



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Optometry

Interview Day Guidebook

OD 2029

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About the College of Optometry (CO)

Interview Day Guidebook OD 2029

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College Mission

The mission of Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry is to graduate caring, comprehensive health care professionals who will serve the needs of a diverse global society. The College emphasizes rehabilitation of the visual system, neuro-optometry, and interprofessional education. We advance the profession of optometry through innovation in health care education, research, and patient care.

College Vision

Our vision is to be a progressive leader in optometric education and to improve the way health care is delivered world-wide.

Core Values

We value a rich humanistic tradition and are committed to professional collaboration, community involvement, accountability, integrity, and respect.

**We care about our patients
as much as we care for them.
We know that compassion is
a compelling motivation for
healing.**



The Interview Process

Interviews at Western University of Health Sciences are meant to be an exchange of information in a warm and welcoming environment. It is an experience that should be both positive and enjoyable for you. Our interviews are never meant to be threatening nor confrontational in any way. You have been selected by the admissions committee because you exemplify those qualities that we feel are important in the health care professionals whom we educate.

We understand that you are also making choices regarding the professional school that you will attend. Our goal is to inform you of the educational programs provided to assist you, the state-of-the-art facilities that are available to the students, and demonstrate that we are “living our values” so that we are here for our students and for each other. This is what makes Western University of Health Sciences a special place to learn.

Interviews

- » We anticipate interviewing approximately 250-300 candidates to fill a class of approx. 66 students
- » The average interview is approximately 25-30 minutes in duration
- » You will be asked a series of general and behavioral-based questions. Behavioral-based questions require you to draw from personal experience to formulate your answers.
- » The interview panel may be comprised of the following: Admissions Committee member, faculty member, other WesternU employee or a local Optometrist

Orientation

The interview day has been organized to allow you to obtain information about our programs and support services; therefore, we encourage you to **ASK QUESTIONS!**

Tour of the Campus

Please visit our website to view a self-guided virtual campus tour.

Admissions Committee Decisions

- » Following the interview, you will be placed in one of four categories: Accept, Alternate, Hold or Not Accepted to our program
- » You will be notified by email of the committee’s decision – typically within one to two weeks after your interview. Notification letters for all categories are sent on a rolling basis.
- » Official transcripts and health clearance documents are required of all accepted students
- » If you are selected as an alternate, you may be offered a seat in the class as late as the first week of school (August)

We embody humanism through caring, respect, empathy, trust, and inclusion.

Advanced Standing Program

OD-AS Interviews

- » An interview is required for admissions consideration. Competitive applicants will be invited for a virtual interview starting in November.
- » Matriculating students accepted into the advanced standing program must arrive 3 weeks before the regular curriculum for ODAS orientation starts.
- » Transfer credit will be determined on a case-by-case basis by reviewing credit for previous coursework, practice experience, and/or proficiency as demonstrated by passage of NBEO examinations. Students admitted to this program may be placed into the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th year curriculum.

Acceptance Deposit	\$500.00
Deposit Deadline	Within 2 weeks of offer (shorter time frame in mid-June)
Interviews	Virtual on Fridays (for this cycle) – You will interview with our admissions Committee.

Admissions

Accept Status Information

The **non-refundable** acceptance deposit for applicants accepted to WesternU's College of Optometry is \$500.00, payable within two weeks after notification of acceptance.

Prerequisite Coursework

- » ALL prerequisite course work in progress must be completed by the end of the spring semester or quarter just prior to matriculation.
- » Summer courses just prior to matriculation will not be accepted.
- » All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better (a grade of "C-" or below is not acceptable). It is your responsibility to notify us right away if you receive a grade of "C-" or below.
- » If your plans change, and you are unable to enroll in a course you listed as planned, you must notify us of the replacement course(s) so we can confirm that the new course(s) will meet our requirement. If you do not provide us with the new course information, you risk enrolling in a course that does not meet our requirements which could ultimately affect your admission to our program.

If you have prerequisite course work in progress and are accepted to the Optometry program, your acceptance will be contingent upon successful completion of ALL prerequisite courses.

IMPORTANT: When the Admissions Committee reviewed your application, they considered all in-progress/planned coursework (including both prerequisite and non-prerequisite courses) as well as any degree in progress when making their decision. Any change in your plans must be submitted to the Committee for review and approval. If you are ultimately accepted to the program and you do not finish your planned degree or coursework as listed on your application, your admission could be affected. If you do not provide us with the new course information, you risk enrolling in a course that does not meet our requirements which could ultimately affect your admission to our program.

Prospective students are expected to act with honesty, forthrightness, and integrity throughout the admissions process. It is expected that all applicants will submit accurate information in the ADEA AADSAS and the WesternU Supplemental application. Violation of the ADEA Applicant Code of Conduct may result in the suspension of the application and/or other actions, including rescission of your admission to dental school, or the possibility of dismissal from the College of Dental Medicine, if enrolled.

To maintain compliance with State Health Department requirements and exhibit exemplary commitment to the rights and integrity of all parties in the education of healthcare professional students, the College of Dental Medicine has established medical status credentialing requirements that

must be completed prior to matriculation. Medical status credentialing is designed to ensure the safety of patients is not compromised while protecting the rights and safety of students as well.

Health Clearance Documents

A complete history and physical examination is required prior to registration (must be within six months of matriculation). Your physician must indicate if you are current with your vaccination for tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) and that you have received tuberculosis clearance (must be valid throughout the entire academic year). You must also provide proof of immunity, through serum blood titers, to the following communicable diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and Hepatitis B. Upon acceptance, you will be provided with a link to the most current requirements/forms.

Criminal Background Check

All accepted students will be required to complete a criminal background check prior to matriculation. Details will be emailed to you in the late spring.

All required documentation must be received by the deadline indicated below. Failure to complete the admissions requirements by the deadline may result in the delay of your financial aid/registration and/or rescindment of your acceptance.

Acceptance Deposit and Declaration Form	2 weeks after acceptance
Health Clearance Documents	June 1, 2025
All Official Transcripts	June 1, 2025
Any Additional Requested Documentation	June 1, 2025
Non-U.S. Residents/Proof of Legal U.S. Residency (i.e., visa, green card)	Prior to your interview

If you have any questions, please check with the Admissions office.


Alternate Status Information

If you are selected as an alternate, you may be offered a seat from the time the alternate letter is received until classes begin in August. You must accept alternate status via your application status page within 15 days of notification in order to remain in consideration. If you should accept a seat elsewhere, please notify us via email so that we can remove your name from the alternate list. Be advised that second interviews are not granted.

The alternate status will remain unchanged until notified in writing from the Admissions Office. Applicants placed as alternates may or may not be offered a seat for the upcoming entering class.

If you are unsuccessful in gaining admission, you will be notified via email by the first week of September.

#WesternUWay
#WesternUProud



**WesternU is home to over
170 student led clubs and
organizations.**

Hold Status

A hold status means that the Admissions Committee is not yet ready to make a decision on your application for reasons that may include but are not limited to the need for further clarification, request that you re-take the OAT or submit additional grades.

If you are not offered an acceptance you will have an opportunity to schedule a phone counseling appointment to discuss general reasons for denial and suggestions on how to improve your application for the next application cycle should you choose to re-apply.

Remember to check our website for new application deadline dates and any changes in program prerequisites.

If You Are Not Offered An Acceptance

If you are not offered an acceptance you will have an opportunity to schedule a phone counseling appointment to discuss general reasons for denial and suggestions on how to improve your application for the next application cycle should you choose to re-apply.

Remember to check our website for new application deadline dates and any changes in program prerequisites.

International Students

International students and any other applicants, who are not US citizens and are living in the US, should be prepared to provide proof of legal US residency at the time of interview. Proof of legal US residency is required prior to any offer of acceptance.

For more information, please visit our web site at: <https://www.westernu.edu/international/international-welcome/> or contact the International Student Advisor (see Administrative Contacts at the end of this booklet).

- » 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

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. 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

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

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

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

Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation

A candidate for admission to the Doctor of Optometry program must possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, certain technical, sensory, and motor function, that would enable the individual to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below throughout their progression in the Doctor of Optometry program.

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 Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry, is necessary for graduation from an optometric professional degree program.

One of the missions of Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry is to produce graduates fully qualified to provide quality comprehensive eye care services to the public. To fulfill this mission, of Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry must ensure that students demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skill in the provision of optometric care.

The functional guidelines in optometric education require that the candidate/student possess appropriate abilities in the following areas which include, but are not limited to: 1) observation; 2) communication; 3) sensory and motor coordination; 4) intellectual –conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; and 5) behavioral and social attributes.

For candidates or students who require a reasonable accommodation to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy/Accommodation and Resource Center (CDHP/AARC) at (909) 469-5297.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation:

Observation

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

Summer Preparedness and Readiness Course (SPaRC)

Dates: June 9–June 27, 2024

The Summer Preparedness and Readiness Course (SPaRC) is a three-week program designed to prepare incoming students for the rigors of their chosen program. SPaRC provides students with an introduction to applicable courses, skills, and competencies in an interprofessional education healthcare setting while easing their transition to a professional graduate program. SPaRC also helps students evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in the areas of academics and inter and intrapersonal development. Before the school year begins, SPaRC participants have been introduced to deans and faculty, know how to access crucial resources on campus, have experienced and dealt with information overload, and best of all, have already connected with fellow students in and outside of their programs.

Upon completing SPaRC, students:

- » Realistically understand the academic demands of their program
- » Are able to utilize academic-based learning and wellbeing coping strategies.
- » Have been introduced to their college dean and faculty.
- » Know how to access crucial resources on campus.
- » Have developed supportive friendships with students in and outside of their program.

Content Includes:

Sciences:

- » Skeletal system
- » Gross anatomy
- » Pharmacology
- » Program specific content

WesternU specific aspects:

- » Service learning
- » Study skills
- » Test taking skills
- » Life balance
- » WesternU Support Services

How to Apply

Incoming WesternU students, find out how to sign up here:
<http://www.westernu.edu/lead/lead-summer-prep/>

For further information about SPaRC, please contact
Dr. Neil Patel, Assistant Vice President, Learning and Development, LEAD
patelnm@westernu.edu
LEAD@westernu.edu



Optometry Curriculum

YEAR 1

YEAR 1, FALL SEMESTER

COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
IPE 5000	Patient Centered Cases I	1.00
OPTM 5001	Introduction to Optometry	1.50
OPTM 5020	Principles/Practice of Optometry I: Primary Care Exam/Technique	4.00
OPTM 5041	Anatomy for the Optometrist	4.00
OPTM 5042	Vision Science I: Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience of Vision	4.00
OPTM 5050	Optical Science I: Geometrical and Ophthalmic Optics I	3.50
OPTM 7001	Patient Care Services I	0.50
Semester Total:		18.50

YEAR 1, SPRING SEMESTER

COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
IPE 5100	Patient Centered Cases II	1.00
OPTM 5120	Principles and Practice of Optometry II: Primary Care Exam/Strategy	5.00
OPTM 5130	Ocular Physiology	3.00
OPTM 5133	Systemic Pharmacology	2.00
OPTM 5151	Optical Science II: Physical and Visual Optics	4.00
OPTM 5175	Clinical Medicine for the Optometrist	3.00
OPTM 7002	Patient Care Services II	1.00
Semester Total:		19.00

YEAR 1, SUMMER SEMESTER

COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
OPTM 5240	Evidence Based Eye Care	2.00
OPTM 5242	Vision Science II: Monocular Sensory Vision	3.00
OPTM 5250	Integrative Clinical Analysis I	1.50
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 2.00
Semester Total:		6.50 – 8.50
First Year Total:		44.00 – 46.00

WesternU has four academic medical centers in four cities.

YEAR 2

YEAR 2, FALL SEMESTER

COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
IPE 6000	Team Training in Health Care I	1.00
OPTM 6020	Principles/Practice Optometry III: Tissue Eval. Anterior Segment	4.00
OPTM 6033	Ocular Pharmacology	3.00
OPTM 6042	Vision Science III: Binocular Vision and Ocular Motility	3.00
OPTM 6050	Optical Science III: Geometrical and Ophthalmic Optics II	3.00
OPTM 6073	Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma	2.50
OPTM 6076	Ocular Disease: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Clinical Decision Making for the Anterior Segment	4.00
OPTM 7003	Patient Care Services III	1.00
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 2.00
Semester Total:		21.50 – 23.50

YEAR 2, SPRING SEMESTER

COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
IPE 6100	Team Training in Health Care II	1.00
OPTM 6111	Contact Lenses I: Theory and Practice	3.50
OPTM 6120	Principles/Practice of Optometry: Tissue Eval Posterior Segment	4.00
OPTM 6161	Vision Rehabilitation: Low Vision	3.00
OPTM 6175	Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment of Posterior Segment	4.00
OPTM 6182	Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation I: Non-strabismic Anomalies	4.00
OPTM 7004	Patient Care Services IV	1.00
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 2.00
Semester Total:		20.50 – 22.50

YEAR 2, SUMMER SEMESTER		
COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
OPTM 6272	Special Considerations in Pediatrics	2.00
OPTM 6250	Integrative Clinical Analysis II	1.50
OPTM 6260	Optometry Review Course I	1.00
OPTM 7005	Patient Care Services V	3.00
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 2.00
Semester Total:		7.50 – 9.50
Second Year Total:		49.50 – 55.50

YEAR 3

YEAR 3, FALL SEMESTER		
COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
OPTM 7006	Patient Care Services VI	5.00
OPTM 8011	Contact Lenses II: Theory and Practice	3.50
OPTM 8013	Special Considerations in Geriatrics	1.50
OPTM 8021	Principles and Practice of Optometry V: Special Procedures	2.00
OPTM 8061	Optometry Review Course II	1.50
OPTM 8075	Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Management of Neuro-ophthalmic Disease	2.00
OPTM 8081	Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation II: Strabismus and Amblyopia	3.00
Semester Total:		18.50

YEAR 3, SPRING SEMESTER		
COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
OPTM 7007	Patient Care Services VII	5.00
OPTM 8120	Principles and Practice of Optometry VI: Surgical Eye Care	2.00
OPTM 8150	Integrative Clinical Analysis III	2.00
OPTM 8170	Grand Rounds	2.50
OPTM 8161	Optometry Review Course III	1.00
OPTM 8162	Elective I	1.00
OPTM 8182	Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation III: The Neurologically Challenged Patient	2.00
Semester Total:		15.50
Third Year Total:		34.00

YEAR 4

YEAR 4, FALL SEMESTER		
COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
OPTM 7008	Patient Care Services VIII	11.00
OPTM 7009	Patient Care Services IX	11.00
Semester Total:		22.00

YEAR 4, SPRING SEMESTER		
COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
OPTM 7010	Patient Care Services X	11.00
OPTM 7011	Patient Care Services XI	11.00
OPTM 8261	Practice Management II: How to Make a Living as an Optometrist	1.00
Semester Total:		23.00
Fourth Year Total:		45.00

Licensing Exam Support

We are pleased to provide the below results from March 2019. This chart reflects the Applied Basic Science (ABS) Part I for each of the 3 forms administered (first-time takers only). Data from the March 2020 examination are not available due to the exam's postponement due to COVID-19.

The college values a student's success and as such is continually improving our services. Based on our student feedback, the College has implemented and further enhanced our student support services as follows:

PART I SUPPORT

- » Optometry Review Course integrated throughout the curriculum, which includes self-assessments and personalized risk assessments to identify level of risk and targeted areas for improvement
- » Financial support funded by the college for KMK and Optoprep
- » Adjusted workload and curriculum sequence to support better knowledge retention and to increase study time
- » Personalized and targeted individualized support

PART II SUPPORT

- » Series of coaching e-mails provided to guide the study process
- » Links to online resources to support preparation
- » Personalized and targeted individualized support
- » Financial support funded by the college for KMK and Optoprep

PART III SUPPORT

- » Repository of videos to refresh clinical skills and critical thinking
- » Open access to pre-clinical lab facilities to practice skills
- » Open access to materials and supplies for specific skill development such as injections.
- » Mock Part III exam supervised by a designated faculty member
- » Dedicated space in the Ocular Anatomy Lab modeled after the setup at the headquarters in Charlotte, NC
- » Personalized and targeted individualized support

Our curriculum provides students with the material needed to pass boards. It is a student's hard work, preparation, study habits, work ethic, and utilization of all resources that contributes to their overall success on national board exams.

Why WesternU?

"The instructors and administrators have made a significant impact in helping me feel confident as an optometry student. As time goes on my classmates feel more and more like family."

JOSHUA CLARK DALLEY, CLASS OF 2019 | BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY - IDAHO

"My best clinical experience was in neuro-rehab optometric clinic. I realized the importance vision has on sensory, motor, cognitive, and behavioral processing which then impacts functional performances in TBI or stroke patients. Every day in clinic was an "aha" moment, every patient received individualized treatment to reach the highest level of functionality. Every day was a reminder that I chose optometry to help others improve their overall quality of life."

CRISTINA ACEVEDO, CLASS OF 2019 | UC – SANTA BARBARA

"I chose WesternU was because I felt that the staff and students resonated in me a drive to succeed as a Doctor of Optometry. It was important to me to discover the values of becoming a consummate health professional and WesternU has certainly provided me with that opportunity."

HERRICK DUONG, CLASS OF 2020 | UC - IRVINE

"WesternU was a perfect fit for me and could be a perfect fit for you too. The faculty is very accommodating and they truly care for their students."

DAVID HERNANDEZ, CLASS OF 2019 | OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

Interprofessional Practice & Education

What is Interprofessional Practice & Education (IPE) at WesternU?

Collaboration and teamwork among healthcare professionals are important aspects to the delivery of high-quality patient care. A landmark report by the Institute of Medicine suggests healthcare workforce preparation should include IPE.

WesternU is one of the most comprehensive graduate schools for the health professions in the U.S.

“Interprofessional education occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. Interprofessional education is a necessary step in preparing a ‘collaborative practice-ready’ health workforce that is better prepared to respond to local health needs.”

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (2010): FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

WesternU’s IPE curriculum places students from multiple professions together in large and small team classrooms. The goal is for WesternU graduates to demonstrate an understanding of other health professions and to provide and promote a team approach to patient care and healthcare management, ultimately leading to improved safety and quality of care.

This collaboration of professions directly reflects the “one health, one medicine, one vision” idea, employing a curriculum designed to do no less than revolutionize health professions education in this country - breaking down the silos that characterize so many university campuses today. Improved service to patients and enhanced student-centered learning were primary reasons for establishing WesternU’s IPE curriculum.

As national healthcare organizations and employers emphasize the importance of a team-based approach to healthcare, developing skills as part of an interprofessional team becomes essential to graduates. As ambassadors for WesternU’s broad interprofessional approach, our graduates will simultaneously cement WesternU’s reputation as a leader in graduate health-sciences education and raise the bar for patient care throughout the United States.

WesternU is a major institution to develop a comprehensive program helping students from many health professions learn how to work as a cohesive health care team. Why are we doing this? Because:

- » As national healthcare organizations and employers emphasize the importance of a team-based approach to healthcare, it is likely that education as part of an interprofessional health care team will enhance graduates’ expertise and increase their employment opportunities.

- » Graduates will be better prepared to work in patient-centered team-based care at the onset of their careers reinforcing their effectiveness and improving patient outcomes.
- » As populations grow larger and older, provider shortages are increasing. Thus, coordinated care is even more essential and valued.
- » Learning to take an interprofessional approach to population-based challenges such as global pandemics will benefit society during critical times.
- » Patients will receive timely care from the most appropriate healthcare providers—minimizing cost and maximizing patients' potential for improvement and recovery—thanks to the collaborative care that can be created as the result of interprofessional practice.

Our future graduates will have distinctive collaboration and communication outlooks and skills, which will ultimately benefit patients. Learn more at <http://www.westernu.edu/interprofessional/home-page/>



About Western University of Health Sciences





Overview of WesternU Financial Aid Processes

Welcome! The information below is to provide you with a quick overview on how financial aid is processed at our office. Please visit our website at <https://www.westernu.edu/financial/>, which has a lot of useful information.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact our office at (909) 469-5353 or via email at finaid@westernu.edu. We look forward to assisting you!

Applying for Aid

THE PROCESS

1 COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is open for submission annually each October 1st.

- » Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID
- » This FSA ID is used to sign your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. If you have an existing FSA ID, you are not required to create another one.
- » Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <https://studentaid.gov/>
- » Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) school code is 024827
- » When completing the FAFSA application, transfer your federal tax information from two years ago (Prior-Prior Year).

2 REVIEW STUDENT BUDGET/ COST OF ATTENDANCE

Student Budgets/Cost of Attendance are subject to change and costs vary each year. See below for details.

3 REQUIREMENTS

In early spring the Financial Aid Office will email your WesternU email account. This email will instruct you to login to your Student Portal to complete the listed requirements prior to disbursement of loan funds. Once requirements are completed, your financial College Finance Plan will be emailed to your WesternU email account. Awards typically are awarded by the beginning of June.

WesternU offers 4 Pathways to the top 10 jobs in the U.S., as ranked by U.S. News and World Report 2024-2025

4 FINANCIAL AID OFFER

Packaging and Award Policy

- » Students at WesternU are packaged and awarded as independent graduate students. There are no Grants available to graduate students. Resources such as gift aid, scholarships, Military and the National Health Service Corps will be taken into consideration first when packaging and awarding students.
- » All eligible students are awarded the unsubsidized loan based on the length of your academic year <https://www.westernu.edu/financial/loan-counseling/financial-loans-department-education/> and the balance in the Grad PLUS loan to meet the maximum budget.
- » Outside scholarships are available! Please visit <https://www.westernu.edu/financial/scholarships/> for more details.

Loans

- » Graduate professional students are eligible to borrow federal loans up to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid from the Department of Education (ED) and/or non-Department of Education lenders referred to as an Alternative loan.
- » ED Loans and Interest Rates are as follows:
- » Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan 7.05% (T-Bill + 3.60%)
- » Grad PLUS Loan 8.05% (T-Bill + 4.6%)
- » The Federal Graduate PLUS loan requires a credit check. If loan is declined, student will need an Endorser.
- » Please remember that the interest rates for each academic year may vary based on what the 10-Year T-Bill will be by the end of May of each year. In addition, there is an origination fee, which is assessed at the time of disbursement. For additional information visit our website <https://www.westernu.edu/financial/loan-counseling/>. Repayment begins 6 months after the student graduates or drops below half time enrollment. Limited deferments and forbearances are available to students upon graduation based on economic hardship.

Alternative Loan

- » Eligible students are International, DACA, and those eligible to borrow ED loans.
- » International and DACA students must secure a U.S. Citizen co-signer to obtain funding.
- » Requires a credit check and is based on credit worthiness. Unlike ED's Loan program, approval is not guaranteed. The lending institutions determine interest rates of which there is no cap. Some lenders may charge an origination fee. Alternative loans may not have deferment/forbearance as an option.

5 DISBURSEMENTS SCHEDULE

- » Disbursement schedules are based on the student's program enrollment terms (fall and spring or fall, spring, and summer terms).
- » The financial aid amount you've accepted will be disbursed to your Student Account. Loan funds will first be used to pay for tuition and fees and then the remainder of it will be deposited to your checking account.
- » To view your disbursement schedule, please Login to your Student Portal.

6 MEET WITH A FINANCIAL AID COUNSELOR

- » Students who are borrowing ED loans for the first time at Western University of Health Sciences will receive an email with instructions to schedule their 30-45-minute mandatory New Student Information (NSI) Financial Aid group meeting.

Student Budgets 2024-25

- » The budget is for the student only and for educational expenses during the period of enrollment.
- » Information is updated annually at the end of March.
- » All budgets are estimated costs and are subject to change
- » Please visit <https://www.westernu.edu/financial/financial-budgets/> for details.

TUITION & FEES	FIRST YEAR 12 MONTHS	SECOND YEAR 12 MONTHS	THIRD YEAR 10 MONTHS	FOURTH YEAR 12 MONTHS
Tuition	\$46,860	\$46,860	\$46,860	\$46,860
Student Body Fees	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$20
Graduation Fees	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$350
SEP/First Year Optometry Kit (cost is subject to change)	\$3,350	N/A	N/A	N/A
AOSA Membership Fee	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55
Top Hat	\$27	\$27	\$27	N/A
Vital Source (cost is subject to change)	\$1,700	\$450	\$450	\$450
Livescan Finger Printing	\$105	N/A	N/A	N/A
N95 Respiratory Fit Testing	N/A	N/A	\$40	N/A
CPR	N/A	\$70	N/A	N/A
Student Health Record fee	\$50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Tuition & Fees	\$46,860	\$46,860	\$46,860	\$46,860

BUDGET ITEMS/ ESTIMATED COSTS	FIRST YEAR 12 MONTHS	SECOND YEAR 12 MONTHS	THIRD YEAR 10 MONTHS	FOURTH YEAR 12 MONTHS
Living Expenses (room + food)	\$23,216	\$23,216	\$19,536	\$23,216
Misc. Personal Expenses	\$7,469	\$7,469	\$6,226	\$7,469
Transportation	\$6,643	\$6,643	\$5,303	\$9,763
Diagnostic Kit (1st year)	\$1,470	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lenses & Foreign Body Removal Kit (2nd year)	N/A	\$3,019	N/A	N/A
BIO Optometry Kit (2nd year)	N/A	\$2,725	N/A	N/A
NBEO Boards – Part I (year 3) – Part II (year 4)	N/A	N/A	\$1,445	\$1,445
NBEO Boards Part III (year 4)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,445
Vision Therapy Equipment (2nd yr only)	N/A	\$75	N/A	N/A
Required Course Materials for 8161: Optometry Review II Course	N/A	N/A	\$1,975	N/A
LOAN FEES	FIRST YEAR 12 MONTHS	SECOND YEAR 12 MONTHS	THIRD YEAR 10 MONTHS	FOURTH YEAR 12 MONTHS
Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan Fees	\$499.00	\$499.00	\$452.00	\$499.00
Grad PLUS Loan Fees	\$1,874	\$1,860	\$1,678	\$1,877
Total Estimated Budget	\$93,358	\$93,008	\$84,087	\$93,449



Policies and Procedures

WesternU Accreditation

Western University of Health Sciences is accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). WASC's statement of accreditation status can be found at <http://www.wascsenior.org/institutions/western-university-health-sciences>. You may contact WASC at 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501. Phone: (310) 748-9001, Fax: (310) 748-9797, E-mail: wascsr@wascsenior.org. WASC is a non-profit organization that evaluates the quality and educational effectiveness of schools, colleges, and universities. WASC is one of six regional accreditation agencies in the United States. While it is not officially regulated by the government, it is regularly reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation

CO Accreditation

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) recently voted the program's classification of "Accredited" be continued. The classification "Accredited" indicates that the program generally meets the ACOE standards for accreditation. This classification indicates that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The Council finds the program to be in compliance with all of the ACOE standards. The next scheduled evaluation visit to the professional optometric degree program at the Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry is in March 2030.

Information on the ACOE's standards of accreditation and accrediting procedures may be found on the ACOE web page. Information on the various states' licensure requirements may be accessed from the web site of the Association of Regulatory Boards in Optometry.

Any inquiries, concerns or requests for information may be sent to accredit@theacoe.org.

The WesternU student body for fall 2023-24 is 3,625.

Catalog Overview

The University Catalog is now available online. To ease download times for viewing, we have broken up the catalogue into major sections, academic program by academic program. In addition, the information contained in the Student Handbooks has been incorporated into the catalog. University Academic Policies and Procedures are contained as a section within each program component.

- » Student Employment
- » Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy
- » Psychological Counseling Services
- » Sexual Harassment
- » Drug Free Environment
- » Dress Code
- » Standards of Academic and Professional Conduct
- » Attendance and Absences
- » Background Investigation

Diversity Statement

The students, faculty, administration, and staff of Western University of Health Sciences place great value on diversity. For us, it is a philosophy of inclusion, with pluralism and academic freedom as its foundation. WesternU is committed to an open environment that promotes, accepts, and celebrates different points of view. WesternU is a community of individuals in which diversity is recognized as being the core of our intellectual, social, cultural, physical, emotional, and moral lives. We are enriched by our encounters with one another, and we strive to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. Our understanding and acceptance of one another in the campus environment contributes to our ability to care for our patients, who live in a diverse society.

We acknowledge our guaranteed rights of free expression under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. However, we also hold unique responsibilities as individuals, answerable for our own behavior and fully accountable for our actions. Seeking balance between rights and responsibilities makes us keenly aware of the dangers of defamatory, libelous, or obscene behavior, the value of community and the importance of respecting our differences and commonalities. As individuals committed to health professions education in the osteopathic tradition, we embrace the important principle of caring for the whole person-in body, mind, and spirit.

Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Retaliation Policy

Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) recognizes that unlawful treatment and harassment, on the basis of an individual's protected characteristic (or status), is a form of discrimination. Discrimination and harassment are contrary to WesternU's mission to provide a campus community that educates and teaches with excellence, humanism, and compassion.

Accordingly, WesternU's Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment in its programs and activities, on the basis of race, color, national, ancestry, citizenship, ethnicity, creed, religion or religious creed (sex or gender (including gender identity or expression), marital status, sexual orientation, disability (both physical and mental) including HIV and AIDS, medical condition (cancer and genetic characteristics), pregnancy (which includes childbirth, breastfeeding and medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding), age, genetic information, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable law. WesternU also prohibits any form of retaliation against a person, who under good faith, reported a violation under the policy or who participated in any investigation or proceeding under the policy. Violations of the policy will lead to prompt and appropriate administrative action, including and up to termination of employment or expulsion from the University.

Interview Day Evaluation Survey

Approximately one to two days after your interview, a link to the Interview Day Evaluation Survey will be emailed to you. The information that you provide will remain confidential. Your comments are important to us, and we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete it. We consider your comments when planning our future interviews and will help us to provide constructive feedback to faculty, staff, and students. If you do not receive the survey link, please contact the admissions office to request it.

Like Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, we teach that the focus of treatment is on the patient, not the disease.

University Student Affairs

Support Services Academic Year 2024-2025

Learning Enhancement and Academic Development (LEAD)

<https://www.westernu.edu/lead/lead-about/>

LEAD MISSION

We provide supportive education and well-being services to the WesternU community to foster and promote the university's humanistic values and traditions

LEAD specializes in five main topics that support students through their academic journey here at WesternU. The five main areas include: a) one-on-one academic counseling; b) tutoring; c) the annual Summer Preparedness and Readiness Course (SPaRC); d) the Wellbeing Initiative; and e) various workshops relevant to student life. All LEAD services are free of charge to the WesternU community and all services are completely confidential.

Academic Counseling In one-on-one academic counseling sessions, students can improve their competencies in a range of areas, including study strategies, test taking; focus and retention, time management, stress management, academic and professional writing skills, and more. Each 50-minute session is designed to address the student's unique needs. Appointments are confidential and free to all WesternU students. Students can schedule as many sessions as needed.

Appointments are conducted online via Zoom, and when students return to campus, appointments can be done in person in the LEAD Office and via Zoom.

Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) This program offers peer-based, small group content review sessions. To receive TAP support, students must first meet with a LEAD academic counselor and then students must request a tutor. Our LEAD tutors are current and alumni students who have successfully completed the coursework students are requesting.

Wellbeing Initiative The initiative consists of Wellbeing workshops with topics that focus on student wellness. These activities aim to teach students skill sets to stay healthy and well while going through their rigorous programs. The office connects academic guidance with the mission of caring for students in a humanistic way.

LEAD's goal is to be an academic success partner as students transition into professional school.

- » Academic Counseling
- » Summer Preparedness & Readiness Course (SPaRC)
- » Academic & Professional Writing
- » Time Management
- » Test Taking Skills

WesternU is a nonprofit institution of higher education, founded in 1977, that exclusively focuses on graduate health professions education.

» Board Exam Preparation

» Wellness

» Tutoring Services

Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm

Virtual appointments: Mon-Fri

In-person appointments: Tues-Thurs

Phone: (909) 469-5325

Email: LEAD@westernu.edu

200 Mullins Dr., Lebanon, Oregon 97355

LEADS TEAM

Dr. Neil Patel, PhD

Assistant Vice President, Learning & Development

patelnm@westernu.edu

Brian O'Driscoll

Learning Skills Specialist

bodriscoll@westernu.edu

Dr. Juliana Perez, OTD, OTR/L

Learning Skills Specialist

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Dr. Neil Birt, MS

Assistant Director of Learning Skills & Assessment

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Dr. Rashelle Nagata, OTD, OTR/L

Learning Skills Specialist

rnagata@westernu.edu

Yequila Pearson

Administrative Associate II

ypearson@westernu.edu

Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (CDHP)

We're on your side! HFCDHP is an advocate for students with permanent or temporary disabilities. Our goal is to ensure that all university programs and activities are accessible – by providing accommodations and services so students with disabilities can successfully complete their academic goals.

To learn additional information about the services we offer or to start the interactive process, which may take up to six weeks, please view our webpage at <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/>. Here you will find information on how to register for accommodations, required documentation, and other helpful information about our center. To contact our center, you may call (909) 469-5441 or email disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu.

Please keep in mind, there are no charges to you for services that are needed to support your educational program. We are here to help you succeed!

Fitness Benefits

<https://www.westernu.edu/students/fitness>

We want you to stay mentally and physically fit while you are a student, so we offer several great opportunities to stay healthy:

One Pass Select — One Pass Select is a new addition to our benefits list and gives you multi-gym access within your tier along with other perks like free grocery delivery from Shipt and Walmart+ (with select tiers). One Pass Select membership are purchased directly from Optum via a WesternU portal and members can submit for a reimbursement (up to \$100).

Behavioral Health Services

<https://www.westernu.edu/students/students-services/students-services-counseling/>

We are pleased to provide all full-time students access to an Emotional Wellbeing Solutions (EWS) for students through OptumHealth. Under the EWS for students, you and any member of your immediate household are eligible for up to six free counseling sessions for each “incident” or situation. Counseling includes but is not limited to emotional well-being; financial planning; work; and school issues. Counseling services may be accessed by telephone, via the web, or face-to-face. On-campus counselors are also available.

Identification Badges

Student identification badges must be worn at all times while on campus. Replacement badges may be obtained by emailing StudentAffairsOR@westernu.edu

Health Insurance

<https://www.westernu.edu/registrar/registrar-about/registration-information/student-health-insurance/>

As a full-time WesternU student, you must show during registration EACH academic year that you have a current health insurance policy. We encourage you to “shop around” for a health insurance plan that meets your specific needs. Many students are enrolled in plans offered by Blue Cross, Kaiser Permanente, HealthNet, PacifiCare, Aetna, US Healthcare, and United Healthcare. Many companies out there can give you the coverage you need for your specific health concerns. If you are unfamiliar with insurance terminology, HealthCare.gov provides a glossary of health insurance terms that may be helpful as you review and compare your insurance options. Coverage requirements for all students seeking to waive out of the school sponsored insurance plan are as follows:

- » ACA compliant domestic health insurance plan for the entire academic year, including summer and holidays.
- » Deductible of no more than \$1,000 per policy year (\$2,000 for family plan)
- » Plan must utilize a provider network in the area of the campus you are attending for primary care, specialty, hospital, and diagnostic care

Should you choose not to go with another health insurance plan or if you do not show proof of insurance by the deadline, you will automatically be enrolled in the Aetna Student Health insurance plan which includes basic dental and vision coverage. This plan is designed to cover you for routine care and in the event of a major medical emergency. Under this plan, students have access to a network of healthcare providers. Listed below are some of the additional main highlights of this insurance plan. For complete details visit our health insurance page at www.westernu.edu/registrar/registrar-about/registrationinformation/student-health-insurance/ or call WesternU's insurance broker, HSA Consulting at (888) 978-8355 or by email at westernu@hsac.com. NOTE: There is a University-owned medical center (Patient Care Center) located on the WesternU Campus in Pomona, California and students are welcome to use this medical facility. There are no free services to students. Students may want to call in advance to verify that the wait time will be minimal. The Patient Care Center accepts many types of insurance including the insurance plan described above.

Student Parking

<https://www.westernu.edu/security/parking-overview/>

All WesternU Students MUST purchase a WesternU parking permit to park a vehicle in WesternU designated parking lots, the university parking structure and designated street parking.

- » Permits are required in all WesternU Parking Lots.
- » You can purchase a Daily pass for \$3.50 at the Campus Store, Health Professions Center, 1st Floor, Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- » You can purchase a one day City Parking permit \$2.00 to park in Lot #12.
- » Motorcycles must park in designated motorcycle parking locations. Permits are required in both Staff and Student lots.
- » Persons with disabled placards may park in any WesternU lot with a valid WesternU parking permit.
- » There are reserved parking spots (with signage). Only the designated person may park there. These spaces are located in employee lots and the University Parking Structure.
- » Invalid permits are subject to ticket or tow by the city. Blank parking permits will not be provided to anyone.
- » Parking regulations are enforced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- » No overnight parking.
- » Evening and Weekend Parking: You may park in the University parking structure, student lot #27 and employee lot #'s 19, 21, and 24 in the evenings and weekends. The remaining lots are pay parking in the evenings (7:00 p.m. +) and on the weekends. You are free to park in any space, except "Reserved" marked spaces. This may change to limited parking hours in the near future.

If your pass is lost or stolen, you must repurchase a WesternU parking pass. Parking fees are non-refundable and placard/stickers will not be replaced if lost or stolen.

Housing

<https://www.westernu.edu/students-or/students-housing-moving-or/>

All of our on-campus students live in the surrounding communities many of which are within walking and biking distances. Some students choose to live within a 10 to 30-minute driving radius. The University Student Affairs office provides as many resources as possible to assist students in finding housing. This includes online housing and profiles of available rentals and roommate referral service for students wishing to share housing. Upon acceptance to WesternU, you will be able to access these online services through the U portal. It is the student's responsibility to secure his or her own housing. For the Lebanon area, a list of local apartment complexes is available to view at local apartment complexes . It is recommended that you secure housing at least two weeks before the first day of orientation.

Student Government Association, Community Service & Clubs

<https://www.westernu.edu/students/clubs>

WesternU has a very active Student Government Association (SGA) on campus that serves as the voice of our students. In addition, we have over 160 different clubs between the Lebanon and Pomona campuses comprising of such diverse groups that include, but are limited to, nationally affiliated professional organizations, cultural/religious groups, and interest-based groups. Our clubs and classes take part in a variety of community service events each year including offering free health screenings at numerous health fairs, youth mentoring, senior center activities, and community nutrition education.

Every year in August, we host a Club Day where you have an opportunity to visit various club booths to discuss their mission and join as a member.

In addition, if you are interested in journalism, we encourage you to get involved in the publication of the WesternU Humanism Magazine. The magazine is written and edited by students under the direction of faculty advisors.

The Office of Humanism, Equity, and Anti-Racism (HEAR)

Room-126
Daumier Building
(909) 469-8839
hearoffice@westernu.edu
<https://www.westernu.edu/hear/>

Leads University-wide initiatives and actions to actualize WesternU's commitment to Humanism. Provides diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racist education, training, professional development; offers a range of services for WesternU students, faculty, staff, administrators, and various communities. Responsible for University-wide cultural programming, advocacy, and support for diversity, equity and inclusion. Works collaboratively with multiple stakeholders and leaders from all the colleges, administrative and support departments on the Pomona and Lebanon campuses to make WesternU an inclusive community where people of all identities and backgrounds belong and thrive.

Need Help?

The following links will assist you as you prepare to register for classes.

Acceptance Deposit	admissions@westernu.edu
Award Letters and Check Disbursements	finaid@westernu.edu
Counseling: Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	www.westernu.edu/students/students-services-counseling
Documents Status	admissions@westernu.edu
Financial Aid	finaid@westernu.edu
Harris Family Ctr. For Disability & Health Policy	www.westernu.edu/cdhp/
Health Insurance	www.westernu.edu/students/students-services-insurance
Housing	
Laptop Set-up	helpdesk@westernu.edu
Learning Enhancement and Academic Development	www.westernu.edu/lead/
Registration	registrar@westernu.edu
Status Page Password Instructions and Issues	admissions@westernu.edu
Student Lead Ambassadors	leadambassador@westernu.edu
WesternU Email Access Issues	helpdesk@westernu.edu

ADMISSIONS OFFICE:

For all questions regarding applications

Nicole Gutzke
Associate Director of Admissions
(909) 706-3530
admissions@westernu.edu

Sarah Bruce
Admissions Counselor II
(works with last names A-I/Q-U)
(909)469-5231
admissions@westernu.edu

Teliece Hughes-Jackson
Admissions Counselor II
(works with last names J-P/V-Z)
909-469-5570
admissions@westernu.edu

FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO OD PROGRAM CURRICULUM:

Andrea Nuno
Director of Student Affairs
(909) 706-3903
anuno@westernu.edu

WesternU's more than 21,000 alumni generate a combined annual economic impact of nearly \$5.7 billion throughout the United States and support nearly 134,000 jobs.

Important Dates to Remember

OCT 1 FAFSA

If you intend to request financial aid, you should plan to file your FAFSA after October 1. Our school code is 024827. The school code is the same for the Pomona and Lebanon campus.

OCT 1 WICHE

If you are a legal resident of Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Washington, and Wyoming, you may be eligible for a scholarship. Contact your state WICHE Office.

JULY 1 ONLINE REGISTRATION

Registration information and instructions will be emailed by late June, and you may register online at your convenience between July 1 and July 31. Registration must be completed by July 31.

NEW STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| JUNE 16 | ISAC Student Orientation: ISAC Orientation takes place the first day of ISAC class, attendance is mandatory. |
| JULY 28 - JULY 31 | New Student Orientation: Attendance is mandatory. ISAC Student attendance at New Student Orientation is mandatory. |
| AUGUST 1 | Convocation: Convocation officially opens the new academic year attendance is mandatory. |
| AUGUST 1 | White Coat Ceremony: Immediately follows Convocation attendance is mandatory. |
| AUGUST 11 | First Day of Class: Attendance is mandatory. |

NOTE: Attendance at all Orientation, Convocation, White Coat, and First Day of Class activities is mandatory. An excused absence can only be obtained from the COMP Dean or their designee. Failure to participate in new student activities may result in the rescindment of your offer of acceptance