@umsl.edu
<http://optometry.umsl.edu>

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH
SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

Office of Admissions
309 East Second Street
Pomona, California 91766
Phone: (909) 469-5335
Email: admissions@westernu.edu
<http://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/welcome-11/>

Illinois College of Optometry

www.ico.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) is among the world's leading optometric institutions. Located in Chicago, ICO has a long and distinguished legacy as the oldest continually operating educational facility in the world dedicated solely to the teaching of optometrists.

ICO has the reputation of providing the most top-notch clinical experience in the world. Students gain unique, high-quality experiences in primary eye care, pediatric optometry, binocular vision, low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, emergency care and ocular disease. Overall, the clinical program is student-centered, beginning in the lecture-laboratory setting and advancing to a one-to-one relationship between student and patient.

The Illinois Eye Institute (IEI), the onsite clinical training facility of the Illinois College of Optometry, offers students access to more than 100,000 patient visits each year and is one of the largest providers of vision and eye care services in the United States. The IEI is a leader in eye care education and research, a

superior clinical training ground for students and residents, and a resource for continuing medical education for eye doctors around the world.

Since its founding in 1872 by Dr. Henry Olin, ICO has remained at the forefront of optometry through the dedicated efforts of faculty, students and alumni. Today, ICO offers aspiring optometrists the education and experience needed to meet the challenges of a changing health care environment, ensure positive patient outcomes and become leaders who will advocate for patients and the profession alike.

SELECTION FACTORS

Admission is competitive and candidates are selected based upon their entire admissions file including cumulative and pre-optometry GPA, OAT scores, undergraduate courses and loads, references, personal statement, and interview.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Scholarship opportunities are available to encourage outstanding applicants from under-represented minority backgrounds.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 90 semester (135 qtr.) hours is required. Completion of a bachelor's degree is highly recommended.

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry The minimum prerequisite courses listed below **MUST** be completed with a grade of C or above **PRIOR** to entry. Pass/Fail courses are discouraged, especially in required pre-optometry areas.

Courses required with lab

Biology	6 semester hours
General Chemistry	6 semester hours
General Physics	6 semester hours
Microbiology	3 semester hours

Other courses

English Composition	6 semester hours
Psychology	3 semester hours
Social Sciences	3 semester hours
Calculus	3 semester hours

Organic Chemistry	3 semester hours
Statistics	3 semester hours
	(3 semester hours = 9 quarter hours)

Additional preparation

In addition to the required pre-optometric curriculum, recommended electives include: Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Genetics, Computer Science, Business, Economics, Sociology, Public Speaking and additional Psychology courses.

OAT	Required within two years of application. Results must be available by the college’s application deadline of March 1.
Other	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of all applicants for whom English is a second language.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	March 1

Acceptance Notification—typically within 2 weeks of interview

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO OD PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO OD DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of ICO’s applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of ICO’s fall 2012 entering class can be found at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for ICO’s fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree OD, OD/PhD

Optometry Curriculum

Basic & Health Sciences Education

ICO provides a very thorough and broad foundation in the basic sciences. The basic biomedical courses are intended to lay the groundwork for students to master the wide range of skills necessary to provide full scope primary eye care. These courses are concentrated in the first two years of the program and most include interactive laboratories. Specifically, these courses encompass optics, ocular anatomy and physiology, visual perception, neuroanatomy, sensory aspects of vision, color vision, as well as human anatomy, immunology, and pharmacology.

Clinical Education

The approach to clinical education is only one of many distinctive features that set the Illinois College of Optometry apart. The Illinois Eye Institute is integral as the primary clinical training program for ICO and provides students high-quality experiences in primary eye care, pediatric optometry, binocular vision, low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, emergency care and ocular disease. With more than 100,000 patient visits each year and 61 fully-equipped examination lanes, IEI offers students the volume, complexity, and diversity of patient care experiences needed for the development of a well-rounded clinician. In addition to the IEI, students are also exposed to a wide

variety of patient health care delivery systems through the Community-Based Education program and affiliation with the University of Chicago Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$35,086	\$35,086	\$46,336	\$35,893
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$35,086	\$35,086	\$46,336	\$35,893
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$3,000	\$4,731	\$73	
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$38,086	\$39,817	\$46,409	\$35,893
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$16,096	\$16,096	\$21,318	\$21,318
Total Expenses, Resident				
and Non-Resident	\$54,182	\$55,913	\$67,727	\$57,211

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2013

Total Number of Recipients 144
 Percentage of Class 87%

Residents

Average Award \$53,535
 Range of Awards N/A

Nonresidents

Average Award \$53,535
 Range of Awards N/A

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Illinois College of Optometry

3241 South Michigan Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60616
 (312) 949-7400 (800) 397-2424
admissions@ico.edu

Teisha Johnson, MS, Director of Admissions
tjohnson@ico.edu
 (312) 949-7407 (312) 949-7680 (FAX)

Financial Aid

Bryant Anderson, Senior Director of Student Services
banderson@ico.edu
 (312) 949-7445 (312) 949-7685 (FAX)

Milissa Bartold, Director of Financial Aid
mbartold@ico.edu
 (312) 949-7440
 (312) 949-7685 (fax)

Visit us online at www.ico.edu and <http://blog.ico.edu/>. You can also follow us on Twitter ([ICO_Optometry](#)), Facebook and YouTube.

Indiana University School of Optometry

www.opt.indiana.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The School is located on the main campus of Indiana University in Bloomington. This campus, with an enrollment of over 36,000, offers a wide range of cultural activities, major athletic events, and recreational opportunities. Bloomington is located 50 miles southwest of Indianapolis and has a population of approximately 65,000 permanent residents.

The six-story limestone-faced building, completed in 1967, provides space for classrooms, laboratories, clinic, library, offices, and supporting research and development activities. Additional clinical facilities are provided in Indianapolis as well as in community care centers, military hospitals, and Veterans Administration hospitals in other cities.

SELECTION FACTORS

Applicants are judged academically by college grades and OAT scores. Among these criteria, the college grades carry slightly more weight than the others. Personal attributes are determined by character recommendations, interview reports, accounts of participation in extracurricular activities, work experience, recognitions received, and the narratives explaining how optometry became their career choice.

The average GPA of those admitted during the past three years is 3.4 (on a 4.0 scale). The OAT scores for those students have averaged above 325. Invitations for Admission Day visits are issued to the top applicants after the applications have been evaluated. Visits to campus are arranged by the Office of Student Administration and include a faculty and student panel in addition to a student-guided tour, beginning mid-October through April.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

All candidates must have completed at least three years (90 semester hours) of college education prior to the entering date; however, many students enter after completing a baccalaureate degree.

Limitations on community college work

Not more than 60 semester hours will count toward the 90 semester hour minimum.

Required courses with lab required

Inorganic Chemistry	8 semester hours
Physics	8 semester hours
Biology	4 semester hours
Microbiology	4 semester hours

Required other courses

Organic Chemistry	4 semester hours
Calculus	4 semester hours
Statistics	3 semester hours
Advanced Biology	3 semester hours
English Composition	3 semester hours
Additional Writing Course	3 semester hours

Psychology 3 semester hours

*Students entering **without** a bachelor's degree must also complete the following courses:*

Arts & Humanities 6 semester hours

Social &

Historical Studies 6 semester hours

Foreign Language 6 semester hours

(You may be exempt from the foreign language requirement if you completed 2 or more years of a foreign language in high school with a grade of C or higher.)

Strongly Recommended Courses:

Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Biochemistry

Additional preparation

OAT Required by the February 1st application deadline.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	Jan. 15	\$50
Acceptance Notification	Dec. 1	June 30	n/a

APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

The profile of IUSO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of IUSO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for IUSO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The rigorous professional curriculum leading to the O.D. degree requires four years of study, following the undergraduate pre-optometry preparation. During the first two professional years, course work is concentrated in the basic health sciences (anatomy, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, and pharmacology), along with optics, visual science, and clinical techniques.

The third and fourth years emphasize patient care, with training in primary eye care and specialty services such as contact lenses, binocular and low vision, and surgical/medical treatment services.

The School of Optometry provides strong, centralized student services including advising, counseling, and placement to support students as they learn.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$23,738	\$23,738	\$23,738	\$23,738
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$36,274	\$36,274	\$36,274	\$36,274
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$5,118	\$4,182	\$2,746	\$2,610
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$28,856	\$27,920	\$26,484	\$26,348
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$41,392	\$40,456	\$39,020	\$38,884
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$21,312	\$21,312	\$21,312	\$22,090
Total Expenses, Resident	\$50,168	\$49,232	\$47,796	\$48,438
Total Expenses, Non-Residents	\$62,704	\$61,768	\$60,332	\$60,974

* Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

NOTE: Summer courses are required after the 2nd and 3rd years. Tuition for these courses is included in the figures above.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients 72
Percentage of Class 95%

Residents

Average Award \$32,782
Range of Awards \$0 - \$50,000

Nonresidents

Average Award \$47,960
Range of Awards \$0 - \$62,000

There are few scholarships or grants available for students in the Doctor of Optometry program. Financial assistance is available in the form of loans. The primary source of funding is the Federal Direct Stafford Loan. Students are also encouraged to apply for the Health Professions Optometry Loan (amount of loan varies depending on available resources). The priority date for submitting applications for financial assistance is March 1 for the following academic year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Committee and Student Administration

Cindy Vance, Director
Indiana University School of Optometry
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-3680
(812) 855-1917
(812) 855-0081 (direct)
(812) 855-4389 (fax)
email: csvance@indiana.edu

Minority Affairs

Joe Boes, Associate Director of Student Services
Indiana University School of Optometry
800 East Atwater Avenue

Bloomington, IN 47405-3680
(812) 855-1917
email: jboes@indiana.edu

Financial Aid

Josie Gingrich
Associate Director for Financial Aid
Indiana University School of Optometry
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-3680
(812) 855-1917
(812) 855-4389 (fax)
email: iuoptfa@indiana.edu
Visit our website at www.opt.indiana.edu

Inter American University Of Puerto Rico, School Of Optometry

www.optonet.inter.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a private institution with a Christian heritage and an ecumenical tradition. It is a non-profit organization that provides college instruction to youth of both sexes. The Rev. John Will Harris originally founded it in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico.

THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

The Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry was founded in 1981. It is the only bilingual (English-Spanish) institution offering the Doctor of Optometry Degree.

The School is housed in a 65,000 square-foot building at the Bayamón campus of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. The building has a spacious clinic, three classrooms, seven laboratories, a video conference center, a student center and a library with individual and group study areas. The campus has ample parking spaces, a gymnasium, tennis and basketball court, cafeteria, computer & book store and theatre. In addition, the School has satellite clinics in Caguas, Rio Piedras, Santurce, Bayamón, Juana Díaz, Cidra and Community Service.

Students may choose from more than 50 rotation externship sites in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Europe in their fourth year.

The IAUPR has graduated students from 20 countries and over 35 states of the United States, having a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-national heritage.

SELECTION FACTORS

To be considered for admission, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

Apply using OptomCas
Supplemental Application
Supplemental Application Fee (\$31.00 USD)
Official transcript from all University or Colleges attended by the student
One recommendation letter from a professor
One recommendation letter from an Optometrist
2.50 GPA/2.50 Prerequisites
300 in Academic Average section of OAT test
Interview
Hepatitis B vaccine (three shots)
Health Certificate*

*Visit our page at www.optonet.inter.edu and download the Health form.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

Years

3 – 4 years

To be considered for admission, an applicant must have successfully completed ninety (90) credit hours (or their equivalent) at an accredited institution of post-secondary education.

Required course with lab

General Biology	6 semester hours
Microbiology	3 semester hours
General Chemistry	6 semester hours
Organic Chemistry	3 semester hours
General Physics	6 semester hours

Biochemistry 3 semester hours (no lab required)

Other courses

Calculus 3 semester hours
Psychology 3 semester hours
Statistics 3 semester hours
English 6 semester hours
Humanities 6 semester hours
Social Sciences 6 semester hours

OAT Required: The minimum scores required is 300 in the academic average section of the OAT.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	June 1	\$31.00
Acceptance Notification	Oct. 1	June 30	\$1000.00*

* The School of Optometry requires that every student that has been accepted pay an admission deposit of \$1000. This deposit will be applied to the student's first semester tuition. If a student withdraws the application, 50% of it (\$500.00) will be refundable until June 30.

**APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of IAUPR's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of IAUPR's fall 2013 entering class can be found at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for IAUPR's fall 2013 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum: The major responsibility of the School's curriculum is to prepare students who are competent to provide all the diagnostic and treatment services that characterize the practice of optometry, and to prepare students for all state and national board examination necessary for licensure in optometry. All state and national boards' examinations are in English, and the School of Optometry requires that all written material, laboratories, and examinations at the School be in English.

The School's curriculum is taught by bilingual faculty and almost all patient care provided in the School's clinical system is in Spanish. The School requires that all entering students be assessed for Spanish and English during orientation week. Those not passing the test must take a conversational Spanish or English course each semester during their first year. These language requirements of the Doctor of Optometry program define the bilingual nature of the program and result in the ability of its graduates to practice optometry among English or Spanish-speaking populations.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$5,193	\$5,193	\$3,193	\$3,193
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$31,193	\$31,193	\$29,193	\$29,193
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$14,144	\$14,144	\$14,144	\$14,144
Total Expenses, Resident &				
Non-Resident	\$45,337	\$45,337	\$43,337	\$43,337

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc. Year 4 estimated living expenses and total year 4 expenses are subject to change based on student externship agreement.

The University reserves the right to change or revise charges and fees whenever considered necessary or desirable.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Office is in charge of evaluating each student after he or she has applied for the FAFSA at www.optonet.inter.edu or www.fafsa.gov. Click on Financial Aid for new students and complete the three steps in the application. The school code is 003938.

Applicants may be eligible for various types of financial aid such as: Stafford Loans, Health Professions Student Loans, Disadvantaged Student Loans, Institutional Grants and State & Federal Grants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

School Dean

Andres Pagán, OD, MPH
Dean
500 John W. Harris Ave.
Bayamón, PR 00597
Phone (787) 765-1915 ext. 1000
Fax (787) 767-3920
E-mail: apagan@inter.edu

Luz Ocasio, Registrar
500 John W. Harris Ave.
Bayamón, PR 00957
Phone (787) 765-1915 ext. 1023
Fax (787) 756-7351 or 767-3920
E-mail: locasio@inter.edu

Student Affairs Office

Iris R. Cabello, OD
Dean for Student Affairs
500 John W. Harris Ave.
Bayamón, PR 00957
Phone (787) 765-1915 ext. 1006
Fax (787) 756-7351 or (787) 767-3920
E-mail: icabello@inter.edu

Lourdes Nieves
Financial Aid Director
500 John W. Harris Ave.
Bayamón, PR 00957
Phone (787) 765-1915 ext. 1021
Fax (787) 756-7351 or 767-3920
E-mail: lmnieves@inter.edu

MCPHS University, School of Optometry

www.mcphs.edu/optometry

GENERAL INFORMATION

The School of Optometry at MCPHS University offers a student-oriented, learner-centered program designed to provide a world-class education leading to a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree. Our four-year program uses the latest in instructional technology to assure that its graduates possess a state-of-the-art education necessary to diagnose and manage the wide variety of ocular and systemic conditions encountered in today's intense clinical settings.

Students gain early clinical experiences through The Eye and Vision Center, our on-campus eye clinic as well as through selected clinical

facilities, Veterans Administration Centers, health departments, hospitals, and community agencies in and beyond the greater Worcester region. Within The Eye and Vision Center is 10 Optical, a complete retail store which offers personalized service, the latest lens technology, and a wide range of frames.

SELECTION FACTORS

MCPHS University seeks to enroll students based on their entire academic/professional portfolio. Primary consideration is given to GPA and OAT scores. Additional factors include optometry related experience, letters of reference, personal statement, and interview.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS*

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

A minimum of three years (90 credits) at a regionally accredited college or university.

*Limitations on
community college
work*

There is no limit on community college coursework though preference is given to applicants who complete coursework at a four-year institution.

Required Courses with lab required

General Biology with labs	8 semester hours
Microbiology with lab	4 semester hours
Chemistry with labs	8 semester hours
Organic Chemistry with lab	4 semester hours
Physics with labs	8 semester hours
Calculus	3 semester hours
Statistics	3 semester hours
English	6 semester hours
Psychology	3 semester hours

Suggested additional preparation

Biochemistry is strongly recommended. TOEFL or IELTS is required for applicants for whom English is a second language. OAT is required by the May 1 deadline.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	May 1	\$0
Acceptance Notification	Rolling; within two weeks of interview		

APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

The profile of MCPHS's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of MCPHS's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for MCPHS's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree **O.D.**

Optometry Curriculum

The OD curriculum includes comprehensive course offerings designed to provide knowledge and skills while emphasizing attitudes and values necessary for optimal professional performance. The curriculum includes basic health science content (human and ocular anatomy & physiology, ocular biochemistry and systemic and ocular pathology). Vision sciences content includes sensory, perception, and binocular vision. Optics content including geometrical, physical, visual, and ophthalmic optics. Clinical science courses including all aspects of primary care examination and electronic health records are applied to pediatrics, geriatrics, contact lens, community health, rehabilitative care, low vision and advanced care including glaucoma, traumatic brain injury, anterior and posterior segment conditions as well as systemic conditions affecting vision.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3*	Year 4*
Tuition, Resident	\$36,450	\$36,450	NA	NA
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$36,450	\$36,450	NA	NA
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$4,413	\$4,413	NA	NA
<i>Total Direct Expenses, Resident</i>				
<i>& Non-Resident</i>	\$40,863	\$40,863	NA	NA
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$15,300	\$15,300	NA	NA
<i>Total Expenses, Resident</i>				
<i>and Non-Resident</i>	\$56,163	\$56,163	NA	NA

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

MCPHS' first class enrolled in fall 2012; therefore in 2013-2014 there will be only first and second-year classes.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients	73
Percentage of Class	100%

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admission

Bryan Witham, Director
MCPHS University
19 Foster Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508.373.5623
Bryan.witham@mcphs.edu

Student Financial Services

Lynn Berry
Assistant Director of SFS
19 Foster Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508.373.5633
Lynn.berry@mcphs.edu

Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University

www.ferris.edu/mco

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission Statement

The Michigan College of Optometry prepares doctoral and post-doctoral students for successful professional careers, responsible citizenship and lifelong learning. Through its clinically based education and patient care, the Michigan College of Optometry serves the optometric health care needs of society.

Excellence

The Michigan College of Optometry is committed to providing quality state-of-the-art optometric education. The MCO faculty strives to select and prepare men and women for excellence in the practice of optometry to serve the eye care needs of the public.

Leadership

MCO will be a recognized leader in optometric education and the profession. Our curriculum will serve as a model for other optometry schools. Our faculty will assume leadership roles throughout the profession of optometry.

Innovation

The Michigan College of Optometry will pursue innovation in faculty development and optometric education. MCO faculty will develop creative new ways to assure that our graduates are prepared to serve the public's vision and eye care needs.

SELECTION FACTORS

Student selection is based upon college grades, grades earned in the required pre-professional science and mathematics courses, academic aptitude, OAT results, recommendations, interviews, personal qualifications, communication skills, motivation and potential for success in the profession. Those for whom English is not the primary language are required to sit for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Applicants with special conditions or circumstances, such as: international degrees, career change intentions, non-traditional status, or dated course completions, should contact the office of the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs for further information.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS*

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

Applicants must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours (135 quarter hours) of pre-professional courses prior to admission. Completion typically requires at least three years of undergraduate preparation. A Bachelor of Science degree is preferred

*Limitations on
community college
work*

Courses that appropriately satisfy the pre-optometry admission requirements may be completed at the community college level.

Required courses *Requires lab*

College English /Composition/Rhetoric	1 year/6 semester hours	
General Biology or Zoology	1 year	✓
Inorganic Chemistry	1 year	✓
General Physics (non-calculus based)	1 year	✓
College Mathematics	Math through Calculus I	
Microbiology	1 course	✓
Organic Chemistry	1 year	✓
Humanities	9 semester hours selected from two different areas in addition to one communications course	
Behavioral Science	9 semester hours with a minimum of 3 hours in general psychology; selected from two different areas with 1 200 level course	
Statistics	1 course	

Other courses Recommended but not required courses include:
business management or accounting, genetics,
physiology, anatomy, embryology/developmental
biology, biochemistry and cell biology.

Suggested additional preparation
OAT All applicants must sit for the computerized OAT test

*The college reserves the right to alter requirements without notice.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	Feb 15	\$0 (supplemental on-line application)
Acceptance Notification	Continuous	April 15	

**APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of MCO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of MCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for MCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

The completion of the Doctor of Optometry degree requires four academic years and two summer terms comprising 175 semester hours of study.

Optometry Curriculum The broad range of first year courses covers the basic health and vision sciences which serve as foundation for the clinical sciences. In the second year, students begin their first direct patient care experience. Clinical experiences include interviews, examination, diagnostic techniques and treatment services, including the prescription for spectacle lenses. Third year courses and clinical education courses provide students with a focus on contact lenses, assessment and management of vision and developmental problems in children, care of the elderly and low vision patients, applied neuro-optometry and use of therapeutic pharmacological agents in the treatment and management of ocular and systemic disease. All didactic courses are offered within the first three years of the curriculum, freeing the entire fourth year for a concentrated clinical experience. The fourth professional year extends over the full calendar year and is divided into three 15-week clinical rotations. Fourth year externships provide experience working in multidisciplinary health care settings, and broaden awareness of factors affecting health care delivery in our society. Students also spend clinic time in several different specialty clinics during the fourth year.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$24,723	\$22,914	\$31,356	\$26,532
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$37,105	\$34,390	\$47,060	\$39,820
Fees, Books and Instruments*	\$3,814	\$4,871	\$1,978	\$1,665
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$28,537	\$27,785	\$33,334	\$28,197
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$40,919	\$39,261	\$49,038	\$41,485
Estimated Living Expenses	\$11,310	\$11,310	\$16,890	\$16,890
Total Expenses, Resident	\$39,847	\$39,095	\$50,224	\$45,087
Total Expenses, Non-Residents	\$52,229	\$50,571	\$65,928	\$58,375

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available. Those interested in obtaining financial aid should contact the financial aid office, Ferris State University.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients 32
 Percentage of Class 89%

Residents

Average Award \$24,055
 Range of Awards \$1,000 up to \$35,631

Nonresidents

Average Award \$40,571
 Range of Awards \$28,500 up to \$48,227

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Committee and Student Affairs

Robert Buckingham, O.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.O.
Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs
(231) 591-3703

Financial Aid

Nancy Wencil
Coordinator of Financial Aid Programs
(231) 591-2116
Visit our website at www.ferris.edu/mco

Midwestern University

Arizona College of Optometry

http://www.midwestern.edu/Programs_and_Admission/AZ_Optomtry.html

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT) fosters lifelong learning through excellence in education, postgraduate programs, and scholarship. The four-year professional curriculum will help prepare optometrists who will provide exemplary patient care, serve the needs of the public, and improve the health and well-being of society.

With a continuing need for health care services due to our aging population and underserved areas, AZCOPT is striving to help fill those gaps. Face-to-face instruction, early clinical settings, and Midwestern University's reputation for academic excellence combine to make this program successful.

SELECTION FACTORS

AZCOPT considers for admission those students who possess the academic, professional, and personal qualities necessary for development as exemplary optometrists. AZCOPT uses multiple criteria to select the most qualified candidates including cumulative grade point average (GPA), prerequisite GPA, Optometric Admission Test (OAT) scores, personal experiences and character, ability to communicate, familiarity with the profession, volunteer/community involvement, research experience, and other considerations. AZCOPT uses a competitive, rolling admissions process.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite Courses

Course	Sem Hrs	Qtr Hrs
Biology with lab	8	12
Anatomy*	3	4
Physiology*	3	4
General/Inorganic Chemistry with lab	8	12
Organic Chemistry with lab	4	6
Biochemistry	3	4
Physics	6	9
Calculus	3	4
Microbiology	3	4
Statistics	3	4
Psychology	3	4
English	6	9

*The Anatomy and Physiology requirements may also be fulfilled by taking Anatomy and Physiology I (3 sem/4 qtr credit hours) and Anatomy and Physiology II (3 sem/4 qtr credit hours).

To be considered for admission to AZCOPT, the successful candidate must:

1. Possess a minimum cumulative GPA and science coursework GPA of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale.
2. Complete a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution. A B.A. degree is acceptable, but a B.S. degree is preferred.
3. Submit the results of the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). Minimum Academic Average and Total Science scores of 300 on the OAT are recommended of all applicants. In order to be considered for the class to be admitted in the fall of each academic year, the OAT must be taken and results submitted by April 30th. OAT scores must be earned no more than five years prior to the planned enrollment year.
4. Complete the necessary course prerequisites. All required prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Only courses designed for science majors or pre-professional students are acceptable for the science prerequisites.
5. Provide two letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a practicing optometrist. The other letter must be from a prehealth advisor, a science professor, an employer or extracurricular activity advisor.
6. Have a good understanding of optometric medicine. Candidates are strongly encouraged to shadow and observe a practicing optometric physician in the clinical setting.
7. Participate in extracurricular and/or community activities that indicate a well-rounded background and demonstrate a service orientation.
8. Have interpersonal and communication skills necessary to relate effectively with others.
9. Pass the Midwestern University criminal background check.
10. Abide by the Midwestern University Drug-Free Workplace and Substance Abuse Policy.

APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

Applicants are strongly urged to apply early in the cycle. Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled.

1. **OptomCAS Application:**
Applicants are required to submit online applications and application fees to OptomCAS by April 1. In addition to the online application and application fees, an applicant must forward to OptomCAS official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended by the April 1 date.
2. **Optometry Admission Test (OAT):**
Applicants must arrange for scores from the OAT to be sent directly to Midwestern University. Only test scores received directly from the testing agency will be accepted. OAT scores must be earned no more than five years prior to the planned enrollment year.
3. **Letters of Recommendation:**
Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation from professionals to OptomCAS (www.optomcas.org). One letter must be from a practicing optometrist. The other letter must be from a prehealth advisor, a science professor, an employer, or extracurricular activity advisor. Letters of recommendation from relatives, personal and/or family friends are not acceptable.
4. **Completed Application:**
All application materials, including the OptomCAS application, OAT scores (as reported to Midwestern University), and two letters of recommendation (as submitted to OptomCAS), must be received by the Office of Admissions on or before April 30. Only completed applications received by the Office of Admissions on or before the deadline date will be reviewed for potential entrance into the program.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An international student must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours of coursework from a regionally-accredited college or university in the United States, or from a recognized post-secondary Canadian institution that uses English as its primary language of instruction and documentation. Of the 30 semester hours, 15 must be in the sciences, 6 hours in non-remedial English composition, and 3 hours in speech/public speaking.

Applicants who wish to receive transfer credit for prerequisite coursework completed outside the U.S. or at a Canadian institution that does not use English as its primary language of instruction and documentation must submit an official, detailed, course-by-course evaluation obtained from one of the following evaluation services:

1. Education Credential Evaluators (ECE): 414-289-3400 or fax 414-289-3411 (www.ece.org; email: eval@ece.org)
2. World Education Service (WES): 212-966-6311 or fax 212-739-6100 (www.wes.org)
3. Josef Silny & Associates International Education Consultants: 305-273-1616 or fax 305-273-1338 (www.jsilny.com; email: info@jsilny.com)

International applicants who do not provide documentation of acceptable U.S. or Canadian course/degree equivalency will not receive credit, and will be required to complete all prerequisite courses at an accredited college or university in the United States, or at a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada that uses English as its primary language of instruction and documentation.

For clarification about recognized post-secondary institutions in Canada that use English as a primary language of instruction and documentation, international applicants should contact the Midwestern University Office of Admissions.

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

The profile of AZCOPT's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of AZCOPT's fall 2012 entering class can be found at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for AZCOPT's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Mission

The mission of Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry is to educate future optometrists and residents in an interprofessional healthcare environment. The college fosters professional attitudes and behaviors that encourage lifelong learning and scholarship to serve the needs of the public and a commitment to improve the health and well-being of society.

Goals

- Provide broad and innovative educational opportunities in the basic, visual and clinical sciences
- Plan and develop a diversity of clinical experiences to allow students to enter the practice of optometry
- Support and nurture an environment of intellectual inquiry and activity by students, residents and faculty
- Promote interprofessional education programming to develop students' appreciation of other health care professions.
- Ensure that students have a strong basic and vision science foundation
- Promote student involvement in community service
- Develop a high quality residency program
- Establish an Eye Institute that serves the eye/vision care needs of the community
- Provided lifelong learning activities and support services to the optometric profession and the public
- Maintain the financial viability of the college

Accreditation

AZCOPT has been granted the accreditation classification of ACCREDITED as of April 24, 2013 by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), of the American Optometric Association (AOA), 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141-7881, phone 314-991-4100. "Accredited" is the classification granted to a professional degree program that generally meets the standards for accreditation.

Midwestern University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, A Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC/NCA), located at 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1413; 312/263-0456.

DEGREE DESCRIPTION

Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT) awards the degree Doctor of Optometry upon successful completion of the four-year professional curriculum in optometry. The first and second years of the curriculum emphasize basic health sciences, optics and visual science and students are introduced to clinical practice in clinical simulation laboratories, introductory courses and clinical experiences. Visual consequences of disease are introduced in the second year. The third year, divided between a didactic and a clinical setting, emphasizes the diagnosis and treatment of ocular dysfunction and disease. The fourth year is intensive clinical training that will include both on-campus and off-campus externship rotations. Clinical settings for external rotations may include military facilities, veteran administration hospitals, public health service hospitals, and specialty and/or private practices or clinics. The maximum time for degree completion is five years.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$33,427	\$33,427	\$33,427	\$33,427
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$33,427	\$33,427	\$33,427	\$33,427
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$8,011	\$3,034	\$876	\$726
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$41,438	\$36,461	\$34,303	\$34,153
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$26,222	\$25,373	\$33,460	\$39,509
Total Expenses, Resident &				
Non-Resident	\$67,660	\$61,834	\$67,763	\$73,662

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients: 45
Percentage of Class: 82%

Residents

Average Award: \$22,317
Range of Awards: \$200 - \$40,500

Nonresidents

Average Award: \$22,317
Range of Awards: \$200 - \$40,500

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions

Office of Admissions
Arizona College of Optometry
Midwestern University
19555 North 59th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85308
(623) 572-3215 or (888) 247-9277
E-mail: admissaz@midwestern.edu
www.midwestern.edu

Financial Aid

Midwestern University
19555 North 59th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85308
(623) 572-3321

Visit our website at www.midwestern.edu

The New England College of Optometry

www.neco.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The New England College of Optometry offers three programs of study leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree. The standard four-year program is for applicants who hold a baccalaureate degree or who have completed a minimum of three years of specific undergraduate course work. There is also an accelerated 27 month program for applicants holding a doctoral degree in science and an advanced-placement international program for those who have earned a degree in optometry or a medical degree from a recognized foreign school of optometry. The College also offers postgraduate residency and fellowship programs in specialized areas of optometry.

The four-year program provides educational experience in classroom, seminar, laboratory, and clinical settings. The first two years of the program emphasize the basic sciences, including geometric and ophthalmic optics, human and ocular anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, immunology, psychophysics, and visual sciences. Optometric theory and practice courses prepare the student for clinical patient care. In the third and fourth year, emphasis is on the optometric treatment and management of the visual and ocular systems and includes direct patient care experiences. The 27 month accelerated program, designed for applicants who hold a doctoral degree in medicine or in one of the biological, physical, or behavioral sciences, builds upon the educational foundation and the student's ability for concentrated independent study to provide, in twenty-seven months of study, the entry-level competence of a four year program. The

Advanced Standing International Program, for those who have an optometry degree from a recognized foreign optometry school, provides for a course of study that is generally two to three years in length.

The College provides an active research environment for its faculty and students. The College's Myopia Research Center, created in 1994, includes several faculty in the biological and vision sciences committed to a multidisciplinary investigation into myopia, its causes and its amelioration. The College's research faculty is funded through NIH grants, including one to oversee a national multi-center clinical trial examining the effects of lenses on the development of myopia in children. Areas of faculty study, among others, are transplantation rejection in diabetes, visual detection in early Parkinson's Disease, accommodative convergence interactions, visual constraints under low luminance levels, and visual processing in the hearing impaired. Specializing in the visual sciences, the College's library provides a full range of services to researchers, practitioners, and students. Access to international databases provides the wide scope of information necessary for significant research activities.

SELECTION FACTORS

The New England College of Optometry seeks to admit students who are firmly committed to, and have an aptitude for, improving the human condition through the profession of optometry. Generally, the College maintains a flexible admission policy. While we look for students with science aptitude, we recognize that excellent academic performance in other subject areas is also an important indication of success in the academic program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

A minimum of three years at an accredited college or university

Required courses with lab required

Chemistry	2 semesters or 3 quarters
Organic Chemistry	1 semester or 2 quarters
Biology	2 semesters or 3 quarters
Physics	2 semesters or 3 quarters

Other courses

Math	2 semesters or 3 quarters (including one course in calculus)
Psychology	1 semester or 2 quarters
Microbiology	1 semester or 2 quarters

*Suggested additional
Preparation*

1 semester of statistics is strongly recommended

OAT The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) should be taken as early as possible, although OATs taken in February will be accepted for September admission

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE 2013-2014

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	March 15	\$65
Acceptance Notification	Rolling Admission		

**APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of NECO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of NECO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
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Race/Ethnicity information for NECO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The curriculum is delivered through a department structure and is divided into four broad areas: Biological Sciences and Disease, Vision Science and Public Health, Clinical Skills and Practice, and External Clinics.

Courses in the basic biological and health sciences provide students with an understanding of the normal and abnormal functions of the human organism. Course work in this area surveys fundamental biochemical and

biophysical mechanisms, and the physiological and pathophysiological processes involved in vision. Second and third year courses use this foundation to develop an understanding of ocular and systemic diseases and the skills essential to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of these conditions.

The vision science curriculum provides knowledge in optics and an understanding of the structure and function of the visual system. To that end, this part of the curriculum is presented within three general areas: optics, physiological optics, and ocular neuroscience. Course work in public health provides students with an understanding of the role of optometry in the health care system, the managerial skills needed by the health care provider, and an understanding of health care ethics.

Through the Department of Clinical Skills and Practice, optometry theory and practice provides students with a background for the specific skills, clinical insights, and patient management capabilities required of optometrists. Course work emphasizes general characteristics of human vision problems, measurement of the ocular refractive state, properties and use of ophthalmic lenses, devices, and appliances, assessment of binocular and accommodative status, and diagnosis and treatment of these anomalies.

Clinical experience enables students to become competent patient care professionals who can integrate scientific knowledge with clinical insights to solve vision problems. It begins as children’s vision screenings during the first year, and progresses to direct patient care during the second, third, and fourth years.

The basic elements of optometric education, vision sciences, basic health science, and optometric theory are concentrated in the first two years of study. Each year this emphasis shifts, with clinical experience playing a larger part of the educational process in the third year and consuming the entire curriculum in the fourth year.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$37,548	\$37,548	\$37,548	\$37,548
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$37,548	\$37,548	\$37,548	\$37,548
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$2,970	\$1,720	\$1,170	\$350
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$40,518	\$39,268	\$38,718	\$37,898
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$20,491	\$20,491	\$26,761	\$27,441
Total Expenses, Resident &				
Non-Resident	\$61,009	\$59,759	\$65,479	\$65,339

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013**

**Includes data only for first year students who applied for US federal student aid.

Total Number of Recipients	74
Percentage of Class	68%
Residents	
Average Award	\$44,100
Range of Awards	\$1,500- \$58,353

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions

Taline Farra, O.D., MSc.
Director of Admissions
The New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 587-5580

Financial Aid

Carol A. Rubel, Director of Financial Aid
The New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 587-5582

Visit our website at www.neco.edu

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry

<http://www.optometry.nsuok.edu>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The curriculum at NSUOCO is designed to prepare primary care professionals who are educated to practice full-scope optometry. Graduates of NSUOCO are fully educated and skilled in the diagnosis and management of the broad scope of eye and vision disorders and are guided by compassion, concern for their patients, and a devotion to human service. The four-year optometry program includes comprehensive classroom education and clinical training in:

- Ocular anatomy and physiology
- Neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of the vision system
- Ocular muscle structure
- Color, form, space, movement and visual perception
- General and ocular pharmacology
- Geometric, physical, physiological and ophthalmic optics
- Ocular disease, diagnosis, and treatment
- Design and modification of the visual environment
- Vision screening and vision performance
- Use of lasers to correct vision and provide eye care

NSUOCO students and faculty have served an important role in providing vision care to the rural communities in northeastern Oklahoma, and they are well positioned to be the gateway to the health care system. Annually over 55,000 patient encounters are conducted within the college's clinics which include rural ambulatory medical care centers of the Cherokee Nation. NSUOCO provides comprehensive primary eye care services, including lasers, minor surgical procedures and optometric medicine.

Northeastern State University is located in northeastern Oklahoma at Tahlequah, a city of unique spirit and individuality which lies cradled in the scenic hills of the Ozarks. NSU had its beginning in 1846 when the Cherokee National Council authorized establishment of a National Male Seminary and National Female Seminary to provide public and higher education for the Cherokee Indians. The University continues to be touched by the rich history of the Cherokee Nation and has the largest Native

American enrollment in the United States. The campus is surrounded by gently rolling hills and several of Oklahoma's most beautiful lakes. Tahlequah's moderate climate provides a myriad of recreational and entertainment opportunities.

The College is proud of its faculty, which represents a combination of highly qualified teachers from a variety of backgrounds. All have earned the Doctor of Optometry and/or other doctoral degrees, and all faculty who hold the O.D. degree serve as clinical instructors as well as teach in the classroom. This combination provides strength through a consistency of teaching and application of knowledge.

NSUOCO offers residency training in a variety of specialty areas. Each residency program has a strong clinical emphasis. Teaching, literature review, and research are additional educational aspects of the program.

Students at NSUOCO enjoy the advantages of being part of a small class. Each fall, 28 students begin the four-year optometry program. The small class size contributes to a comfortable, friendly learning environment.

ACCREDITATION

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) and is a member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. NSUOCO offers a four-year professional program that leads to the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications for admission will be accepted through OptomCAS (<http://www.optomcas.org>). Applications will be accepted July 1 through February 1 prior to the fall semester in which the applicant wishes to enter. Applications should be filed as early as possible. OptomCAS charges can be found on their website. A \$45 supplemental application fee is required to NSUOCO.

SELECTION FACTORS

Applicants must have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours of pre-professional work at an accredited college or university whose credits are acceptable toward a degree at NSUOCO. A **strong** preference will be given to applicants who have completed a bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation. The applicant must have a composite grade-point

average over all courses attempted of at least 2.7 based on a 4.0 scale and must have taken the Optometry Admission Test. The average GPA of students admitted to the program is 3.5. Applicants are evaluated on their potential to successfully complete the academic work and their ability to demonstrate the characteristics necessary to be a successful doctor of optometry.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

A minimum of three years (90 semester credit hours) to apply. A bachelor’s degree is **strongly** recommended.

Prerequisite courses:

Requires lab

Mathematics (College Algebra, Analytic Geometry, Trigonometry or Calculus)	6 semester hours	
General Biology or Zoology	4 semester hours	✓
Microbiology	3 semester hours	
Chemistry I & II	8-10 semester hours	✓
Organic Chemistry I	4 semester hours	✓
Biochemistry	3 semester hours	
Physics I and II	8-10 semester hours	✓
Statistics	3 semester hours	
General Psychology	3 semester hours	
English I & II (grammar and composition)	6 semester hours	

Other areas of study which are strongly recommended include: anatomy/physiology, experimental psychology, social science, humanities, computer science (especially data and word processing), public speaking, analytic geometry, and basic bookkeeping or accounting.

GPA	Minimum cumulative grade-point average - 2.7 on a 4.0 scale
OAT	Required, test results must be available by Feb. 1

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	Feb. 1	\$45.00
Acceptance Notification	Approximately April 1.		

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
 PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of NSUOCO’s applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
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ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$14,438	\$20,314	\$20,314	\$14,438
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$28,954	\$40,439	\$40,439	\$28,954
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$6,777	\$7,728	\$3,570	\$1,685
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$21,215	\$28,042	\$23,884	\$16,123
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$35,731	\$48,167	\$44,009	\$30,639
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$12,088	\$15,206	\$15,206	\$12,088
Total Expenses, Resident	\$33,303	\$43,248	\$39,090	\$28,211
Total Expenses, Non-Resident	\$47,819	\$63,373	\$59,215	\$42,727

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

Summer enrollment is required between second and third years and between third and fourth years. All fees are subject to change without notice.

Student Activity Fees:

The General Enrollment fee is required for all students. It includes enrollment fees, student health service fees, and entitles the student to a student activity ticket. In addition, Student Activity and malpractice insurance fees per hour will be charged based on the number of credit hours per semester (approximately \$500.00 per semester).

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients	24
Percentage of Class	86%
Residents	
Average Award	\$30,258
Nonresidents	
Average Award	\$40,500

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Committee and Student Affairs

Admissions Committee: Natalie Batt, Director of Student Affairs, (918) 444-4006

Student Affairs: Natalie Batt, Director of Student Affairs, and

Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative

NSUOCO

1001 North Grand Avenue

Tahlequah, OK 74464-7017

(918) 444-4006 or (918) 444-4036

Minority Affairs

Mary Stratton, Assistant Dean for Administration

Financial Aid

Shelly Dreadfulwater, Student Financial Services

(918) 456-5511, Ext. 3413

Nova Southeastern University

College of Optometry

<http://optometry.nova.edu>

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The College of Optometry, founded in 1989, is one of six schools in the Health Professions Division. The College of Optometry was the third school in the Division, preceded by the College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1980 and the College of Pharmacy in 1987. Subsequent to these Colleges, the Division established a College of Health Care Science which has programs such as Physician Assistant, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Audiology. Also established were the College of Medical Sciences, the College of Dental Medicine and the College of Nursing.

Nova Southeastern University, the largest independent not-for-profit institution of higher learning in the state of Florida, is the product of the merger of Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. The two combined in January, 1994. As a result of the merger, the Health Professions Division relocated to the Ft. Lauderdale campus of Nova Southeastern University and moved into a brand new complex of seven buildings which houses all of the colleges. This \$60,000,000 complex consists of almost 900,000 square feet of serviceable space at the western margin of the campus and is located on one of South Florida's busiest thoroughfares. The major structures include a five-story administration building, and an assembly building consisting of a 500-seat auditorium/classroom, a 250-seat auditorium/classroom, and eight 125-seat auditorium/classrooms. All of the laboratories for all of the colleges, along with the library are conveniently located in the Library/ Laboratory Building. The adjacent Clinical Services Building consists of primary medical care services on the first floor, primary eye care (operated by the College of Optometry) on the second floor, and tertiary care on the third floor. A sixteen-hundred car garage completes the facility.

The Health Professions Division facilities occupy 21 acres on the spacious 300-plus acre Nova

Southeastern University campus. New buildings include the 900,000 square foot Don Taft University Center, Horwitz Administration Building and the Center for Psychological Services. These buildings have been added to an already spacious campus which includes an undergraduate college, law school, student center, family center, athletic facilities, student dormitories and training facility for the Miami Dolphins Football Team. Only five minutes drive from the Ft. Lauderdale Airport, the campus is convenient and student friendly.

Basic science courses (anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology) are taught by the College of Medical Sciences, and students have the opportunity to mingle and exchange ideas with students of the other health professional programs.

Optometry is taught to the full extent of licensed practice in five clinics, comprising the Eye Care Institute. Training of students is conducted in all of the clinics. Each of the units has an optometry section which includes all refraction equipment and facilities for all other treatment and management of ocular disease. Located in one of sunny Florida's most attractive areas, the college of optometry combines outstanding education with exposure to other health professions in a wonderful environment.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry encourages the application of qualified minority applicants and is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of age, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion, or non-disqualifying disability in the administration of its employment and educational policies, student admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other programs administered by the college.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

Prior to matriculation, applicants must have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours of course work from a regionally accredited college or university.

Limitations on junior college work

Not more than 60 semester hours from community or junior colleges will be applied toward the 90 semester hour minimum.

Required Courses

The College requires that students must earn a grade of 2.0 or better in each of the following required subjects:

Requires lab

Calculus	3 semester hours	
Physics	8 semester hours	✓
Biology	8 semester hours	✓
Gen. Chemistry	8 semester hours	✓
Org. Chemistry	4 semester hours	✓
Microbiology	3 semester hours	
Biochemistry	3 semester hours	
Anatomy & Physiology	3 semester hours	
Social & Behavioral Sciences/Humanities	15 semester hours	
English	6 semester hours	

Recommended

Requires lab

Statistics
Computer Literacy

There is no requirement that a student must major in a specific area. Students are encouraged to select their undergraduate curricula according to their own interests with a view toward educating themselves to function as professionals.

OAT Required
G.P.A. Students should have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher on a four point scale and students must earn a grade of 2.0 or better in each required course.

Residency

For tuition purposes, students' Florida residency status (instate or out-of-state) will be determined based upon initial admission and will remain the same throughout the entire enrollment of the student at Nova Southeastern University. Accordingly, tuition will not be adjusted as a result of any change in residency status after initial enrollment registration.

Selection Factors

The College of Optometry selects students based on pre-professional academic performance, Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores, personal interview, written application, and letters of evaluation.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE*

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Application Fees</i>
Reg. Admission	July 15	April 1	\$50.00
Acceptance Notification	*	**	

* Notice of acceptance or any other action by the Committee on Admissions will be on a rolling or periodic schedule; therefore, early completion of application is in the student's best interest.

**Notification of acceptance may take place up until classes begin. Alternates may be called up to one week after classes begin.

APPLICANT RESPONSE REQUIRED TO HOLD ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance Fee - \$250. This fee is required to reserve the accepted applicant's place in the entering first-year class. This non-refundable fee is payable within two weeks of an applicant's acceptance.

Deposit - \$750. This is due April 15, under the same terms as the Acceptance Fee.

APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Mission

The mission of the College of Optometry is to prepare, educate and train optometric physicians to practice at the highest level of proficiency, integrity and professionalism, and to provide a multidisciplinary environment that encourages and supports scholarship, community service and lifelong learning.

To achieve our mission, the College has established the following goals:

1. Students will graduate from the program with all the necessary skills and knowledge to practice optometry.
2. Students and faculty members will participate in scholarly activities.
3. Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry will assist optometrists in their ongoing pursuit to improve their skills and knowledge base.
4. Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry will contribute, through education and service, to the greater communities in which our faculty members, students and graduates participate.

Vision: By 2020, through excellence and innovations in teaching, research, service and learning, Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry will be recognized by accrediting agencies, optometric communities and the general public as a premier College of Optometry of quality and distinction that engages all students and produces alumni who serve with integrity in their lives, professional organizations and optometric careers.

Optometry Degree: O.D.

Alternate Degrees: All students can obtain a bachelor’s degree in Vision Science after completing the first 2 years of the College of Optometry. Students may apply to the O.D.-M.P.H. Program or O.D.-M.S.C.V.R. Program (Master of Clinical Vision Research).

Optometry Curriculum The Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) is a professional degree which requires four years of professional study. An optometrist is an independent primary health care provider who examines, diagnoses, treats and manages diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures, as well as diagnoses related systemic conditions.

During the first two years, students concentrate on anatomy and physiology, general and visual systems, and on principles of ocular and general disease. In addition, they receive lecture, laboratory, and clinical instruction in primary care optometry and the conducting of an optometric examination. During the second year, students study the diagnosis and treatment of abnormalities of vision.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014 ENTERING CLASS

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$27,125	\$27,125	\$27,125	\$27,125
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$30,595	\$30,595	\$30,595	\$30,595
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$6,945	\$6,945	\$4,596	\$2,076
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$34,070	\$34,070	\$31,721	\$29,201
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$37,540	\$37,540	\$35,191	\$32,671
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$31,776	\$31,776	\$31,776	\$23,832
Total Expenses, Resident	\$65,846	\$65,846	\$63,497	\$53,033
Total Expenses, Non-Resident	\$69,316	\$69,316	\$66,967	\$56,503

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients 96
 Percentage of Class 94.1%

Residents

Average Award \$54,417
 Range of Awards \$13,725 - \$69,316

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions:

Ms. Fran Franconeri, Recruitment and Student Affairs
(954) 262-1651

francone@nova.edu

College of Optometry
Nova Southeastern University
3200 South University Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328

Mr. Juan Saavedra, Admissions Counselor
(954) 262-1132

jsaavedra@nova.edu

College of Optometry
Nova Southeastern University
3200 South University Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328

Office of Student Affairs

Dr. Michael Bacigalupi, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions
(954) 262-1410

bacigalu@nova.edu

College of Optometry
Nova Southeastern University
3200 South University Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328

Office of Student Financial Aid

Mrs. Lillian Ramkissoon, Manager of the Health Professions Divisions
Student Financial Aid
(800) 806-3680 x1130

moonasar@nova.edu

College of Optometry
Nova Southeastern University
3200 South University Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328

Office of Residential Life

Aarika Camp, Director of Residential Life
(954) 262-7084

Nova Southeastern University
3625 College Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

Visit our website at <http://optometry.nova.edu> and follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/NSUOptometry

The Ohio State University College of Optometry

<http://optometry.osu.edu>

GENERAL INFORMATION

In 1914, the Ohio State University offered the first four-year professional degree in Optometry. The Ph.D. program in physiological optics originated at Ohio State in 1936. Ohio State introduced many “firsts” to optometric education and is recognized internationally for its leadership in vision and research. It has a reputation for excellence, both in the classroom and in the clinic. The College of Optometry shares the resources of the most comprehensive health sciences center in the U.S.

Within the College are eight specialty areas and 58 primary care examination rooms, extensive laboratories, faculty and administrative offices, and support facilities.

SELECTION FACTORS

Students are selected on a competitive basis. Scholarship, motivation, interest, background, general qualifications for the profession, test scores, and personal interviews are all factors considered in the selection of candidates.

In order to maintain the quality of instruction and to provide ample clinical facilities for enrolled students, the College of Optometry limits the number admitted into each class to the capacity of the facilities. There are 64 seats available for all classes entering every fall.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Owing to the specific courses required in the College of Optometry, admission with advanced standing is rarely possible. Such students also would need to meet the customary competitive admissions requirements of the College of Optometry.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Optometry

of years

DESCRIPTION

All applicants must have completed three or more years of undergraduate course work. Most students admitted to the College have completed a bachelor’s degree. A completed bachelor’s degree is preferred but not required for admission. Every applicant who does not have a B.S. or B.A. degree should be making progress toward such a degree. Because all candidates should be working toward an undergraduate major, at least 30 semester or 45 quarter hours of credit should be undertaken at a baccalaureate degree-granting institution.

Limitations on junior college work

Consult with the College Student Affairs office (614) 292-2647 or a Professional Admissions counselor (614) 292-9444 to confirm if the course(s) meet the requirements.

Required courses

Requires lab

English Composition	5 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	
Algebra & Trigonometry	5 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	
Analytical Geometry & Calculus	5 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	

General Chemistry	15 quarter hours/8-10 semester hours	✓
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Organic Chemistry	6-8 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	
Biochemistry	5 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	
Physics	15 quarter hours/8-10 semester hours	✓
Biology	10 quarter hours/6-8 semester hours	✓
Microbiology	5 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	✓
Intermediate Physiology	10 quarter hours/6-8 semester hours	
Introductory Psychology	5 quarter hours/3-4 semester hours	
Humanities	10 quarter hours/6-8 semester hours	
Social Sciences	10 quarter hours/6-8 semester hours	

Additional courses in physiology and anatomy are highly recommended. Other beneficial electives may include: introductory statistics, ethics, histology, sociology, scientific terminology, and small business management.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	March 31	\$60 domestic \$70 international
Acceptance Notification	September	July	\$700.00

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum

The College of Optometry curriculum is designed to meet the needs of comprehensive optometric practice and also to provide a sound foundation for graduate work toward the M.S. or Ph.D. in vision science. The professional program leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree is four years in length and includes two required summers. The program is preceded by the necessary undergraduate education within the liberal arts and sciences. In some cases, it is possible for students to complete a bachelor's or master's degree in vision science while concurrently enrolled in the regular O.D. program. Though chiefly known for their extensive contributions to contact lens research, the faculty's expertise spans such areas as corneal physiology, color vision, aniseikonia, visual training, infant vision, lens design optics, low vision, exceptional children, eye movements, and binocular vision. As a result, extraordinary opportunities to specialize exist for the College's students and residents.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$23,456	\$23,456	\$31,248	\$31,248
Tuition, Non-Resident *	\$52,511	\$23,456	\$31,248	\$31,248
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$5,721	\$4,699	\$3,248	\$3,302
Total Direct Expenses Resident	\$29,177	\$28,155	\$34,496	\$34,550
Total Direct Expenses Non-Res.	\$58,232	\$28,155	\$34,496	\$34,550
Estimated Living Expenses **	\$15,869	\$15,869	\$21,159	\$21,159
Total Expenses, Resident	\$45,046	\$44,024	\$55,655	\$55,709
Total Expenses, Non-Resident	\$74,101	\$44,024	\$55,655	\$55,709

*Nearly every domestic non-resident student becomes an Ohio resident after his or her first year in the program. These students then pay resident tuition for their last three years of the program, resulting in a savings of approximately \$107,000. The College strongly encourages non-residents to plan and prepare for the residency application process, and the Office of the University Registrar provides as much guidance as possible to help students achieve Ohio resident status.

**Living Expenses are calculated for a nine month period; however, the cost for 3rd and 4th year students is more as it takes into account 12 months of enrollment as opposed to nine. Living expenses include rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

Special Scholarships

The College of Optometry administers several special scholarship funds. These are awarded annually to students on the basis of academic excellence, minority status, state residency, or other criteria. Awards may vary from \$1,000 to several thousand dollars per year.

Military Scholarships

The U.S. Armed Forces provide several scholarships on an annual basis for qualified optometry students. These awards typically provide full funding for educational and living expenses for one or more years in exchange for at least three years of service as an Armed Forces optometrist after graduation.

Need Based Aid

The OSU College of Optometry awards financial need-based scholarships to a large number of students ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year. Additionally, Health Profession Student Loans are offered at \$3,000 for in-state students and \$18,000 for out-of-state students. Federal Stafford Loans are also available each year at a rate exceeding \$40,000 per year.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2011-2012

Total Number of Recipients	60
Percentage of Class	98%

Residents

Average Award	\$46,692
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Nonresidents

Average Award	\$76,368
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Committee

Chair: Gil Pierce, OD, PhD, FAAO

Member: Jackie Davis, OD, MPH, FAAO

Member: Barbara Fink, OD, PhD, FAAO

Member: Sally Haltom, MA

Member: Don Mutti, OD, PhD, FAAO

Member: Jeff Walline, OD, PhD, FAAO

Student Affairs

Sally Haltom, M.A., Director of Student Affairs

Justin Griest, Manager, Admission and Financial Aid

Rebecca Roby, MLHR, Student Data Manager

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Financial Aid

Justin Griest, Manager, Admission and Financial Aid

Pacific University College of Optometry

www.pacificu.edu/optometry

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Pacific University College of Optometry is one of the oldest colleges of optometry in the nation. Excellent facilities located on the Pacific University Forest Grove campus, along with a network of EyeClinics located throughout the Portland Metro Area, and a dedicated faculty of national distinction, result in a quality educational program. Particular emphasis is placed upon the graduation of a comprehensive practitioner with expertise in behavioral optometry, contact lenses, low vision, vision therapy, sports vision and ocular disease. Approximately 400 students are enrolled at Pacific University College of Optometry.

Pacific University is a fully accredited member of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association. Our rigorous academic standards fully prepare graduates to practice in any state or province in North America.

The Professional Program

Pacific University College of Optometry is a clinically oriented program that promotes excellence in vision and eye care through education, service and research. Graduates are highly competent practitioners with broad-based clinical skills in all areas of optometry, from pediatrics to ocular disease. Additionally, students take a minimum of two elective courses during the third year in the curriculum, allowing students to customize their educational experience. Business education is also an important part of the curriculum. Practice Management courses are integrated throughout the first three years in the program, providing students with fundamental knowledge that they can apply in their professional careers. Clinical work is introduced in the first year of the graduate program and increases in complexity as the student progresses. Intensive clinical work in the third year allows the student intern to rotate through a series of internal clinical placements operated on-campus and throughout the Portland Metro Area by the College of Optometry. The fourth year of the program provides extended clinical training through four 12 to 15 week full-time clinical placements. The clinical placements include a variety of settings and may occur internally and externally at one of our affiliated preceptorship sites located throughout North America and abroad.

Unique to Pacific University is an additional concurrent Master's degree in Education, the M.Ed. Visual Function and Learning. Pacific also offers a Master's of Science in Vision Science research degree, which may be taken concurrently or independently from the OD degree.

Clinical Facilities

With multiple Eye Care Clinics located throughout the Portland Metro Area, the college operates a full-scale clinical program.

Pacific EyeClinic, Forest Grove, located on the Forest Grove Pacific campus, is a full service clinic providing general examinations, lens therapy, contact lenses, vision training/visual therapy, low vision care, medical eye care and the management of ocular disease. A special clinical area for electro-diagnostic procedures allows recording of the visual evoked response, electro-oculogram, electro-retinogram, fundus photography, and anterior segment photography.

Pacific EyeClinic, Portland, located in the heart of downtown Portland, provides students an opportunity to broaden the clinical optometry experience in a large urban community health care environment. This center provides the same full-scope services as the Forest Grove Center. In addition, the Pediatric/Strabismus Referral Center located within the Portland clinic focuses on all aspects of pediatric, strabismus, and binocular vision care including surgical and non-surgical intervention. Students work with pediatric ophthalmology and have opportunities to observe surgical care at the Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital, also located in Portland.

Pacific EyeClinic, Hillsboro, located on the Hillsboro Pacific University Campus, is a full service clinic providing general examinations, lens therapy, contact lenses, vision training/visual therapy, low vision care, medical eye care and the management of ocular disease. In addition, this clinic offers a unique interdisciplinary case studies experience. The program works with students from an assortment of Pacific's graduate programs, including Optometry, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, Psychology and Physician Assistant Studies.

Pacific EyeClinic, Beaverton is located in the “round” in Beaverton, directly off the MAX light rail line. This clinic is the first of its kind. It specializes in diagnosing and managing the eye and health related symptoms related to viewing 3D electronic displays. The Sports Performance Clinic in Beaverton has a close working relationship with NIKE, providing opportunity to evaluate, remediate, and enhance the visual performance for athletes of all levels. This clinic also delivers primary full-scope eye care. All lanes in this clinic are fully automated and provide an opportunity to practice Optometry with the newest and best equipment in the market place.

The newest clinic, Pacific EyeClinic, Cornelius, is just outside of Hillsboro in the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center. Keeping in alignment with the Virginia Garcia model, this clinic places an emphasis in providing comprehensive eye care to migrant and seasonal farm workers and others who face barriers to healthcare. This clinical experience focuses on primary full-scope eye care delivery to a predominately Hispanic population. Interns work closely with other health care providers in management of a variety of both systemic and ocular based disease processes.

Through a cooperative effort with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing and the Washington State School for the Blind, Pacific EyeClinic, WSSB, offers a Low Vision Clinic located on the Blind School's campus in Vancouver, Washington. It provides a unique clinical opportunity. This is a rehabilitative clinic that emphasizes treatment for visually challenged patients.

In addition to the six clinics, the college has an extensive community outreach program. The college boasts a fleet of 2 fully equipped and functional mobile vision clinics that are used to provide vision screenings as well as full-service care at schools, daycare centers, senior citizen centers, correctional institutions, migrant labor camps, and businesses throughout the region.

The College, in cooperation with the county health departments and community organizations in the surrounding area, also offers optometric services as outreach programs in the Portland Metro area. These services allow students the opportunity to become

involved in multi-disciplinary health systems serving a large urban area and its surrounding suburban areas.

As mentioned above, during the fourth professional year, students are assigned to four preceptorships in health care delivery systems throughout the United States and abroad. These assignments provide students the opportunity to work in hospitals, optometric centers, rehabilitation programs, and community health care systems.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Enrollment is limited and admission is selective. The Optometry Admissions Committee strongly encourages early application. In making admission decisions, the Optometry Admissions Committee considers many factors:

- Strength and breadth of academic record
- Optometry Admission Test scores.
- Essay responses
- A minimum of 30 hours of unpaid observation with an optometrist prior to application, preferably in more than one mode of practice. All observation hours must be with an optometrist who is not related to you.
- Strength of letters of evaluation, one must be from an optometrist and one must be from a professor who has taught you in college.
- Content of application forms and the care with which they have been prepared.
- Extracurricular and community activities.
- Demonstrated English language proficiency
- Strength of the on-campus personal interview.

Selected applicants are invited for on-campus, personal interview. The interview is required and is a contributing factor in the admission decision.

It subjectively allows the admissions committee to assess essential skills and traits which may not be reflected in the application. In the interview, consideration is given to knowledge of the profession, motivation toward a career in optometry, ability to think clearly and logically, poise, self-confidence, warmth, and verbal expression of ideas. New classes begin in late August each year; students may not enter the program in the middle of the year. Students planning to apply to the College of Optometry for fall 2014 (not having earned the baccalaureate degree) will be subject to the general degree requirements. Please contact the Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions for further information.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Pacific University College of Optometry does not have a special application process.

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Optometry

of years

DESCRIPTION

Applicants must be able to complete all pre-optometry course requirements before beginning the program. This requires 90 semester credit hours (normally three years) of pre-optometry course work. The majority of applicants complete four years of coursework. All science prerequisites must include labs and be those courses which are designed for science majors and students entering graduate and professional programs.

Prerequisites

Biological Sciences

12 semester/18 quarter hours

A complete course in human or comparative vertebrate anatomy (with coverage of human systems). A complete course in human physiology. (A two-semester course sequence, or the quarter equivalent, combining both anatomy and physiology is acceptable.) A course in microbiology. All courses must include laboratory.

Chemistry

12 semester/18 quarter hours

A standard two-semester course in general chemistry, and a standard two-semester course in organic chemistry or a survey course in organic chemistry and a semester of biochemistry. All courses must include laboratory. A course in biochemistry is strongly recommended, and may be substituted for the second semester of organic chemistry.

General Physics

8 semester/12 quarter hours

A standard two-semester course sequence or the quarter system equivalent. All courses must include laboratory.

Mathematics

3 semester/4 quarter hours

A course in calculus

Statistics

3 semester/ 4 quarter hours

Must be taken within the department of mathematics, psychology, sociology or statistics.

General Psychology

3 semester/4 quarter hours

English/Writing

6 semester/8 quarter hours

Must include two courses that have been taken from the Department of English or Writing are required (expository, technical and scientific writing are strongly recommended). Speech and communication courses do not meet this requirement. Writing intensive courses from other departments, such as Philosophy or Religion are not acceptable unless designated as writing intensive on your official transcript.

Bachelor degree requirements

The bachelor's degree is required of all students and must be completed

Options:

1. Earn the bachelor's degree prior to entry into professional studies. These students need to fulfill only the admissions criteria and prerequisite requirements.
2. Students attending institutions with a pre-professional program plan that includes a program of study to fulfill pre-optometry requirements plus that institution's bachelor degree requirements. In a case where Pacific's professional courses in optometry are used to satisfy another institution's graduation requirements, written notice of such an arrangement is required prior to matriculation
3. Earn a bachelor's degree at Pacific choosing to complete the visual science major offered by the College of Optometry. To be eligible for the visual science major, you must be admitted to the College of Optometry's doctoral program and have completed at least 90 semester hours of transfer credit prior to enrollment, including the prerequisite requirements and the following:
 - A. 12 semester/18 quarter credit hours in humanities, including courses from at least two disciplines such as art, communications, English, history, humanities, languages, music, philosophy, religion, speech, and theater. (Prerequisite course work may fulfill part of these requirements.)
 - B. 12 semester/18 quarter credit hours in social sciences, including courses from at least two disciplines such as anthropology, business, cultural studies, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology (Prerequisite course work may fulfill part of these requirements.)

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

Application Period

Begins July 1 for OptomCAS centralized application and the Pacific University Supplemental Application. Both applications are required for consideration. Final application deadline for all application materials occurs during mid-February.

Interview Period for Selected Candidates

Begins September
Ends April

Notices of Acceptance

Begins September

OAT (Optometry Admission Test)

The Admissions Committee requires all applicants to take the OAT. The Admissions Committee strongly encourages applicant to take the OAT early. The OAT must be taken by February 1.

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry

PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

The profile of PUCO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of PUCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for PUCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$34,572	\$46,556	\$32,036	\$25,929
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$34,572	\$46,556	\$32,036	\$25,929
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$6,881	\$3,233	\$2,571	\$2,450
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$41,453	\$49,789	\$34,607	\$28,379
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$12,631	\$18,720	\$20,149	\$19,360
Total Expenses, Resident &				
Non-Resident	\$54,084	\$68,509	\$54,756	\$47,739

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

	2013/14**	2012/13
Total Number of Recipients	65	84
Percentage of Class	71%	92%
Residents & Nonresident		
Average Award	\$54,084	\$52,974
Range of Awards	\$500- \$38,278	\$625-\$38,278

**Financial aid award packages were still being processed for 2013/2014 at the time of this report.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Counselors

Abby Boardman, Assistant Director of Graduate & Professional Program Admissions
 Pacific University
 College of Optometry
 190 SE 8th Ave, Suite 181
 Hillsboro, OR 97123
 (800) 933-9308 or (503) 352-7229
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Andrea Lybarger, Assistant Director of Graduate & Professional Program Admissions
 Pacific University
 College of Optometry
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 Hillsboro, OR 97123
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Financial Aid

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 Pacific University
 College of Optometry
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 Visit our website at www.pacificu.edu

Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University

www.salus.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University has an unparalleled legacy in the education of competent and compassionate Doctors of Optometry. We have pioneered standard setting innovations in optometric education since 1919. It was the first in the nation to grant a legislature-approved Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree. It was the first independent health care school of any kind recognized by a regional accrediting body.

The College was the first to establish a major interdisciplinary optometry facility, The Eye Institute, on its campus. The College was the first optometric teaching institution to initiate an external education department. It was a leader in the movement for passage of the first state laws permitting optometrists to use diagnostic and therapeutic drugs.

Today, Salus University offers more choices for our students. PCO students can qualify for one of two pathways to a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree. Each program provides students with the knowledge and clinical experience necessary to enter the profession, or to complete a residency program or advanced degree after graduation. No matter which program you choose, all PCO students receive an optometric education with a strong biomedical foundation and a primary care clinical focus.

TRADITIONAL PROGRAM

A cohort curriculum with ten overlapping education modules, this program pioneered our integrated curriculum, where students learn in the classroom, practice what they have learned in educational laboratories, and apply their knowledge and skills in caring for patients under the guidance and supervision of faculty. Many students choose the traditional program for the extensive clinical skills training that begins in the first professional year and culminates in 16 months of externships. Other features include small group learning experiences and traditional semester breaks.

Students can complement the traditional program with electives and advanced studies courses. In advanced studies, qualified students gain additional expertise in distinct areas of practice as they develop enhanced knowledge and experience beyond entry to practice.

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

An innovative program for highly qualified students, this program offers an alternative pathway to the Doctor of Optometry degree that accommodates a variety of student learning styles, including guided independent study. A year-round curriculum for highly motivated and well-qualified students, the Scholars Program is educationally equivalent to the traditional program due to a maximized, 36 month academic calendar.

Scholars Program students save one year's worth of living expenses compared to students in the traditional program, and graduates will be income-earning sooner by entering the optometric workforce one year earlier. Collectively, these factors result in a substantial financial benefit to the highly qualified and motivated student.

To learn more about these programs, please copy and paste the following link into your web browser:
<http://www.salus.edu/optometry/index.html>

SELECTION FACTORS

The College actively seeks applicants from every state in the nation. Students now attending come from more than 44 states, Canada, and other countries. The Admissions Committee has established an admissions policy to select the applicants who are best qualified to serve the public and the profession in the years to come.

In selecting students to be admitted, many factors are considered, including the applicant's academic performance, motivation, extracurricular achievements, essays, and letters of evaluation. When evaluating academic prerequisite courses, number of college credits completed, degree status and results of the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) are considered carefully. There are 150 seats available for the entering class each fall.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
REQUIREMENTS DESCRIPTION**

Pre-Optometry

of years Students must have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours or 135 quarter hours of credit from an accredited undergraduate college or university. These credits must include the following pre-optometry (pre-professional) courses complete with a 2.0 (C) or better. Students need not have completed all prerequisites prior to filing an application but must be able to complete all outstanding prerequisites prior to enrolling.

<i>Required Courses</i>		<i>lab required</i>
Biology, General or Zoology	1 year	✓
Chemistry, General	1 year	✓
Chemistry, Organic	1 year	✓
or		
Chemistry Organic and either Biochemistry or Molecular Biology	1/2 year	✓
English, Composition or Literature	1 year	✓ highly recommended
Mathematics	1 year of College Mathematics; however, 1/2 year of Calculus (highly recommended) fulfills Math requirement;	
Microbiology or Bacteriology	1/2 year	✓
Physics, General	1 year	✓
Psychology	1/2 year	
Statistics	1/2 year	

Other courses The College of Optometry encourages—but does not require—additional coursework in such areas as Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Histology, Cell Biology, Genetics, and Experimental and Physiological Psychology

Additional preparation

OAT OAT (Optometry Admissions Test)
The on-line OAT should be taken no later than June 1 of the year of application.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	March 31	\$0
Acceptance Notification	Notice of acceptance begins in September.		

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
 PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of PCO’s applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of PCO’s fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for PCO’s fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Curriculum The Pennsylvania College of Optometry has established a tradition of leadership. This legacy has been one of academic innovation and political and professional aggressiveness. Our history is replete with optometric firsts - from the first Doctor of Optometry Degree Program, to the first and largest externship program, to its current unique international initiatives. The PCO faculty now continues this leadership tradition by offering its students an exceptional optometric curriculum.

The distinctive features of the curriculum include: a promotion of interdisciplinary integration of foundation and practice courses using a module approach; the immediate introduction of clinical concepts and skills; the expedited entry into patient care experiences; and a significantly expanded clinical training program. During the first 2 1/2 years, students will spend less time in traditional classroom and laboratory settings so that they can experience more independent, case-based, small group activities. In addition, students will have early involvement in a variety of community-based patient care settings. In this curriculum model, all course work is complete by February of the third year, thereby allowing for 16 months of off-campus externships in a variety of private practice, hospital and group practice settings.

The primary care philosophy is the cornerstone of the optometric curriculum. It prepares students to integrate and apply foundational behavioral and practice sciences to address patient needs. It emphasizes a holistic approach to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and visual performance in enhancing patient quality of life. It stresses the need for the primary care optometrist to develop broad competencies in offering comprehensive services to patients and their families. The primary care optometrist must recognize that the completion of the Doctor of Optometry degree program is only the first step toward maintaining competence in a lifelong commitment to self-directed learning and continual professional improvement.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$33,960	\$33,960	\$33,960	\$33,960
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$33,960	\$33,960	\$33,960	\$33,960
Fees charged by school	\$570	\$731	\$679	\$850
National Board Fees	\$0	\$0	\$1,365	\$625
Average Loan Fees	\$850	\$900	\$900	\$900
Books and Instruments	\$3,640	\$4,240	\$1,740	\$1,340
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$39,020	\$39,831	\$38,644	\$37,675
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$16,430	\$21,910	\$24,110	\$26,420
Total Expenses, Resident				
& Non - Resident	\$55,450	\$61,741	\$62,754	\$64,095

*Includes rent, food health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

State Contracts and Subsidies Certain states, as result of contractual arrangements with the College, reduce the tuition fee for their residents by as much as \$14,375. These states are Delaware, Maryland, Nebraska and West Virginia.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Percentage of Class 86%

Residents

Average Award \$45,500
Range of Awards \$ 0 - \$55,540

Nonresidents

Average Award \$45,500
Range of Awards \$ 0 - \$55,540

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Student Affairs

Admissions

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Director of Admissions
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Financial Aid

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Associate Dean for Student Financial Services
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Visit our website at www.salus.edu

Southern California College of Optometry

www.ketchum.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO), part of Marshall B. Ketchum University, was founded in 1904. It is the third oldest of the schools and colleges of optometry in the United States. SCCO, a private, non-profit college, is accredited professionally by the Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association and regionally by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) .

Two Degrees Offered:

- Doctor of Optometry (O.D.), a professional degree
- Master of Science in Vision Science (M.S.), an academic degree that can be completed concurrently with the O.D. program.

Location: Sunny Southern California is the setting for SCCO. The City of Fullerton is known as “the Education Community,” as five colleges and universities call it home. A beautiful seven-acre, suburban-set campus, with great year-round weather, fantastic natural resources and tremendous recreational attractions combine to create a wonderful environment for learning and personal growth. Beaches, mountains, professional baseball, basketball and hockey, major theme parks and entertainment events are all part of the backdrop for SCCO.

Regional Setting: Southern California is a melting pot of cultural diversity where students benefit firsthand from experience inherent in this spectrum. Diverse cultural experience provides the opportunity for students to learn about people, not only as patients, but to also learn about them in their cultural context through exposure to such elements as native cuisine and fine arts—all part of the SCCO regional experience.

Our Mission: To educate today’s minds to provide tomorrow’s eye, vision and health care.

Our Vision: To lead the future of eye, vision and health care one student at a time.

Campus Features:

- Richard L. Hopping Academic Center with three high-tech classrooms with lecture-capture capability
- Eye Care Center (ECC), which serves both as a teaching facility and major health service center. Specialty services offered include cornea and contact lenses, binocular vision and vision therapy, pediatric vision, low vision and vision rehabilitation, and ocular prosthetics. Full service laser procedures are provided including refractive laser surgery, YAG, Argon and PDT procedures.
- M.B. Ketchum Memorial Library houses one of the most complete visual science libraries in the nation.
- Multi-level parking structure, adjacent to the Academic Center for convenient parking
- Student Fitness Center complete with fitness equipment and sound system.
- Student Computer Centers and campus-wide internet access (WIFI)
- Student Recreation Center complete with a kitchen, BBQ, patio area, Campus Store and Student Lounge.
- Audio/video link between the ECC and the Academic Center providing education using grand rounds techniques.
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- State-of-the-art teleconferencing center (TVCI)

Clinical Education Program: SCCO’s Outreach Clinical Education Program has been cited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) as “unparalleled in optometric clinical education.” Two components make up the program: on-campus is the Carling Huntington Childs Family Eye Care Center (ECC) and off-campus is the Outreach Clinical Program.

Students begin exposure to patient-care as a 1st year student. 2nd year students see their first patients in clinic in 2nd quarter. 3rd year students spend ½ their time in lecture/lab and ½ in clinic. 4th year students perform four three-month rotations—one on campus

at the ECC and the other three at outreach clinical sites that provide diversity of both clinical experience and patients. Through this Outreach Clinical Program which offers approximately 80 rotation sites throughout the US, Canada and two foreign countries, students have the ability to tailor their fourth-year clinical education to meet their needs and interests.

The Eye Care Center is located on SCCO's Fullerton campus and serves as the main clinical teaching facility serving more than 25,000 patients annually. Professional services encompass the diagnosis, treatment, and management of eye disease and vision disorders. Clinical services include contact lenses, vision therapy, pediatrics, geriatrics, sports vision, low vision rehabilitation, pediatric/infant contact lenses, ocular prosthetics and electrodiagnostics.

Career Resources: Preparing students for transition from school to private practice is a strength of SCCO's program. This includes the integration of the curriculum with access to placement, liaisons with optometrists and linkages to appropriate referral sources. The Practice Management Center (PMC) at SCCO provides consulting expertise and supportive services for the successful transfer and development of independent optometric practices. The PMC is operated by educators in practice management and successful private practice optometrists who have the experience and commitment to help one purchase his or her dream private practice. For more about the PMC, visit: <http://www.ketchum.edu/pmc/index.html>

Student Life: Student life outside the classroom provides opportunities for community service and leadership. Students take an active part in the governance of the College. Fifty percent of SCCO students live within a one mile of campus creating a true feeling of community. For a list of clubs, student organizations and their activities, visit: <http://www.ketchum.edu/studentlife/organizations.html>

Students take part in activities such as intramural sports. SCCO has its own Fitness Center. The campus borders Cal State University, Fullerton. Students do have time with friends to enjoy nearby locales that include downtown Brea with its restaurant and movie theaters, downtown Fullerton with its college-town attractions and the Brea Mall. Within an eight mile radius of campus, students can enjoy Anaheim Stadium, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and the Honda Center just to name a few.

SELECTION FACTORS:

Holistic Approach to the Admissions Process: SCCO prides itself on its progressive admissions process. It is designed to select those who are best qualified to make a contribution to their future patients and to the profession.

The admissions process has two qualifying rounds. The first includes GPAs, OAT scores, high school and college transcripts and various other scholastic qualifications that are assessed. The second is where more subjective, personal qualifications are examined. Should applicants meet a qualifying scholastic standard in the first round, they are then eligible to advance to the second round where professional potential is assessed through an interview process. It is the second round where motivation, character, personal statements, Curriculum Vitae and shadowing experience are taken into consideration. The practice of optometry requires great responsibility, maturity, ethics, devotion, intellectual curiosity and social commitment and the interview is designed to explore these criteria.

SCCO believes the practice of holistic review in the admissions process insures fairness to all who apply.

SCCO uses **rolling admissions**. For more information on any information related to the admissions process, please contact ODadmissions@ketchum.edu

Applicant Resources:

Events: Spring Admissions Open House and Summer Admissions Workshops are programs designed to help prospective students learn more about the profession and increase their competitiveness as an applicant. <http://www.ketchum.edu/index.php/admissions/news-and-events>

Social Networking: Dr. Jane Ann Munroe, Director of Admissions, hosts a Facebook Group for Pre-Optometry students. Ask your questions, share in discussion forums and learn more about the specifics of applying. To join the Facebook Group, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/SCCOadmissions/>

- YouTube Channel for SCCO: Video-formatted information about the admissions process and student life are hosted:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/janeannmunroe?feature=guide>
- Wordpress Blog:
www.optometryadmissions.com Learn about the admissions process, SCCO student life, and get tips on how to prepare for the OAT.

Resources for Parents and High School Students:

- For Parents:
http://www.ketchum.edu/index.php/admissions/articleod/information_for_parents
- For High School Students:
<http://www.ketchum.edu/index.php/admissions/info-hs-students>

For a complete list of **prerequisites** and other tips for getting started on the admissions process:
<http://www.ketchum.edu/index.php/admissions/getting-started>

Ready to apply? Go to:

<http://www.ketchum.edu/index.php/admissions/read-y-to-apply>

For questions about **financial aid**, please contact financialadvising@ketchum.edu

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

SCCO students are a highly select and specialized group. Each class is chosen from a wide variety of geographical, educational, and cultural backgrounds, enabling every student the opportunity to broaden his or her social knowledge and acquaintances.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry

of years

A bachelor’s degree is required for admissions. Please contact the admissions office for further information about fulfilling this requirement at (800) 829-9949.

Limitations on junior college work

Not applicable

Required courses

Requires lab

Calculus	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	
General Biology or Zoology	8 semesters or 12 quarter units	✓
Human Anatomy	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	✓
Human Physiology	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	✓
Microbiology or Bacteriology	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	✓
General Physics	8 semesters or 12 quarter units	✓
General Chemistry	8 semesters or 12 quarter units	✓
Organic Chemistry	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	
Biochemistry	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	
Psychology	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	
English Composition or Literature	6 semesters or 8 quarter units	
Statistics	3 semesters or 4 quarter units	

Additional preparation

OAT Required

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1st	March 15th	\$75

*\$1500 deposit due when accepted. In case of withdrawal, \$750 is refundable prior to May 15.

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

The profile of SCCO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of SCCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for SCCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The four-year doctor of optometry curriculum at the Southern California College of Optometry is designed to prepare students as primary health care professionals for the practice of optometry in the 21st century. The program includes a strong basic science component that stresses human anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and therapeutic pharmacology, as well as clinical patient care and practice administration and management.

The Carling Huntington Childs Family Eye Care Center (ECC) is the main clinical teaching facility of the College serving more than 25,000 patients annually. The ECC, located on SCCO's Fullerton campus, provides comprehensive eye and vision care services to the public.

SCCO's extensive Outreach Clinical Program provides off-campus optometric clinical experience. Students in their final year of the optometric program may select from more than 80 clinical program in 18 states, Washington, D.C., Japan and Guam.

SCCO's extensive clinical programs offer students tremendous opportunities to develop their clinical and people skills in many different health care delivery systems while serving patients from diverse socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. SCCO's clinical programs provide a unique and progressive variety of clinical settings and patient encounters for the professional degree student.

Master of Vision Science in Vision Science M.S.

The Master of Science in Vision Science (MS) prepares students to embark on a career in teaching and/or research in the basic or clinical science of vision. Designed for students who wish to complete the MS degree concurrently with the Optometry program (OD) degree, it is started upon entry into the Optometry program or later in the first year of the Optometry program. The Master of Science in Vision Science is envisioned as a research-based graduate degree.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$34,080	\$34,080	\$34,080	\$34,080
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$34,080	\$34,080	\$34,080	\$34,080
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$3,225	\$5,407	\$680	\$230
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$37,305	\$39,487	\$34,760	\$34,310
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$14,850	\$14,850	\$19,800	\$19,800
Total Expenses, Resident				
and Non-Resident	\$52,155	\$54,337	\$54,560	\$54,110

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

It is the policy of the College to assist financially needy students as much as possible. There are various types of financial aid available in the form of loans, scholarships, and grants, as well as work-study. SCCO is proud of its ever-growing institutional loan, scholarship and awards program. Annually, this program provides over \$609,000 in financial support to qualified students. Interested students should contact the Financial Aid Office directly by calling (714) 449-7448 or checking out information at the college website.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients: 89
 Percentage of Class: 89%

Residents

Average Award: \$38,475
 Range of Awards: \$9,666-\$52,093

Nonresidents

Average Award: \$38,475
 Range of Awards: \$9,666-\$52,093

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Committee and Student Affairs

Lorraine I. Voorhees, O.D., M.S.
 Vice President of Student Affairs
 (800) 829-9949, ext. 445
lvoorhees@ketchum.edu

Jane Ann Munroe, O.D.
 Director of Admissions
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Financial Aid

Tami Sato
 Director of Financial Aid
 (800) 829-9949, ext. 447
tsato@ketchum.edu

Visit our website at www.ketchum.edu

Minority Affairs

See above

Southern College of Optometry

www.sco.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

Since 1932, Southern College of Optometry (SCO) has provided its alumni with an unparalleled education. An outstanding faculty utilizing first-class facilities and technologies prepare graduates for the challenges of optometric practice into the next century.

SCO has been accredited continuously by the Council on Optometric Education since 1940 and by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1967 to award the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree. The College's mission is leading the profession by: educating the best possible healthcare providers; promoting lifelong learning; and fostering a personal commitment to service.

Located in the heart of Memphis' medical center, an 11-story structure houses multimedia classrooms; clinic research laboratories; a library which is home to the internationally recognized eye care database "Visionet;" a state-of-the-art computer learning resource center; and the Optometry and Biomedical laboratories. In 2004, the College renovated its first floor with a new bookstore, student study rooms, and student lounges. A \$9.4 million, 23,000 square-foot expansion of classrooms and academic facilities will be completed in August 2013.

The College also has an additional classroom building and an Activity Center, which houses a weight room, basketball court, racquetball courts and aerobics room. Ample and convenient parking is available to all students, faculty, and staff at no cost.

On September 3, 2002, Southern College of Optometry proudly opened its new on-campus vision and eye care facility, The Eye Center. The Eye Center is a 51,000 sq. ft. clinic that features 69 fully equipped examination rooms, 14 individual spaces for advanced technology-based testing, a retinal laser center, a digital angiography center, an area designed for technician work-ups of patients, conference rooms of varying sizes designed for group learning, a patient simulation laboratory, a spacious optical service area and specifically designed practice suites which enable students

to experience a more normal practice atmosphere. This facility is designed to be patient friendly, and doctor friendly.

The essence of SCO, however, is its students. Surveys show the number one reason students choose SCO is their personal experience with the College. Representing all regions of the country, their cultural, social, and academic diversity enrich the SCO experience.

SELECTION FACTORS

Admission into Southern College of Optometry remains significantly competitive. It is therefore essential for applicants to know the "how to's" of admissions to make their application as competitive as possible.

Applications for admission to Southern College of Optometry may be submitted beginning in July of the year prior to expected entry. SCO participates in the Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS), and the initial application is made to OptomCAS, where applicants will be directed to the college's supplemental application. Please note that all transcripts and reference letters must be submitted directly to OptomCAS. The College administers a rolling admissions policy; thus, it is vital for applicants to submit their application, academic transcripts, and Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores as soon as possible. The last date applications and OAT tests are accepted is March 1.

The College first reviews each applicant's academic credentials to determine if minimum admissions standards have been or will be achieved. Other qualities, such as optometric experience and extra curricular activities, as well as motivation and goals, are carefully reviewed before determining which applicants will be invited for a personal interview.

The on-campus personal interview is required for admissions eligibility. Invitations are extended only to the most promising applicants.

The purpose of the interview is two-fold: to give the College an opportunity to evaluate the applicant's

personal qualities, such as communication skills and level of interest in optometry, and to allow each applicant the chance to visit and tour the campus.

Before making final admissions decisions, the College will review all previously mentioned attributes in search of the most qualified and well rounded applicants. Academically, an applicant must have competitive transcripts and OAT scores to justify meeting the College's challenging curriculum and academic standards. Equally important, it is incumbent upon all admitted students to be able to successfully interrelate within the optometric, educational, and professional communities.

The College adheres to a policy assuring that each application will be reviewed on its individual merit and credentials. Also, the College always encourages applicants and prospective applicants to contact the Admissions Department for specific questions about their applications and about the selection process.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

If a prospective applicant has been enrolled at another optometry or other health professions school, or if the GPA is less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, SCO's Admissions Office should be contacted.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Pre-Optometry
of Year

Three years (90 semester hours) of college coursework are required. Significant preference is given to applicants with baccalaureate degrees.

Limitations on community college work

The majority of required courses should be taken at an accredited four-year college.

Required courses

Requires lab

General Biology	8 semester hours	✓
Microbiology	4 semester hours	✓
General Chemistry	8 semester hours	✓
Organic Chemistry	4 semester hours	✓
Biochemistry	3 semester hours	
General Physics	8 semester hours	✓
English	6 semester hours	
Calculus	3 semester hours	
Statistics	3 semester hours	
Psychology	3 semester hours	
Social Science	6 semester hours	

Other requirements

Optometry Admissions Test

Suggested additional preparation

Courses in anatomy, physiology, cell biology, business management, and information systems are highly recommended.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Application Submission	July 1	March 1	\$50
Acceptance Notification	Rolling	Rolling	\$500 deposit

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum Southern College of Optometry offers a contemporary curriculum that prepares future doctors of optometry for full scope, primary care optometric practice. Students learn clinical procedures early in the first year of the program and are involved in patient care during the second year. A strong basic science curriculum prepares students for clinical practice and provides a sound foundation to sit for national licensing examinations. The Eye Center, located on campus, provides a diverse and challenging clinical experience. Under the supervision of experienced staff doctors, students provide eye care in the Primary Care, Pediatric, Ocular Disease, Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation, and Contact Lens Clinics. Tennessee has one of the most progressive optometry laws in the nation, which allows our student doctors to participate in state-of-the-art care in glaucoma treatment, ocular injections, and other aspects of disease management. During much of the final year, student doctors provide patient care at off-campus externship sites located throughout the nation. Student doctors complete externships at hospital, co-management, and private practice settings. The externship program provides a fitting conclusion to a progressive curriculum that effectively prepares graduates to meet the clinical challenges of a dynamic profession. At the successful completion of its four-year program, Southern College of Optometry awards the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Regional	\$19,596	\$19,596	\$19,596	\$19,596
Tuition, Non-Regional	\$29,496	\$29,496	\$29,496	\$29,496
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$4,164	\$6,006	\$567	\$260
Total Direct Expenses, Regional	\$23,760	\$25,602	\$20,163	\$19,856
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Reg.	\$33,660	\$35,502	\$30,063	\$29,756
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$10,920	\$13,650	\$16,380	\$16,580
Total Expenses, Regional	\$34,680	\$39,252	\$36,543	\$36,436
Total Expenses, Non-Regional	\$44,580	\$49,152	\$46,443	\$46,336

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

Regional and Non-Regional Positions

In each entering class, a limited number of positions are reserved for competitive applicants from states participating in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) program. The applicant must be certified as a bona fide resident of that state by the appropriate state authority. These states include: AR, GA, KY, LA, MS, SC, TN, and WV. A reserved position entitles a student to be eligible for regional tuition. Kansas contracts directly with the College for tuition reduction.

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office strives to see that every entering student obtains the funds necessary to complete the program with the least possible debt at graduation.

The Financial Aid Office conducts an on-going program designed to help each student manage budgeting and cash flow while eliminating unnecessary expenditures. Through formal classroom presentations and individual counseling, each student learns to make sound decisions about student finances.

Federal Loans and Work Study

Most students enrolled at Southern College of Optometry receive assistance from one or more of the federal student loan programs. Many are also employed in the College's Federal Work-Study Program. (Details can be obtained from SCO's Financial Aid Office.) Applicants accepted for admission will automatically be sent a complete financial aid packet including all necessary applications.

The College directly administers the Health Professions Student Loan Program, the Federal Perkins Loan Program and the Federal Work-Study Program. Eligibility is determined in accordance with federal regulations, and students receive funds from a combination of federal and institutional sources. Off-campus federal sources are also available to students through the College's participation in the Direct Loan Program, which includes unsubsidized and Graduate PLUS loans.

Student Health Insurance

In recognition of the fact that the cost of health care can be financially devastating, the college makes comprehensive health insurance available to all students at attractive group rates. Dependent coverage is also available. Health insurance coverage becomes effective September 1 and continues without interruption until the student graduates or otherwise ceases to be enrolled. Contact the Accounting Office for more information.

Academic Scholarships

Approximately 200 endowed scholarships for selected outstanding students are funded by gifts from those wishing to support the College through recognition of academic excellence. Recipients are selected prior to entrance and there is no formal application process. Eligibility requirements vary for each scholarship, but most require exemplary achievements in undergraduate coursework and on the OAT. Leadership, service, and interpersonal skills are also considered. A complete scholarship list is posted in our catalog online at www.sco.edu. This is a growing list, which is routinely updated by the Student Services Office.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-13

Percentage of Class	94%
Regional	
Average Award	\$31,834
Range of Awards	\$5,964-\$42,418
Non-regional	
Average Award	\$37,018
Range of Awards	\$5,694-\$53,218

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Committee and Student Affairs

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Vice President for Student Services
(800) 238-0180
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Minority Affairs

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Coordinator of Minority Student Recruitment
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Financial Aid

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Director of Financial Aid
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E-mail: cgarner@sco.edu

Visit our website at www.sco.edu

State University of New York, State College of Optometry

www.sunyopt.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The State University of New York, State College of Optometry (SUNY Optometry) is located just opposite Bryant Park and the main branch of the New York City Public Library in the very desirable mid-town area of Manhattan. All classrooms, laboratories, library, research space (Graduate Center for Vision Research), and patient clinics (the University Eye Center) of the College are located in an historic 18-story building.

SUNY Optometry was established in 1971 as part of the State University of New York. Through the years, the College's reputation has increased as a result of the excellent academic performance of its students (on average, over 95% of SUNY students pass the national written licensing exam on their first try), coupled with its extraordinary patient base. The University Eye Center offers students practical experience in all specialty areas such as pathology and ocular disease, lasers, vision therapy, contact lenses, low vision, infants, pediatric and geriatric care, head trauma, and learning disabilities, with well over 70,000 diversified patient visits per year.

One hundred fifty full- and part-time Ph.D.s, O.D.s, M.D.s, and educational specialists make up the teaching and research faculty of the College.

SELECTION FACTORS

The College does not discriminate on the basis of residence, race, creed, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, or age in its admission process; on

the contrary, we desire diversity in our student body.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early in their last undergraduate year even if all requirements have not yet been completed. Students are considered under "rolling" admission, which begins in July of each year.

All course prerequisite requirements must be met, preferably with a C grade or better. The GPA of students who have been admitted over the past several years has averaged 3.48 (4.0 scale). The Admissions Committee prefers an OAT total science score above 320. Equal consideration is given to the quality of the undergraduate institution and type of program, progression of grades, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, personal interview, and knowledge of the profession.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

- a. Students may also combine the OD degree with an M.S. or Ph.D. in Vision Science or an MBA.
- b. The State funded Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) is available for New York State residents from underrepresented minorities and financially disadvantaged backgrounds. This program attempts to inform, recruit, prepare and support students interested in a career in optometry by offering an internship experience. For more information, visit www.sunyopt.edu/cstep

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Optometry

DESCRIPTION

of years

A minimum of 90 semester hours of undergraduate study is required; a baccalaureate degree is highly recommended.

Limitations on community work

Whenever possible, all prerequisite courses should be taken at a four *college* year college or university. Students should enroll in courses which are recommended for departmental majors or prehealth students; these courses should not be brief or survey courses nor taken pass/fail. Pre-requisite courses taken at community colleges should be completed successfully with a letter grade of B or better.

Required courses

General Biology

1 year

lab required

✓

Inorganic Chemistry*

1 year

✓

Organic Chemistry*

1 year

✓

General Physics

1 year

✓

Calculus

1 semester or quarter

General Psychology

1 semester or quarter

Statistics

1 semester or quarter

English composition or literature

1 year

Social sciences

1 year

(Advanced level courses that demonstrate the acquisition of the knowledge base expected from the above required courses may be substituted if approved by the Director of Admissions)

*Biochemistry may be substituted for one term only.

Other courses recommended

Microbiology, Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology

OAT

Required, preferably by the Fall of last undergraduate year; will accept if test is taken no later than February 28 of the year for which the applicant is applying.

GPA

No specific requirement but a “B” average or better is preferred.

Recommendations

From pre-professional committee; if none exists, 3 letters of which two should be from teaching faculty, preferably math or science.

Residence

SUNY Optometry does not discriminate against out-of-state residents in its admission practices.

Advanced standing

Considered on an individual basis.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>
Rolling Admission (regular application)	July 1	March 1
Acceptance Notification	October 1	May 15

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

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The profile of SUNY's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
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Race/Ethnicity information for SUNY's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D., also O.D./MS, O.D./Ph.D.

Optometry Curriculum The professional program leading to the Doctor of Optometry (OD) at SUNY Optometry is four years in duration. The curriculum integrates the basic biological and vision sciences that form the foundation of clinical practice, teaches the fundamentals of optometry, and develops critical thinking for problem oriented clinical care and case decision making. Patient care begins early and continues throughout all four years of the program with increasing responsibilities under the supervision of our clinical faculty at the University Eye Center as well as through a minimum of two quarters during the fourth year at externship sites around the country.

The first two years of the program concentrate on students integrating basic biological and visual sciences with clinical practice, while developing an understanding of the theory and fundamentals of ocular examination and evidence-based treatments. Students begin working in the University Eye Center (UEC) clinics in the first year and continue with greater responsibilities in subsequent years. Direct patient contact begins in the spring of the second year. Third year integrates didactic and clinical teaching further, and students work directly with patients in primary care clinic and gain exposure in various specialty clinics.

Students, working as interns with patient care responsibilities, are assigned to multiple rotations through various clinics in the UEC and at least two externship sites at various hospitals and other healthcare facilities as part of our externship program. Opportunities for rotations through one of the College's international clinical affiliates also exist. Because of the wide diversity and numbers of patients cared for at the University Eye Center and our external affiliates, students can expect a wealth of clinical experience that will more than adequately prepare them for their future professional career.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$21,890	\$21,890	\$21,890	\$21,890
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$40,885	\$40,885	\$40,885	\$40,885
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$3,345	\$3,545	\$445	\$445
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$25,235	\$25,435	\$22,335	\$22,335
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$44,230	\$44,430	\$41,330	\$41,330
Estimated Living Expenses	\$20,640	\$20,640	\$29,400	\$29,400
Total Expenses, Resident	\$45,875	\$46,075	\$51,735	\$51,735
Total Expenses, Non-Resident	\$64,870	\$65,070	\$70,730	\$70,730

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients 66
Percent of Class 88%

Residents

Average Award \$28,995
Range of Awards \$1,000-\$48,041

Non-residents

Average Award \$50,466
Range of Awards \$10,000 - \$66,341

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our website at www.sunyopt.edu

Office for Student Affairs

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Minority Affairs

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Admissions Committee and Student Affairs

Guilherme Albieri, MA
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Phone: (212) 938-5500

Financial Aid

Vito Cavallaro, B.A.
Director of Financial Aid
vito@sunyopt.edu

Detailed information on how to apply can be obtained at www.sunyopt.edu/admissions

All inquiries should be directed to:

Office of Admissions
SUNY College of Optometry
33 West 42nd St.
New York, New York 10036-8003
Phone: 800-291-3937 or (212) 938-5500
Admissions@sunyopt.edu

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry

www.uab.edu/optometry

GENERAL INFORMATION

UAB School of Optometry is an integral part of the world-class UAB Academic Health Center. This unique setting allows students unparalleled opportunities in basic medical science instruction, interdisciplinary patient care, clinical research activities, and public health community service. UABSO also offers students the many benefits of a small school, class size of 42-45 students, within a large urban university. UABSO students may take advantage of the same university sponsored events and programs as those available to undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, Birmingham is a vibrant metropolitan community that retains considerable small-town charm. There is something for everyone including hiking, museums, golf, the symphony, football, concerts and much more.

UABSO has a world-class reputation for educating optometrists. Our faculty is among the best known in the country through their lectures, research and publications including many textbooks. Our students and faculty perform community service in multiple venues from local neighborhoods to third-world countries. Perhaps our best known service is the excellent patient care provided in the recently renovated clinic "UAB Eye Care," a 34,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that covers everything from primary eye care, including the dispensing of glasses and contacts, to the treatment of ocular disease, as well as low vision rehabilitation and pediatric vision care.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Optometry

of years

DESCRIPTION

Three years of undergraduate education (90 semesters/). Applicants scheduled to have a bachelor's degree at the time of matriculation are given preferential consideration over those who will not have their degree prior to matriculation.

Limitations on junior college work

At least 30 (prefer 60) semester hours must have been earned at a four year institution. No more than 60 semester hours earned at a two-year college may be applied toward the credit requirement.

SELECTION FACTORS

Candidates for admission to the School of Optometry should meet all the requirements for admission to The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Admission to the professional program is based primarily on the quality of the applicant's pre-optometric scholarship, the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores, personal interview, optometry related experience either through shadowing or employment in the optometric field and letters of recommendation.

The UAB School of Optometry is state supported and as such gives preference to applicants who are bona fide residents of the state of Alabama. At the present time, approximately 20 of the available 42-45 positions are reserved for Alabama residents. Positions are also allocated to applicants with residence in one of the contracting states participating in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) program. Contract positions are currently available from the following states: Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and West Virginia. There are also 10-15 positions available for non-resident students. The number of positions may vary from year to year.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Prospective applicants with special circumstances should contact the Director of Student Affairs.

UAB is an equal opportunity institution.

Required courses

	<i>Semesters</i>	<i>Requires lab</i>
Biology	2	✓
Microbiology	1	
Biochemistry	1	
General Chemistry	2	✓
Organic Chemistry	1	✓
Physics	2	✓
Calculus	1	
Statistics	1	
English	2	
Psychology ¹	1	
Social & Behavioral Sci. ²	2	

¹ A statistics course taken in a psychology department may not be counted for fulfillment of both the psychology and the statistics requirements.

² Any combination of 2 semesters or 2 quarters in sociology, economics, anthropology, history, political science, or additional psychology.

Other courses recommended Anatomy and Physiology

Additional preparation OAT Required

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Regular Admission	July 1	March 1	\$75
Acceptance Notification	October	May	\$700

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The goal of the optometry curriculum is to graduate optometrists who are capable of entering into optometry practice. The curriculum is designed to give the student a very strong foundation in the basic health and basic vision sciences and in-depth training in all aspects of optometric clinical care. Graduates of this program are equipped with the basic clinical skills that allow them to practice in any region of the country and in any setting, as well as with the intellectual skills that allow lifelong professional development.

During the first two years of the program, the emphasis is on basic sciences and basic vision sciences, which serve as the foundations for clinical science. Students begin their preclinical education and provide clinical care in the second year. During the third year, students continue to provide clinical care and, at the same time, are exposed to additional courses that provide the scientific and clinical basis for optometric practice. The fourth year is devoted entirely to providing clinical care. During that year, students rotate through the many specialty clinics and affiliated programs, and complete externships at off-campus clinical sites.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$27,047	\$27,618	\$27,243	\$19,248
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$51,420	\$51,420	\$51,420	\$34,280
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$5,217	\$3,369	\$4,102	\$2,775
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$32,264	\$30,987	\$31,345	\$22,023
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$56,637	\$54,789	\$55,522	\$37,055
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$16,319	\$17,936	\$17,654	\$14,714
Total Expenses, Resident	\$48,583	\$48,923	\$48,999	\$36,737
Total Expenses, Non-Residents	\$72,956	\$72,725	\$73,176	\$51,769

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities and personal expenses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions and Student Affairs

Director of Student Affairs

Gerald Simon, O.D.

School of Optometry

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

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e-mail: admissions@icare.opt.uab.edu

Minority Affairs

Gerald Simon, O.D.

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Financial Aid

Financial Aid Office

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

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(205) 934-8132

e-mail: aclittle@uab.edu or mmartin@uab.edu

Visit our website at www.uab.edu/optometry

University of California, Berkeley

School of Optometry

<http://optometry.berkeley.edu>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of California is at the forefront of modern optometric education. The training at Berkeley Optometry prepares students for professional practice in the community. The curriculum is designed to develop independent professional judgment and is continuously updated to reflect the latest in clinical and vision science research. Class size is small, with enrollment limited to 70 students. During their second and third years of the professional curriculum, Berkeley Optometry students obtain extensive clinical experience, both on campus in the 75,000 patient visit per year Meredith W. Morgan University Eye Center in Minor Hall and the Tang Student Health Center, and at a number of satellite clinics in the Bay Area. During their fourth year of the curriculum, students also participate in external rotations, both in California and throughout the United States. These rotations are at Veteran's hospitals, the Indian Health Service, military bases, HMOs, and other optometric facilities.

See <http://optometry.berkeley.edu> for the latest official information.

SELECTION FACTORS

The Admissions Committee considers quantitative factors, such as OAT scores and the grade point average of the applicant in Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses, "BCP GPA," as calculated by OptomCAS. However, qualitative factors, such as the personal statements, letters of recommendation, optometric familiarity, and extracurricular/community service activities are strongly weighed as well. Finally, for those candidates who are being moved forward in the review process, an in-person interview is required for admission. The Admissions Committee also considers economic, social, cultural and/or educational disadvantage applicants have had to overcome.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Pre Optometry

of Years

DESCRIPTION

A bachelor's degree with a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) is required for admission.

Limitations on junior college work

Not applicable

Required courses (AP courses may be used to meet these requirements)

Basic Science Courses

With laboratory required

General chemistry	2 semesters or 3 quarters
Organic chemistry	1 semester or 1 quarter
Biochemistry	1 semester or 1 quarter
General biology or zoology	2 semesters or 3 quarters
General physics	2 semesters or 3 quarters

Advanced Science Courses

Human or comparative anatomy	1 semester or 1 quarter (lab required)
Human or mammalian physiology	1 semester or 1 quarter (lab required)
Microbiology	1 semester or 1 quarter (lab not required)
Immunology (effective 7/2012)	1 semester or 1 quarter (lab not required)

General Courses

Calculus or advanced mathematics	1 semester or 1 quarter
Reading and composition	2 semesters or 3 quarters
Statistics	1 semester or 1 quarter
Psychology	1 semester or 1 quarter

Additional preparation

OAT Required, and the test must be taken by or on December 2, 2013 of the admissions cycle.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Admissions	July 1	December 2	\$80 Domestic/\$100 International
Acceptance Notification	TBD	TBD	\$150 Orientation Fee

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of UCB’s applicants for fall 2013 entry can be found at <http://optometry.berkeley.edu/admissions/profile-1st-year-students>

The profile of UCB’s fall 2013 entering class can be found at <http://optometry.berkeley.edu/admissions/profile-1st-year-students>

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The optometry curriculum is a four-year graduate level professional program. By requiring applicants to complete courses in human anatomy, human physiology, microbiology, immunology, organic chemistry and biochemistry prior to admission, Berkeley Optometry begins its instruction in optometry at a more advanced level than other programs. The first two years are divided between vision science and optometry courses, and the preclinical laboratory, where students receive a total of 240 hours of hands-on instruction in patient examination during the first year, and another 428 hours in the second. As a result of this accelerated preclinical training program, Berkeley Optometry students begin providing full vision care for their first patients in the Meredith W. Morgan University Eye Center during the second semester of the second year, and they spend the entire summer between the second and third year examining an average of 70 patients in the clinic. Approximately 75% of the third year curriculum is comprised of providing patient care in the Morgan Eye Center and the school’s various satellite clinics around the Bay Area, with the remaining 25% taken up in advanced clinical optometry courses. The fourth year is spent entirely providing patient care, and includes three or four 8-10 week external rotations at sites in California and across the United States. The professional curriculum for Berkeley Optometry students includes over 3500 hours of clinical experience, and students average a minimum of 2000 patient encounters during their four-year professional curriculum.

FINANCIAL AID

The University of California, Berkeley, participates in federally supported student aid loan programs. As such, federally supported financial aid programs are open to US Citizens and Permanent Residents. To apply, prospective and current students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the suggested deadline of March 2. In addition to federally supported aid programs, the School of Optometry makes efforts to provide yearly departmental awards to all students who are in good academic standing, regardless of citizenship. For the academic year of 2012-2013, the School awarded over \$1,000,000 in departmental funding.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Financial aid in the form of direct awards to students is provided by the members of the Admissions Committee as part of the admissions process. Over \$336,000 in general support was awarded to the incoming class of 2014, along with approximately \$84,000 in Graduate Diversity Program funds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Berkeley Optometry website:
<http://optometry.berkeley.edu>

Admissions and Student Affairs Office
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School of Optometry
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Berkeley, CA 94720-2020
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e-mail: optometry-admissions@berkeley.edu

Staff
Dr. Richard Van Sluyters
Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Sharon T. Joyce
Assistant Dean of Admissions, Student Affairs and
Career Services

Heather Iwata
Associate Director of Admissions and Student
Affairs

Kailin Hu
Coordinator of Admissions and Student Affairs

Financial Aid
Financial Aid Office for Graduate, Law and
Optometry Students
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<http://students.berkeley.edu/fao/graduate>

ADDRESS OF SCHOOL

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University of Houston College of Optometry

www.opt.uh.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) combines excellence in professional education with an opportunity to live in one of the nation's major cities. Established in 1952, the College of Optometry at the University of Houston serves Texas and the surrounding states as the leader in optometric education, vision research, and patient services. The college is located on the university campus in the Health & Biomedical Sciences' J. Davis Armistead Building, one of the world's finest optometric teaching complexes. A faculty of expert clinicians and vision scientists offers challenging instruction, while the college's modern facilities and equipment provide an optimal learning environment.

The University Eye Institute at the College of Optometry serves over 30,000 patients each year. In addition to the comprehensive in-house clinical training, optometry students spend two semesters of their senior year on externships in Houston, around the nation, Germany and Sweden. Sites include private practices, surgical centers, military bases, Veterans Affairs hospitals, Indian Health Service hospitals, and community-based clinics.

Students enjoy the advantages of extensive clinical programs, share the excitement of ongoing research, and experience the collegiality of belonging to a large university community. For those who are ready for the challenges of an outstanding O.D. program and are receptive to the vibrancy and diversity of a great and growing city, the University of Houston College of

Optometry is an unrivaled choice.

SELECTION FACTORS

The following attributes are used in determining an applicant's academic and personal qualifications for admission to the college: (1) Undergraduate academic record and scores on the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT); (2) Letters of Recommendation; (3) Personal attributes including community service, extra-curricular activities, and work experience; (4) Written and oral communication skills; and (5) Results of a personal interview conducted by faculty and students.

The mean GPA of entering students over the last several years has been 3.3 to 3.5 (4.0 scale) and the mean OAT Academic Average and Total Science scores have been 325 to 340. Applicants are required to submit a UHCO supplemental application with their OptomCAS application.

Minority Affairs

The Texas Optometry Career Opportunities Program (TEXOCOP) is designed to provide experience, information, and guidance for promising college students interested in careers in the field of optometry. The program includes a six-week summer session and year-long advising and counseling to increase academic skills for prospective students from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented backgrounds or colleges.

The TEXOCOP Summer Program immerses students in an intense pre-health professional curriculum and enriches the experience with academic and clinical activities. Rigorous education courses, workshops, panels, and seminars increase participants' knowledge about the profession and offer strategies for achieving their career goals. This popular program was initiated in the summer of 1988 and has proven to be successful based on the many participants who have been accepted to optometry schools all over the country and have successfully completed these programs.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Foreign-trained health professionals may apply to the professional optometric program at the University of Houston College of Optometry. All applicants must fulfill all University of Houston College of Optometry requirements to earn the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) Degree, including prerequisite courses and a U.S. baccalaureate degree or equivalent. Review and translation of the applicant's transcripts must be provided by an acceptable independent foreign credential evaluation service such as the World Education Service. Official transcripts and the independent evaluation must be sent directly to the University of Houston College of Optometry from the applicant's college or university and from the independent evaluation service. In addition, all applicants must complete the

OptomCAS application and the UHCO supplemental application.

Generally, optometry courses done as undergraduate courses are not acceptable transfer courses for the program at UHCO. Additionally, there are 55-60 hours of basic science prerequisite courses required prior to admission along with a baccalaureate degree. The required entrance exam is the Optometry Admission Test (OAT).

Due to differences in curricula and the sequencing of courses, it is likely that foreign-trained health care professionals will require the full four academic years to complete the degree program. Upon receipt of the O.D. degree, foreign-trained health professionals will be fully qualified and permitted to take optometry licensing examinations in the United States.

A link to OptomCAS may be obtained from the UHCO website at www.opt.uh.edu. In addition, a link to the supplemental application will be available when an OptomCAS application ID is generated. A \$50 (USD) application fee to the University of

Houston College of Optometry must accompany the supplemental application. Admission into the program is based on the competitiveness of the applicant.

UHCO officials will review international students' applications and make decisions about appropriate class placement.

In addition to the O.D. program offered at UHCO, there are Master of Science, Ph.D. and combined O.D./Ph.D. programs.

UHCO will begin accepting applications for the entering class of 2014 on July 15, 2013. The deadline to submit the OptomCAS application is February 15, 2014 and all admissions documents must be received in the Office of Optometry Relations at UHCO by March 15, 2014.

Please visit the UHCO website at www.opt.uh.edu for additional information.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Optometry

Limitation on junior college work

DESCRIPTION

A baccalaureate degree is required for all entering students.

Not applicable

Required courses with lab

Physics	8 semester hours
General Biology	8 semester hours
Microbiology	4 semester hours
Advanced Biological Sciences (Jr. and Sr. level)	8 semester hours
General Chemistry	8 semester hours
Organic Chemistry	4 semester hours

Other Courses

Calculus	3 semester hours
Biochemistry	3 semester hours
Psychology	3 semester hours
Statistics	3 semester hours

OAT Required

It is recommended that students take the OAT in the fall preceding the year of planned entry to the optometry program.

GPA

A minimum of 2.7 is required; however, UHCO will generally not consider applicants unless they have achieved at least an overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
OptomCAS	July 15	Feb. 15	see www.optomcas.org
Supplemental Application	July 15	Feb. 15	
Acceptance Notification	Rolling Admissions		\$500 deposit

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class

The profile of UHCO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of UHCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for UHCO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The curriculum provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to fulfill the diverse roles within professional optometry. The program requires four academic years and two summer terms, comprising 177 semester credit hours of study. The material is presented in four broad academic units: basic sciences, optometric sciences, internal clinic practice, and external clinical experience.

First-year courses cover a broad range including human anatomy and neuroanatomy, health services organization and policy, geometric optics, sensory aspects of vision, ocular anatomy and physiology with histology laboratory, pathology, primary care optometry and ophthalmic optics— spectacle lenses and frames and their fitting. Students begin their clinical experience in a clinical simulation laboratory with fellow students serving as “patients.”

Second-year students begin seeing patients in the second semester. Clinical experiences include interviewing, examination diagnostic techniques, and management of eye and vision problems. Laboratories and lectures build upon previous knowledge and introduce new topics: general pharmacology, ocular pharmacology and therapeutics, anterior ocular diseases, sensory and motor aspects of vision with laboratory, epidemiology, advanced diagnostic techniques, contact lenses, pediatrics, clinical skills, and primary care optometry.

Following the second-year studies, students participate in an intensive, seven-week summer clinical rotation. This experience provides students with the confidence and skills in the application of clinical techniques necessary for success in the third year.

Third-year clinical practice focuses on contact lenses, assessment and management of vision problems in children, the care of elderly patients, and patients with ocular disease. Lecture and laboratory courses cover advanced topics in pediatric optometry and contact lenses, rehabilitative optometry, retinal and neurological disease, ophthalmic lasers and refractive surgery, and primary care optometry.

Fourth-year study is comprised of three semesters: summer, fall, and spring. Two terms are devoted to external clinical rotations, and one is spent in residence in advanced seminars and clinical practice. Fourth-year externships provide experience working in multidisciplinary health care settings, increase the number and diversity of patient care experiences, and broaden awareness of the many factors affecting health care delivery in our society. Externship sites are located in Houston, throughout Texas, and in various cities across the United States. Some externship assignments are completed in health care settings in foreign countries.

Advanced seminars during the fourth-year campus term cover topics such as practice management and administration, primary care diagnosis and treatment, new developments in optometry, and clinical rounds. Students spend their clinic time in specialty clinics, pediatrics, medical eye care, specialty contact lenses, low vision, and advanced primary care practice.

Throughout the curriculum the relationships between basic and clinical science, theory and practice, are continually emphasized.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3*	Year 4*
Tuition & Fees, Resident	\$19,956	\$19,956	\$25,060	\$25,008
Tuition & Fees, Non-Resident	\$32,046	\$32,046	\$39,940	\$40,083
Books and Instruments	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$20,956	\$20,956	\$26,060	\$26,508
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$33,046	\$33,046	\$40,940	\$41,583
Estimated Living Expenses**	\$15,438	\$15,438	\$18,449	\$18,751
Total Expenses, Resident	\$36,394	\$36,394	\$44,509	\$45,259
Total Expenses, Non-Resident	\$48,484	\$48,484	\$59,389	\$60,334

*Includes summer semester

**Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition and fees are subject to change as required by university or state legislative action. A variety of financial assistance programs are provided for eligible students who need financial assistance beyond their resources in order to meet expenses.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients 90
 Percentage of Class 87%

Residents

Average Award \$35,000
 Range of Awards \$3,000 - \$40,500

Non-Residents

Average Award \$40,000
 Range of Awards \$3,000 - \$40,500

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions/Academics/TEXOCOP

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Student Affairs/Optometry Relations

Melissa Mares
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Jennifer Ebert
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Michele Stafford
Current Student Services
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Financial Aid

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Financial Aid Advisor
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University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry

<http://optometry.uiw.edu/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The mission of the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (UIWRSO) is to educate and prepare future leaders in optometry through excellence in education, patient care, and vision research. This is achieved in an environment committed to personal growth within a context of faith, human dignity and social justice.

We are the only optometry school in the country associated with a faith-based institution emphasizing individualized attention and placing a high importance on our student's personal growth and development. In addition to our goal of graduating clinically proficient optometrists, UIWRSO is equally concerned with graduating well-rounded healthcare professionals. We challenge you to consider what it means to be a compassionate doctor and leader in the community.

In order to provide a cohesive and supportive learning environment, we keep the class size small, enrolling approximately 68 new students each year. Our rigorous Curriculum, dynamic Faculty and strong Student Support Services combine to create a positive yet challenging academic environment. As such, the overall retention rate for our interns who are enrolled in the professional optometry program is currently 96%.

We are located in the medical center of San Antonio, TX. Nestled deep in the heart of Texas, San Antonio continues to be a destination for work, culture and recreation. As the 7th largest city in the United States and growing, San Antonio's cost of living continues to rank among the lowest of US cities, mainly among large metropolitan areas. The Brookings Institution named San Antonio one of the strongest performing economies among the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the nation and #1 overall performance based on employment and unemployment levels.

The School of Optometry consists of multimedia classrooms, technologically-advanced clinical laboratories, an optometry library, computer lab, study areas, a student lounge, faculty and administrative offices. In addition to numerous community clinics, the School offers two state of the art clinical facilities including the UIW Eye Institute,

on-site of the main facility, and a second clinic located on the eastside of the city. The UIW Bowden Eye Care & Health Center is a multidisciplinary teaching environment equipped to provide comprehensive health care to underserved populations.

SELECTION FACTORS

In order to apply for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Successful completion of a minimum of 90 semester hours of college coursework from an accredited institution of higher learning
- A grade of C or better must be achieved in all prerequisite courses
- A recommended minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale
- A recommended minimum overall Optometry Admission Test score of 300

Applicants will be considered for admission on the basis of academic performance as well as non-academic qualifications. The following criteria will be used in the admissions selection process:

- Scholastic Aptitude and Academic Performance
 - Overall undergraduate grade point average
 - Prerequisite science and math cumulative grade point average
 - Optometry Admission Test performance
 - Written and oral communication skills
 - Ability to handle a diverse and demanding course load
- Extracurricular Activities; Community Service; Volunteer Work; Leadership Positions; Optometry-Related Experience
- Evaluation of Character, Motivation, Initiative, Interpersonal Skills, and Awareness of the Optometric Profession
- Ability to meet the Functional Standards, as defined by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Those applicants with special circumstances or conditions, such as foreign-held degrees, non-traditional status or career changes, are encouraged to contact the office of Student Affairs for further information.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to UIWRSO requires a minimum of 90 semester hours of coursework from an accredited college or university. A candidate may apply while in the process of completing prerequisites, however all requirements must be completed prior to enrollment at UIWRSO. A grade of “C” or higher must be achieved in all prerequisite courses and all courses must have been completed within 10 years of the first day of classes for the entering student. However, the applicant can furnish evidence to the Admissions Committee of command of current knowledge in topics which do not meet the 10-year criteria. Each prerequisite course meets just one requirement.

REQUIRED COURSES

Biology with Laboratory*
Inorganic/General Chemistry with Laboratory
Organic Chemistry with Laboratory
General Physics with Laboratory
Microbiology with Laboratory (or Bacteriology with Laboratory)
Biochemistry OR Molecular Biology
Calculus
Statistics
Psychology
English

NUMBER OF COURSES

2 semesters (or 3 quarters)
2 semesters (or 3 quarters)
1 semester or equivalent
2 semesters (or 3 quarters)
1 semester or equivalent
1 semester or equivalent
1 semester or equivalent
1 semester or equivalent
2 semesters (or 3 quarters)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING WITHOUT A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Humanities (may include Theology, Philosophy, History, Foreign Language, Literature, Art) 2 semesters (or 3 quarters)
Behavioral & Social Sciences (may include Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, History, Anthropology, Geography, Economics, Communications) 2 semesters (or 3 quarters)

RECOMMENDED COURSES (NOT REQUIRED)

College Mathematics Recommended
Physiology Recommended
Anatomy Recommended
Ethics Recommended

**1 semester of any of the following courses with laboratory may substitute for 1 semester of General Biology with laboratory: Cell Biology, Anatomy, Physiology, or Genetics*

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE FOR FALL 2014 ENTERING CLASS

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Fees</i>
OptomCAS Application	July 1, 2013	May 15, 2014	See OptomCAS website
Supplemental Application	July 1, 2013	May 31, 2014	No Fee
Official OAT scores	July 1, 2013	June 16, 2014	See ASCO website
Acceptance Notification*	Rolling Admissions	Rolling Admissions	

**Applications are processed as they are received and offers of acceptance are made on a rolling basis, therefore we strongly encourage applicants to apply as early as possible during the application period. This rolling admissions process allows qualified individuals to be admitted on a continual basis until the class is filled.*

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of RSO's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of RSO's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for RSO's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

The prescribed 4-year curriculum is based in the medical model, emphasizing individualized attention and clinical development. The curriculum integrates classroom experience and patient contact, providing early exposure to clinical training. Practice management is also focused on, emphasizing the skills necessary to maintain a successful business or private practice. Distinctive features of the curriculum include case-based seminars, grand rounds, problem-based learning, incorporation of educational technologies such as web-based learning, classroom performance system, digital libraries, podcasts and video conferencing. Opportunities exist for clinical research through our Summer Fellowship Training Program as well as interaction with other medical and health care providers primarily through our Inter-Professional Education (IPE) program.

The didactic & clinical laboratory instruction by our talented Faculty begins in the first year and continues through the duration of the program. All courses, including basic science courses, integrate and emphasize clinical applications & scenarios.

Early clinical encounters occur in the second year of study through community based vision & disease screening activities. To emphasize these clinical activities, students undergo instruction in integrated clinical problem-based learning, gaining experience in the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients.

The School offers multiple clinical settings to achieve diverse patient encounters. The professional settings for your third and fourth year rotations include the UIW Eye Institute, the UIW Bowden Eye Care & Health Center, the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind clinic and various Communicare Clinics. Your fourth year Externship sites vary in location across the country and internationally. We are especially proud of our brand new UIW Bowden Eye Care & Health Center. This clinical facility is a multidisciplinary teaching environment equipped to provide comprehensive health care to underserved populations of our community. All of our clinics are committed to serving under-insured patients and providing exemplary vision care to San Antonio and south Texas that advance the local and global community, public welfare and common good.

For additional details on the professional optometry program, we encourage to visit our website at
<http://optometry.uiw.edu>

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$31,800	\$31,800	\$31,800	\$31,800
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$31,800	\$31,800	\$31,800	\$31,800
Required Fees	\$1,180	\$980	\$595	\$50
Estimated Books, Equipment & Supplies	\$4,800	\$5,250	\$1,375	\$750
National Boards	n/a	n/a	\$625	\$1,250
Total Direct Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$37,780	\$38,030	\$34,395	\$33,850
Estimated Living Expenses	\$10,502	\$10,502	\$14,004	\$14,004
Total Expenses, Resident				
& Non-Resident	\$48,282	\$48,532	\$48,399	\$47,854

FINANCIAL AID

There are number of options available to assist UIWRSO students with financing their education. The majority of professional school students receive financial aid. Student loans, work-study programs, institutional scholarships, and outside scholarships are offered to help students meet their educational costs. Students are awarded and packaged financial aid to include a budget for tuition, fees, books, room, board, transportation, and personal expenses. All UIWRSO students are reviewed for internal merit-based scholarships.

Upon admission & enrollment, students can meet with our UIWRSO Assistant Director of Admissions & Financial Assistance to review their financial package. Financial aid and debt counseling information sessions designed specifically for optometry students are conducted periodically to educate students on debt management strategies and financial information.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN 2012-2013

Total Number of Recipients: 62
 Percentage of Class: 90%

Residents

Average Award: \$44,059
 Range of Awards: \$1,500-\$56,028

Nonresidents

Average Award: \$44,059
 Range of Awards: \$1,500-\$56,028

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Visit our website at <http://optometry.uiw.edu>

University of Missouri St. Louis, College of Optometry

<http://optometry.umsl.edu>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The UM-St. Louis College of Optometry, housed on the South Campus of the University of Missouri- St. Louis, was established in 1980.

The small class size, which is between 44-46 students, allows exceptional student-faculty interaction and clinical supervision. Students begin actual patient care in their second year, with the students' fourth divided into six 8-week rotations at over 100 externship sites around the world.

Our Values: Optometrists, as essential primary eye care providers within an effective health care delivery system, frequently serve as leaders within the community. It is our commitment to demonstrate and instill an appreciation for the following values as we prepare our graduates to fulfill that role with distinction.

- **Growth**
- **Responsibility**
- **Discovery**
- **Community**

Our College: Since 1980, the College of Optometry has been continuously accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education. Our University is separately, and continuously, accredited through their appropriate regional accreditation body, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

Our University: Founded in 1963 on the grounds of a former country club, UMSL today is spread across 350 acres of rolling hills in suburban St. Louis County adjacent to two Interstate highways and five minutes from Lambert International Airport. Our University is accredited through its appropriate regional accreditation body, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The campus has 70 academic and general-purpose buildings as well as a variety of student residence halls, condominiums and apartments, and an athletics/fitness building, Mark Twain. Mark Twain is the home of our collegiate sports.

Other accommodations in the Mark Twain Building include a jogging track on the lower level, a swimming pool, locker-room facilities, weight lifting room, equipment room and a training room. All students are invited to take and benefit from fitness courses offered throughout the year, as well as encouraged to join in intramural sports teams.

SELECTION FACTORS

Applications are reviewed beginning September 1 with interviews scheduled and initiated starting Mid-September. Applications are received through the Centralized Application Service administered by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. The College applies a "rolling admissions" process which allows qualified applicants to be admitted on an ongoing basis until the class is filled. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible to ensure full consideration for admission.

The Admissions Committee has the responsibility to review and evaluate all applicants and select the best qualified candidates. The Committee considers an applicant's overall grade point average, the grade point achieved in the sciences, any grade trends over the years in college, and the scores on the Optometry Admission Test. Concurrently, candidates are evaluated on less quantitative measures such as extracurricular activities and interests, related or unrelated work experience, written narrative, and letters of recommendation.

Those applicants whom the Committee feels to be most competitive will be invited for an on-campus interview. The on-campus interview facilitates an assessment of the applicant's communication skills, interests, motivation, and personal characteristics. In addition, the on-campus interview allows the applicant to tour the facilities, meet with currently enrolled students, have questions answered regarding financial aid and housing, and learn more about the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the College of Optometry. From this group of interviewed applicants, the entering class of 44-46 students will be selected.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission, the following special provisions apply to international applicants. International applicants whose native language is not English and who have spent less than two of the last three years in an English-speaking country are required to submit scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.

To complete their credential file, students are required to furnish original and official transcripts from each school attended both in this country and abroad. All foreign school and college transcripts must be evaluated by the World Education Services,

Inc., Bowling Green Station, P.O. Box 5087, New York, NY 10274-0087, (212) 966-6311, www.wes.org and the evaluation submitted as part of the application requirement.

The University maintains an Office of International Student Services to assist international applicants who have been offered admission.

The UM-St. Louis College of Optometry seeks applications from qualified minority applicants, and offers recruitment scholarships to under-represented minorities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All courses used to satisfy the admission requirements must have been taken at an institution fully accredited by one of the Department of Education regional accreditation bodies. These courses must be taken for a letter grade; they cannot be taken as an Audit or on a Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. Applicants must have completed at least 90 semester- or 135 quarter-hours (the equivalent of three years of college education) prior to matriculation. The applicant cannot apply more than 60 semester hours (or 90 quarter-hours) which were earned at a two-year institution toward the credit-hour requirement. Applicants holding a bachelor's degree will be given preference over applicants with similar academic credentials who do not have a degree. There is no requirement that a student major in a specific area.

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Optometry

of Year

DESCRIPTION

90 semester hours (135 quarter hours) of college coursework are required. Significant preference is given to applicants with baccalaureate degrees.

Limitations on

community college work

The university will accept up to 60 hours from a community college.

<i>Required courses</i>	<i>#-Semesters</i>	<i>or #-Quarters</i>	<i>Requires laboratory</i>
General Biology	Two	Three	✓
Microbiology	One	One	✓
General Chemistry	Two	Three	✓
Organic Chemistry	One	One	✓
General Physics	Two	Three	✓
English	Two	Three	
Calculus	One	One	
Statistics*	One	One	
Psychology	Two	Three	
Liberal Arts**	Two	Three	

* Statistics may be taken in Math, Business, or Psychology.

**Liberal Arts courses are non-science/math courses such as economics, sociology, business, history, political science, etc.

Other requirements

Optometry Admissions Test within three years of application date. Trigonometry must either have been taken in high school, college or as part of student's calculus course.

Suggested additional preparation

Courses in anatomy, physiology, cell biology, biochemistry, histology, business management, and information systems are highly recommended.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE*

	<i>Earliest Date</i>	<i>Latest Date</i>	<i>Supplemental Application & Fees (all fees are nonrefundable)</i>
Application Submission	July 15	February 15	Supplemental Application, \$50
Acceptance Notification	Rolling	Rolling	\$500 seat deposit

*to be considered for a Merit Scholarship or Contract Seat (NE and KS), students must meet the early deadline of January 5th.

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of UMSL's applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of UMSL's fall 2012 entering class can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_the_Entering_Class_2012.pdf

Race/Ethnicity information for UMSL's fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree O.D.

Optometry Curriculum The curriculum leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree is a four-year, full-time program of study. The first year of the professional curriculum emphasizes basic health sciences and introduces students to optics of the visual system. The second year covers vision science and training in eye examination techniques. The third year emphasizes patient care and introduces the student to various specialty areas within optometry, such as contact lenses, pediatric and geriatric vision care, binocular vision and vision training, and low vision rehabilitation. The second and third year also include course work and clinical training in general and ocular disease and pharmacology. The fourth year provides additional patient care experiences and includes rotation through a variety of outreach programs, giving the student added experience in the treatment of eye diseases as well as valuable experience in other optometric clinical specialties.

A number of externships have been established to allow fourth-year students to spend a portion of their final year of training in a variety of patient care environments (e.g. military bases, Veterans Administration Hospitals, Indian Health Service Hospitals, and various specialty practices and private practices). These eight week externships are selected and scheduled according to the student's interests, needs, and future practice intentions.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

All students enrolled in the University must pay educational fees based on either the schedule for (Missouri) residents or the schedule for nonresidents. All optometry students will be required to pay the non-resident educational fee if they do not meet the University of Missouri residency requirements at the time of enrollment.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3*	Year 4*
Tuition, Resident	\$21,686	\$21,686	\$27,108	\$21,686
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$37,222	\$37,222	\$46,528	\$37,223
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$4,500	\$3,875	\$2,702	\$2,785
Total Direct Expenses, Resident	\$26,186	\$25,561	\$29,810	\$24,471
Total Direct Expenses, Non-Res.	\$41,722	\$41,097	\$49,230	\$40,008
Estimated Living Expenses**	\$9,900	\$9,900	\$13,200	\$9,900
Total Expenses, Resident	\$36,086	\$35,461	\$43,010	\$34,371
Total Expenses, Non-Resident	\$51,622	\$50,997	\$62,430	\$49,908

Note: There is a required summer session between the student's third and fourth year. (Included in third year fees.)

*The University reserves the right to modify by increase or decrease the fees charged for attendance and other services at the University, including but not limited to educational fees, at any time when in the discretion of the governing board the same is in the best interest of the University, provided that no increases can or will be effective unless approved by the governing board not less than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the academic term (semester, etc.) to which the fees are applicable, with all modification of fees to be effective irrespective as to whether fees have or have not been paid by or on behalf of a student prior to the effective date of the modification.

**Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID

The University of Missouri-St. Louis maintains an Office of Student Financial Aid to assist eligible students in financing their education. The Office of Student Financial Aid will assist students in determining individual needs and reviewing available programs and will process loan applications.

The College of Optometry administers several scholarship funds. These scholarships are awarded annually to students on the basis of academic excellence, state residency, financial need, or other criteria. Awards may vary from \$500.00 to several thousand dollars per year. Recipients are selected prior to entrance and there is no formal application. Eligibility requirements vary for each scholarship.

Students who meet the early application deadline (e.g., all application materials received by our office not later than 5 PM on January 5th) will be considered for a merit scholarship. Merit scholarships are based on the applicant's cumulative GPA and OAT section scores. Most students receive assistance from one or more of the federal student loan programs (e.g., Health Professional Student Loan, Federal Perkins Loan Program) and many students are employed in the Federal Work- Study Program.

The U.S. Armed Forces provides several scholarships annually to qualified students in exchange for one or more years of service as an Armed Forces optometrist after graduation. These awards provide full funding for education and a monthly allowance.

The UM-St. Louis College of Optometry Office of Student Services has up-to-date information on numerous scholarships and grants. This information is given to applicants when they are on campus for their personal interview with the Admissions Committee.

State Reciprocal Agreement

The College of Optometry currently has a state reciprocal agreement for residents of Kansas. This agreement allows the College to admit up to three bona fide Kansas residents in the entering class each year. Under the agreement, these students pay the same educational fee as resident students and agree to return to Kansas after graduation.

Student Health Insurance

In addition to the health care plan offered to students through the American Optometric Student Association, the University offers a cost-effective individual and family plan to any university student. Information about the university plan is available at www.umsl.edu.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AY 2013-14***Residents***

Average FAFSA Package Offered: \$39,599

Non-Residents

Average FAFSA Package Offered: \$40,500

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION***Admissions and Tours of the School***

University of Missouri-St. Louis
College of Optometry
Office of Student Services
317 Marillac Hall
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
(314)516-6263
1-888-EYE-UMSL
E-mail: optometry@umsl.edu

Minority Affairs

Dr. Alex Harris
(314)516-5603
E-mail: AHarris@umsl.edu

Financial Aid

(314)516-5526
Please ask to speak to the Optometry Liaison

Additional Information or Assistance

Visit the University of Missouri-St. Louis website for campus and student information at www.umsl.edu and/or the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry website at <http://optometry.umsl.edu>.

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry

<http://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/welcome-11/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Western University of Health Sciences was founded in 1977 and exists as a non-profit, graduate university for the health professions located on 22 acres in Pomona, California. Pomona is a city of approximately 150,000 residents, located 35 miles east of Los Angeles near the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The University consists of nine colleges: the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP); the College of Allied Health Professions; the College of Pharmacy; the College of Graduate Nursing; the College of Veterinary Medicine; the College of Dental Medicine, the College of Optometry; the College of Podiatric Medicine; and the Graduate College of Biomedical Sciences.

The mission of Western University is: To produce, in a humanistic tradition, health care professionals and biomedical knowledge that will enhance and extend the quality of life in our communities. The University's emphasis is on the education and preparation of inter-professional primary health care service teams. The University's philosophical perspective focuses on the preparation of highly skilled health care professionals who are also compassionate, humanistic caregivers.

The mission of the Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry is:

- To graduate caring, comprehensive optometrists who can enhance visual function throughout the lifespan of each unique individual, and serve the increasing public need in neuro-optometry encompassing: learning disabilities, brain injury, developmental disabilities, and the visually impaired.
- To advance scientific inquiry with particular emphasis upon studies in: neurological

function; visual-spatial perception, visual-vestibular integration, visual attention, lighting, and human behavior; vision and learning; orientation and mobility in the visually impaired; and, efficacy of various treatment procedures and interventions.

- To provide health care services to the public in: primary care, pediatrics, geriatrics, low vision, vision therapy, sports vision, and neuro-optometry.

SELECTION FACTORS

WesternU's College of Optometry seeks the leaders of tomorrow who will help to shape our program and who will contribute to the profession after graduation. The Admissions Committee considers both quantitative and qualitative factors. OAT scores and grade point averages demonstrate your readiness for the rigorous optometry curriculum but your personal statement, letters of recommendation, knowledge of the profession and extracurricular/community service activities are important factors as well.

The selection process begins with a review of each applicant's qualifications. Those applicants who meet the academic and personal criteria are invited to interview. The College of Optometry conducts a behavioral-based interview, meaning questions will not focus on your prior academic record since that was already demonstrated in your application. Questions asked will require you to draw from personal experience to formulate your answers. The interview will help the Committee further evaluate your verbal communication skills, maturity, leadership skills, etc.

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Students from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**REQUIREMENTS****DESCRIPTION****Pre Optometry***# of Years*

A minimum of 90 semester or 135 quarter units of undergraduate coursework must be completed at a regionally accredited institution prior to matriculation. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must complete all prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or better prior to enrollment.

*Limitations on Junior
College Work*

Not applicable

Required Courses

Requires Lab

(only English and Calculus may be taken on an advanced-placement basis)

General Biology or Zoology	8 semester or 12 quarter units	✓
General/Inorganic Chemistry	8 semester or 12 quarter units	✓
Organic Chemistry	3 semester or 4 quarter units	✓
General Physics	8 semester or 12 quarter units	✓
General Microbiology or Bacteriology	3 semester or 4 quarter units	✓
Biochemistry	3 semester or 4 quarter units	
Statistics	3 semester or 4 quarter units	
Calculus	3 semester or 4 quarter units	
Psychology	3 semester or 4 quarter units	
English	6 semester or 8 quarter units	

Other Courses Recommended

Anatomy and Physiology

Note: Please visit <http://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/requirements> for further details on admissions requirements.

Additional Preparation

OAT	Required
Letters of Recommendation	See web site for details

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS TIMETABLE

	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Fees
Regular Admission	July 1	May 1	\$65
Acceptance Notification	September	August	\$500*

* \$500 deposit due within 14 days of acceptance

**PROFILE OF APPLICANTS TO O.D. PROGRAMS for Fall 2012 Entry
 PROFILE OF MATRICULANTS INTO O.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS, Fall 2012 Entering Class**

The profile of WUCO’s applicants for fall 2012 entry can be found at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Profile_of_Applicants_2012.pdf

The profile of WUCO’s fall 2012 entering class can be found at
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Race/Ethnicity information for WUCO’s fall 2012 entering class can be found in table 1.6 on page 19 at
http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ASCO_2012-2013_StudentDataReport.pdf

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Optometry Degree: O.D.

Optometry Curriculum: WesternU’s College of Optometry plans an innovative curriculum emphasizing early entry into patient care, integration within a multidisciplinary health care team, and special emphasis on optometric rehabilitation. The curriculum will include the opportunity to participate in patient care through hands-on clinical training as early as the first semester of the first year. Students will experience increasing responsibilities and expanded scope of patient care activities, culminating in full-time patient care during the fourth year. Clinical training will take place in the University’s Patient Care Center, external clinical affiliates, and community-based sites. In the fourth year, students will have the opportunity to select training sites in a variety of geographical locations, and in a variety of practice settings. An emphasis on optometric rehabilitation – including neuro-optometric rehabilitation, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy and care for people with disabilities – will help prepare graduates for growing demands in these areas.

The pre-clinical curriculum will include lectures and laboratories in the basic sciences, biomedical sciences, and clinical sciences. Coursework will include both optometry-specific subjects and courses with students from other health professions. A unique feature of the curriculum will be the inclusion of problem-based learning cases in the first and second years. These cases will present a unique learning opportunity to study with members from each of the other health professions programs in a facilitated team setting.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2013-2014

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Tuition, Resident	\$33,740	\$33,740	\$32,945	\$32,945
Tuition, Non-Resident	\$33,740	\$33,740	\$32,945	\$32,945
Fees, Books and Instruments	\$8,759	\$11,734	\$3,225	\$3,243
<i>Total Direct Expenses, Resident</i>				
<i>& Non-Resident</i>	\$42,499	\$45,474	\$36,170	\$36,188
Estimated Living Expenses*	\$20,688	\$24,736	\$23,453	\$32,024
<i>Total Expenses, Resident</i>				
<i>& Non-Resident</i>	\$63,187	\$70,210	\$59,623	\$68,212

*Includes rent, food, health insurance, transportation, utilities, personal expenses, etc.

FINANCIAL AID

A graduate education is more important than ever today, yet paying for one can be a challenge. The key is to start the research early. While WesternU does participate in federally supported student aid loan programs, students should first look into grants, scholarships and other student aid that are not required to be repaid. Students may research military and veterans benefits as other avenues to finance their education. Educational loans, whether from federal or private sources, can also help students achieve their goals. Please visit our web site at <http://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/financing> for further information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION***Admissions Office***

Western University of Health Sciences
College of Optometry
309 East Second Street
Pomona, CA 91766
(909) 469-5335
Email: admissions@westernu.edu

Financial Aid

Financial Aid Office
(800) 346-1610
Email: finaid@westernu.edu

Visit our web site at <http://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/welcome-11/>