

Western University of Health Sciences

College of Optometry

**Doctor of Optometry (OD)
2021/2022 Catalog**

COVID-19 Impact

The contents of this 2021-2022 catalog reflect standard operating conditions for the academic year. However, the global COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a rapidly changing environment for higher education, and Western University of Health Sciences will respond to those changes in the interest of the health and well-being of all our students, faculty, staff and administration. Changes to policy, procedure and practice may be necessary from time to time, and these changes will be published using typical communication channels, including mail, email, publication to the university web site, press releases, and other channels as deemed appropriate. These changes may supplement and supersede any inconsistent provisions found in this Catalog.

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College of Optometry

Accreditation

The Doctor of Optometry program at Western University of Health Sciences is fully accredited by The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). The ACOE (243 North Lindbergh Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri: telephone number 800-365-2219) is the accrediting body for professional degree programs offered by all optometric institutions in the United States.

General Information

Vision

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

Mission

The mission of the 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.

Core Values

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

The OD Degree

The Doctor of Optometry degree (OD) is awarded in recognition of the highest level of professional education in optometry in the United States. To earn the OD degree, students must successfully complete four years of professional study subsequent to completion of their undergraduate, pre-professional prerequisites at an accredited college or university. Students who successfully complete this program are eligible to take state optometric licensing examinations. Most states have replaced the written examination with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examinations, which the students take during their academic career. Information on the NBEO licensing examination is available at <http://www.optometry.org>. After passing this examination, graduates are eligible to be licensed to perform all the duties and responsibilities of a practicing optometrist.

Goals and Objectives

The College goals include teaching and learning, research and scholarly activity, and community and public service.

1. Matriculates will complete the educational and clinical programs successfully.
2. Graduates will interact with patients and other health care professionals in a competent, caring, and humanistic way.
3. Graduates will be prepared for diverse cultures, experiences, and practice settings.
4. The curriculum will emphasize the distinctive elements of the program.

5. The expertise of the faculty will be aligned with the program emphases as part of a comprehensive educational program
6. Research conducted will align with the program emphases as part of a comprehensive educational program.
7. High quality patient care will be provided in the program emphases as part of a comprehensive educational program.
8. The College will develop, implement and evaluate improved aspects of health care education, research, and patient care and disseminate best practices and innovations.
9. Interprofessional, collaborative, and community-based projects in health care education, research, and patient care will be conducted.

Program Learning Outcomes

A graduating Doctor of Optometry from Western University of Health Sciences' College of Optometry must demonstrate ethical and professional standards appropriate to a health care professional, as well as demonstrating the biomedical knowledge required to enhance and extend the quality of life in our communities by enhancing visual function.

The graduate shall be Professional & Ethical: To serve the public and the profession well, new graduates must embrace and demonstrate the highest standards of ethical and professional care appropriate to being recognized as a health care provider.

The graduate shall be Professional & Ethical: The new graduate must also recognize that the completion of the Doctor of Optometry degree program is only the first step in a life-long commitment to self-directed learning and continual professional improvement.

The graduate will have demonstrated the following Personal Attribute: problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that integrate current knowledge, scientific advances, and the human/social dimensions of patient care to assure the highest quality of care for each patient

The graduate will have demonstrated the following Personal Attribute: the ability to recognize personal limitations regarding optimal patient care and to work with the broader health care community in providing the best care possible.

The graduate will have demonstrated the following Professional Attribute: a respect for the dignity of every patient and a commitment to empathetic and confidential care

The graduate will have demonstrated the following Professional Attribute: a commitment to work as an integral member of the larger interprofessional health care team to improve patient care outcomes

The graduate will have demonstrated the following Professional Attribute: a commitment to be actively involved in organized optometry and the community.

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of basic organ systems, with special emphasis on the ocular and visual system, and their inter-relationships to the body as a whole

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of the cellular, molecular, and genetic basis of the development, physiology, pathology, and treatment of eye disease

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of the structures and processes contributing to the development of refractive error and other optical and perceptual abnormalities of the visual system (This includes vision function with respect to deviation and enhancement such as, but not limited to, strabismus, amblyopia, oculomotor function, accommodation, and visual perception.)

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of the optics of the eye and ophthalmic lens systems (including spectacles, contact lenses, and low vision devices) used to correct refractive, oculomotor, and other vision disorders

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of the various processes and causes that lead to dysfunction and disease, and the effect that these processes can have on the body and its major organ systems, with special emphasis on the ocular and visual systems

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of mechanisms of action of the various classes of pharmaceutical agents, their interactions, and their safe and effective use for the treatment of diseases and conditions affecting the eye and visual system

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of vision therapy and other rehabilitative methods used for the management of common visual disorders and special patient populations

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of the psychosocial dynamics of the doctor/patient relationship and understanding of the social, psychological, and economic forces affecting diverse patient populations

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of community health care resources and delivery systems to improve care

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of practice management structures and strategies as they pertain to the various practice settings.

The graduate will have demonstrated that he or she is knowledgeable of an understanding of nutritional influences on ocular physiology and systemic health and disease

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to the diagnosis, triage, management, and/or treatment of common visual conditions, including or resulting from refractive anomalies, abnormalities of accommodation, monocular or binocular vision skills, oculomotor and sensory/perceptual dysfunctions, ocular disease and trauma, prior ocular surgery and/or laser intervention, systemic disease, and environmental or occupational conditions.

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to order and interpret frequently needed laboratory and diagnostic procedures

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to understand, evaluate, and apply the use of contemporary imaging technologies in the provision of eye and vision care

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to recognize and initiate the coordination of patient care requiring advanced medical, systemic, inter-professional or specialty care

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to recognize life-threatening conditions and to initiate immediate intervention

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to communicate both orally and in writing, as appropriate for maximizing successful patient care outcomes

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to access evidence-based knowledge (including through information technology) and manage information, and to apply that information in making decisions about patient care and health care delivery

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to embrace the cultural diversity and individual differences that characterize patients, populations and the health care team

Capable: the graduate will have demonstrated all the skills required to work in cooperation with those who receive care, those who provide care and others who contribute to or support the delivery of prevention and health services.

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 (^{HF}CDHP) 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
 - 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 and
- 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 and
- Positive acceptance of suggestions and constructive criticism.

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) is committed to ensuring a campus community free from unlawful discrimination. Accordingly, WesternU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin ancestry, citizenship, ethnicity, creed, religion or religious creed, sex or gender (including gender identity), 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, in the administration of its programs or activities. WesternU also prohibits unlawful harassment, including Sexual Harassment. Lastly, WesternU is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunities to all members of its campus community in accordance with all applicable laws.

This non-discrimination policy applies to applicants, students, and alumni. Additional nondiscrimination information can be found in the Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy, located in the University Catalog.

Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

Candidates and students must be able to perform all the personal competencies of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. A student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation will be referred to the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (^{HFC}CDHP). The student will be asked to provide documentation of the disability for the purposes of determining appropriate accommodations. The College of Optometry will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program. A student with questions regarding reasonable accommodation can contact the ^{HFC}CDHP office.

Application Requirements

The application requirements shown in this catalog apply to applicants who are seeking entry for the 2021-2022 academic year. Current admission and application requirements for the Doctor of Optometry (OD) program, including prerequisite coursework requirements, can be located on the [Prospective Student website](#). An application to the College of Optometry includes the following items:

1. Primary Application
 - a. Submit primary application online through OptomCAS (Optometry Centralized Application Service). Applicants must pay a fee of \$180 to apply to one school or college of optometry. An additional \$70 fee will be charged for each additional school or college.
2. Letters of Recommendation
 - a. Letters of Recommendation should be submitted through OptomCAS. We require two (2) recommendation letters. It is suggested that one letter be from an optometrist and one be from a faculty member or pre-health advisor who is familiar with the applicant's academic work.

3. Standardized Test Scores

- a. Official OAT scores should be submitted through OptomCAS and must be received before application will be considered.
- b. GRE scores may be considered at the discretion of the Admissions Committee if the candidate's prerequisite and science GPAs are at least 3.0. Please explain on your application why you are submitting alternate test scores.
 - **IMPORTANT:** When submitting GRE scores, you must list WesternU's specific GRE Designated Institution (DI) Code of 4578 in order for your scores to match to your application.
- c. DAT, MCAT or PCAT scores may be considered at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. Please explain in your application why you are submitting alternate test scores.
- d. Only scores after June 30, 2019 will be considered for the 2022 entering class.
- e. If you wish to submit any of these alternate test scores, please contact Annica Correa at acorrea@westernu.edu for instructions.

4. Re-Applicants

- a. Re-applicants will need to submit a new set of official transcripts directly to OptomCAS. If the applicant submitted the two required letters of recommendation in their previous application, they will need to submit one new letter of recommendation. The additional letter should provide insight into the activities they have participated in since their last application submission. If at least two letters of recommendation were not submitted during the previous application cycle, re-applicants will need to provide additional letters to meet our two-letter requirement. At least one letter should provide insight into the activities the applicant has participated in since the last application submission. New letters should be submitted through OptomCAS. If the applicant has re-taken a standardized admissions test since the last application, they should ensure that a new official score report be released to WesternU.

Academic Requirements

Academic requirements for admission include:

1. Completion of prerequisite courses as outlined below
2. Minimum 90 semester or 135 quarter credit hours of undergraduate coursework. An earned bachelor's degree is not required for admission to the program.
3. Standardized Test Scores (see Application Requirements)
4. Letters of Recommendation (see Application Requirements)
5. Proof of legal US residency, if required
6. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) results, if required

7. Access to a portable personal computer meeting the minimum requirements located at: <https://www.westernu.edu/computing/computing-students/>

Prerequisite Courses

The following courses must be completed prior to enrollment at an accredited institution, in the United States or Canada, with a grade of “C” or better, and are the minimum requirements for all applicants:

Required Courses: 8 Semester or 12 Quarter Credit hours

- General Biology or Zoology (with lab) – may not be an introductory course
- General (Inorganic Chemistry (with lab) – may not be an introductory course
- General Physics (with lab) – may not be an introductory course

Required Courses: 6 Semester or 8 Quarter Credit hours

- English
 - May be an English Composition, English Literature, Writing, or Critical Thinking course
 - May not be an English as a Second Language (ESL) course
 - May not be a Speech or Communication course

Required Courses: 3 Semester or 4 Quarter Credit hours

- Organic Chemistry (with lab) – may not be an introductory course
- General Microbiology or Bacteriology (with lab)
- Human Anatomy
 - If Anatomy and Physiology are a combined course, must be a minimum of 4 semester or 6 quarter credit hours
 - Must be taken out of the Anatomy, Physiology, Biology, or Zoology department
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology are preferred but a Vertebrate Anatomy and Physiology course that **also** includes Human Anatomy and Physiology will be accepted
 - A lab is not required
- Human Physiology
 - If Anatomy and Physiology are a combined course, must be a minimum of 4 semester or 6 quarter credit hours
 - Must be taken out of the Anatomy, Physiology, Biology, or Zoology department

- Human Anatomy and Physiology are preferred but a Vertebrate Anatomy and Physiology course that **also** includes Human Anatomy and Physiology will be accepted
- A lab is not required
- Biochemistry
- Statistics
- Calculus
- Psychology – may be an introductory, general, or human development course

Notes Regarding Prerequisite Coursework

1. All prerequisite courses must be completed by July 1st of the matriculating year. No summer courses completed after July 1st will be accepted.
2. Online labs are NOT accepted. Exception: online prerequisite labs will be accepted for labs completed during spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021 terms.
3. Pass/No Pass grades are not accepted for prerequisite coursework. Exception: Pass/No Pass will be accepted for courses completed during spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021 terms.
4. One course cannot be used to satisfy more than one prerequisite.
5. English and Calculus may be taken on an advanced-placement basis. All other AP courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Pre-Matriculation Health Standards

A complete health history, physical examination, serum blood titers, Tuberculosis clearance, immunization records (since childhood), a Tdap vaccine and completion of all student health forms are required prior to registration at Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU). NOTE: All colleges at WesternU have the same final submission of documents deadline of June 1st. The Student-Employee Health Office highly recommends you submit your completed health clearance documents as early as March. If you wait until the deadline to submit your documents to the Student-Employee Health Office, it can take at least 10-business days or more to process your documents and to release the hold allowing you to register for classes.

Applicants with Foreign Coursework

Applicants who wish to use coursework completed outside the United States and Canada must submit their transcripts for evaluation to a [Western University of Health Sciences Approved Service](#) at the candidate's expense. A course-by-course evaluation is required, and all coursework must be designated as undergraduate, graduate, or professional. WesternU only honors evaluations from one of the above services. The official evaluation must be submitted to OptomCAS.

International Students

International applicants, or any other applicants who are not U.S. citizens and who are living in the U.S.,

must provide proof of legal residency prior to matriculation. For detailed information, please visit our [web page](#). It is the responsibility of the applicant/matriculant to ensure that they are legally qualified to attend an educational program in the United States for the duration of the program.

Student Selection Process

The WesternU Admissions Office assists the College in preparation, distribution, and handling of all admissions-related materials, as well as in application processing. Applications for admission will be accepted each year from July 1 to May 1 for classes beginning in August of the next academic year. The College of Optometry will begin scheduling interviews as academically qualified applications are received.

After the applicant's file is complete, the College of Optometry Admissions Committee will review it to determine whether the minimum academic qualifications have been met, and whether the candidate will be granted an interview. If the candidate is deemed suitable, the individual will be invited to an in person or virtual interview at the discretion of the committee. It is highly encouraged that applicants interview on campus. The candidate should plan to spend a full day on campus for orientation and the interview. Orientation will consist of information on the curriculum, financial aid, student services, a tour of the campus and time to meet with current WesternU students.

The interview team conducting the interview will complete a standardized assessment form. The Admissions Committee will review the report from the interview and the applicant file again to determine whether the candidate will be accepted. The options for a decision could include an offer of acceptance, placing a candidate on hold, placing a candidate on an alternate list, or denial of admission. The applicant will be notified of the committee decision within three weeks of the interview.

The College of Optometry uses a rolling admissions process, which means that qualified candidates will be accepted on a first-applied basis throughout the open admissions period (July through May). Candidates who apply early have the best chance at acceptance.

All accepted applicants must complete a matriculation agreement form and submit a non-refundable enrollment deposit of \$500.00, which applies to the first-year tuition, to confirm their space in the class. If an applicant fails to register, the enrollment deposit is forfeited.

Transfers from Other Optometry Schools

Eligibility

To be eligible for admission as a transfer student, applicants must be currently enrolled or have previously attended an accredited United States (US) or Canadian Optometry school.

Transfer Application Process

Transfer applications are considered based on space availability. To initiate the process, applicants must contact the Office of Admissions to request transfer consideration. The Office of Admissions will provide applicants with a link to complete a transfer application.

Applicants may contact the Office of Admissions via e-mail or postal mail.

E-mail address: admissions@westernu.edu

Postal address: Office of Admissions
Attn: OD Admissions
Western University of Health Sciences
309 E. Second Street
Pomona, CA 91766-1854

Once the transfer application is completed, applicants must upload the following documents via a secure link provided by the Office of Admissions:

1. Detailed letter describing compelling reasons for the transfer request
2. Optometry school course descriptions for all courses completed in optometry school
3. Copy of previous OptomCAS application

Applicants must also request the following documents to be sent to the Office of Admissions from their respective parties:

1. Official standardized exam scores (OAT, DAT, PCAT, MCAT, or GRE)
2. Official NBEO score report (if applicable)
3. Official transcript reports, including undergraduate and optometry school transcripts

The deadline to submit all required transfer application materials is March 1 for classes beginning in August of the next academic year.

Preliminary Review

Once the required documents have been submitted, the College of Optometry's Admissions Committee will review the transfer applicant's completed file. If a transfer applicant is granted an interview, they will be interviewed by members of the Committee. The Admissions Committee will make the final decision regarding admission based on the outcome of the interview and review of all submitted documents.

Transfer Credit and Placement Decisions

Transfer credit for previous coursework completed at a college or school of optometry will be reviewed

and approved on a case-by-case basis. Based upon review of the documentation provided, and in consultation with course instructors of record as needed, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will make all transfer credit and placement decisions.

Applicants that meet all admission requirements and are eligible to be enrolled into Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry may be placed into the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year curriculum. The Office of Admissions and the Office of Academic Affairs coordinate final placement arrangements.

International Advanced Standing

Eligibility

To be eligible for admission with advanced standing candidates must be currently enrolled, have previously attended an Optometry Program other than in the United States or Canada, or have earned a terminal medical degree (such as Bachelor's in Medicine or Doctor of Medicine) or Optometry degree from outside the United States or Canada.

To request an informational brochure and/or information about the OD application process, contact the Office of Admissions or visit our website at:

Office of Admissions
Western University of Health Sciences
309 E. Second Street
Pomona, CA 91766-1854
(909) 469-5335

[https://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/od/
advanced-standing/](https://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/od/advanced-standing/)

Registration

All WesternU students are required to register by the registration deadlines specified by the University Registrar. Registration dates are posted on the [Registrar's Office website](#). Failure to register by the deadline may be grounds for administrative withdrawal. All students registering after the posted deadline will be assessed a \$30.00 per business day late fee.

Full tuition and fees and all prior debts must be paid in full on or by posted deadlines each academic year. Matriculation is subject to the satisfactory completion of all academic requirements and payment of all outstanding debts to the University. The receipt of a final transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended and a physical examination with documentation of required immunizations (if applicable) prior to registration are additional requirements for incoming students.

Registration Late Fee Appeals

If you are assessed late fees for a registration period, you may submit an appeal to the Registrar. For additional information on the appeal process, please see 'Registration Late Fee Appeals' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

Student Health Insurance Requirement

All full-time students at Western University of Health Sciences are required to have active health insurance while enrolled. All students are automatically assessed half of the entire year's insurance premium and will be enrolled in the student health insurance plan until they submit proof of coverage that meets the University's requirements. For additional information on student health insurance requirements and/or waiving out of the student health insurance plan, please see 'Student Health Insurance Requirement' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

New Student Orientation/Welcome Week

Attendance at all Welcome Week activities is mandatory for all incoming first-year and repeating students. Failure to attend any part of Orientation/Welcome Week without prior approval from the Office of Student Affairs may result in the rescindment of a student's acceptance offer. For additional information on Welcome Week activities for the College of Optometry, please visit:

<http://www.westernu.edu/students/welcome-week/>

Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status

Leave of Absence

A student may request a Leave of Absence (LOA) with the occurrence of a medical emergency or illness, personal issues, financial hardship or military service. Students must be in good academic standing to be eligible for a Leave of Absence. College of Optometry students may request a LOA with the Office of Student Affairs.

Students requesting an LOA are required to continue monitoring their WesternU email so that no information or deadlines are missed. Students must also consult with the Office of Financial Aid regarding any outstanding loans since students on a 30+ day LOA are not eligible for financial aid. Students on LOA are not covered by WesternU's accident, liability, or malpractice insurance. A notation regarding the LOA will appear on the student's academic transcript if the LOA is greater than 30 days in length.

For additional information on the University's Leave of Absence policy, see 'Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

Withdrawal from University/Academic Program

Matriculation at the University is a privilege granted in consideration of specified levels of performance and of maintaining the established standards of scholarship and personal and professional conduct. The University reserves the right to require withdrawal at any time it deems necessary to safeguard its standards of scholarship, conduct, and orderly operation. The student concedes this right by act of matriculation. For additional information on withdrawing from the OD program, please see 'Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

Full-Time/Part-Time Status

All Doctor of Optometry (OD) students enrolled in at least one course are considered full-time students.

Time Limits

The Doctor of Optometry (OD) program is designed for completion in four (4) years of full-time study. The requirements for the degree must be fulfilled within six (6) years from the date of matriculation to the program. Students who are unable to complete the program within the maximum time allotted may be subject to Administrative Withdrawal. Extensions of this time limit may be granted through petition to the Dean of the College of Optometry.

Tuition and Fees

By action of the Board of Trustees, OD tuition and fees for the 2021/2022 academic year (subject to change) are as follows:

\$41,790.00	Annual Tuition
\$40.00	Student Body Fee, Years 1-3
\$20.00	Student Body Fee, Year 4

Other Fees and Expenses

\$1,000.00	Required Textbooks (Per Year, Estimate)
\$4,500.00	Required Equipment (Year 1, Estimate)
\$4,000.00	Required Equipment (Year 2, Estimate)
\$1,500.00	Required Equipment (Years 3-4, Estimate)
\$2,850.00	Board Review Course Materials (Year 3-4, Estimate)
\$55.00	CPR Certification (Year 2, Estimate)
\$75.00	Vision Therapy Equipment Kit (Year 2, Estimate)
\$30.00	N-95 Respirator Fit Testing (Year 2-3, Estimate)
\$80.00	Live Scan Fingerprinting (Year 1, Estimate)
\$2,500.00	Personal Computer (Estimate)
TBD	Classroom Engagement Software
\$75.00	Educational Portfolio Software
\$55.00	AOSA Annual Dues (Required)
\$60.00	Criminal Background Investigation (Estimate)
\$30.00	Registration Late Fee (Per Business Day)
\$50.00	Late Payment Fee (per month)
\$350.00	Graduation Fee
\$470.00	Annual Parking Permit (Auto)
\$40.00	Locker Key Replacement Charge
\$10.00	Official Transcript (Each)
\$21.00	Rush Transcript, First Class Mail (Each)
\$25.00	Rush Transcript, Federal Express (Each)
\$10.00	Student ID Replacement Fee
TBD	Breakage Fee (Replacement Cost)
TBD	Externship Documentation (As Needed)

Modified Curriculum/Repeated Coursework Tuition Rates

Students enrolled in a modified OD curriculum or who are directed to repeat one or more courses but not the entire academic year are charged a per credit hour tuition rate. This rate is calculated by dividing the total credit hours required for a class year by the annual tuition. The per credit hour rates for 2020/2021 are shown below:

\$995.00	OD Year 1 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge
\$879.79	OD Year 2 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge
\$1,229.12	OD Year 3 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge
\$928.67	OD Year 4 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge

Additional OD Program Education Requirements

Classroom Engagement/Top Hat

The College of Optometry uses Top Hat, a teaching and learning cloud-based interactive platform that turns students' web-enabled devices into virtual clickers. Top Hat provides faculty with a comprehensive way to track student engagement and participation, more options in creating interactive lectures, and other opportunities to enrich student learning experiences. All College of Optometry students are assessed a Top Hat software license fee during fall registration.

Personal Computers (PC)

Students are required to have a personal computer for use beginning the first day of classes. PCs must meet pre-determined [technical specifications](#) that are updated annually. The PCs will be used for e-mail communication with classmates and faculty, for accessing computer and server-based course information and instructional software, for searching online bibliographic databases and creating electronic bibliographies, assessments administered through ExamSoft and for participating in exercises in clinical education and pre-clinical laboratory assignments. PCs are required to run Electronic Health Records software and must meet exact specifications to support these needs. In addition, it is recommended that each student have access to a printer.

Computers will be needed by students on campus as well as at their pre-clinical laboratories, clinical assignments, and community-based screening programs; therefore, portable computers are required instead of desktop models. Vendors of software used by students at the College of Optometry have stated that their products cannot be guaranteed to work on Apple products.

National Board Fees (NBEO)

Most states require passage of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examinations for licensure. Fees are subject to change by NBEO and are updated regularly. These fees can be found online at <http://www.optometry.org/fees.cfm>. Fees and application requirements are the responsibility of the student.

Clinical Rotations Expenses

During the first, second, third and fourth years of the curriculum, students may be required to rotate through off-campus clinical experiences away from the Pomona area. In addition, students may be required to return to campus several times during the clinical years for various educational experiences, conferences, etc. Any travel, food, housing, or other expenses incurred by participating in these activities are the responsibility of the student. Scheduling of these clinical activities may involve assignments on weekdays, evenings, and weekends.

Financial Assistance

All Optometry students are eligible to apply for need-based financial aid. For more information, please call the Financial Aid Office at 800-346-1610 or visit the [Financial Aid](#) website.

General Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic Support

The faculty and administration of the College of Optometry are committed to providing support for academic success in the program. Students are encouraged to take an active role in monitoring their own academic progress to ensure adequate performance in all assignments. Student academic performance is monitored on an ongoing basis by faculty members, the Director of Student Affairs and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Student performance information may be shared across courses and among instructor of records within the curriculum to ensure students' academic success. The College of Optometry's Director of Student Affairs serves as the primary contact for students seeking support.

Counseling

All Western University of Health Sciences full-time students have direct access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for Students through OptumHealth. Under this Employee Assistance Program for Students, you and any member of your immediate household are eligible for up to five (5) free counseling sessions for each "incident" or situation. Counseling services may be accessed by telephone, via the web, or face-to-face. These confidential services consist of a series of tools and resources designed to help WesternU students learn new and useful techniques for dealing with stress, anxiety, depression and other common challenges.

Academic Advisement

Students are assigned a faculty advisor upon matriculation. Advisement by a faculty advisor should be viewed by the student as a part of the academic process. If either the student or faculty member does not find the relationship helpful, either is free to seek a change. This request should be made to the Director of Student Affairs. It is the student's responsibility to meet periodically with his/her advisor. A student on probation must contact his/her faculty advisor at least once a month.

Attendance and Absences

Instructional attendance requirements are published in each course syllabus. Attendance is required at all scheduled instructional periods, including but not limited to orientations, group meetings with tutors, examinations, scheduled educational laboratories and experiences, and all clinical assignments. Absence from instructional periods for any reason does not relieve the student from responsibility for the material covered during these periods.

Students may request an excused absence from scheduled required instructional periods. Requests for excused absences (with appropriate documentation) must be made to the Office of Academic Affairs at OPTMAcademicAffairs@westernu.edu. Only Academic Affairs can grant an excused absence.

If the absence is excused, the student will be permitted to take a make-up examination, the nature and time of which will be determined at the discretion of the course instructor, and the student will receive full credit for the make-up examination.

If the absence is unexcused, the course instructor may grant a score of zero or may offer the student the option of completing an alternate assignment or alternate test for partial credit at his or her discretion.

Examinations

Examination schedules will be provided at the beginning of every course and included in each course syllabus. In addition, unannounced examinations may occur during any portion of the curriculum at the discretion of the course instructor. Students are required to be present for all scheduled examinations and cannot begin an examination more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Generally, students that arrive less than 15 minutes late will be allowed to take the examination, but will not receive additional time.

Protocol for Input on Matters of Student Concern

When an issue or dispute arises between students, the issue/dispute resolution process starts with communication among the involved students. If a satisfactory resolution is not arrived at that level, the matter should then be addressed with the course instructor. If the problem is not resolved at the course instructor level, the matter should be brought to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, then the Dean. If the matter has not been resolved at those levels, the final arbiter is the SVP/Provost.

When an incident arises involving a faculty member, the first step in the issue/dispute resolution process is discussion with the faculty member. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved at that level, then the matter should be referred to the Dean. If the matter has not been resolved at those levels, the final arbiter is the SVP/Provost. Please note that grade appeals cannot be handled under this protocol.

When an incident arises involving a staff member, the dispute resolution process begins with the Dean. The Office of Human Relations is the final arbiter.

Failure to follow this sequence of steps will only serve to delay the appropriate resolution of the issue or dispute as the matter will only be referred back to the correct level in this chain of responsibility.

Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct

The University Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct, can be in the General section of the University catalog. Students are expected to be aware of, and abide by, both University and applicable College policies.

The College of Optometry adheres to all policies and procedures pertaining to violations of the “Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism, and Student Conduct” as outlined in the General Section of the University Catalog. A student who allegedly violated either the University or College’s conduct policies will be subject to the University guidelines on the conduct process.

Student Honor Code

All students will sign a copy of the Student Honor Code of Professional Conduct and Honesty. By signing this document, students acknowledge that their entry into the study of optometry joins them to a profession that conducts itself according to a long-standing moral and ethical code. Furthermore, students affirm that they will strive in all efforts to meet these standards for the betterment of the profession and the patients it serves. As future healthcare providers, students of CO will conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, professionalism, and pride. Students may not cheat, deceive, steal, or tolerate anyone who does.

The following Student Honor Code of Professional Conduct and Honesty serves as a statement of policy for the College of Optometry and will be adopted by every CO student.

As a student of Western University of Health Sciences–College of Optometry, and as a future health care professional, I do hereby agree to uphold the principles and provisions of this Policy as an acknowledgement of the need to preserve the integrity of my school and my profession. I will not breach the honor of my chosen profession through misrepresentation, harassment, or discrimination. I will always maintain respect and compassion for others and conduct myself in a manner befitting a health care professional. I will never take unfair advantage of others. I understand that this Policy is supplemental to the existing University and College policies, including but not limited to Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment and Non-Retaliation, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX), Drug Free Workplace, and the Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism, and Student Conduct.

I will never knowingly or willfully obtain or utilize an unfair advantage in the taking of any examination or other assignment. This includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Plagiarizing of test answers, assignments, or information
2. Using unauthorized notes, tests, aids, or materials during, or in relation to, an exam; including those exams taken outside the campus setting
3. Obtaining exam information or answers prior to/after or during an examination
4. Excusing myself from, or obtaining postponement of, an exam under false pretenses
5. Unauthorized sharing of individually assigned projects or exams (electronic or otherwise)

I will never:

1. Falsify or misrepresent clinical hours, examination findings, laboratory data, or patient history
2. Falsify or misrepresent my skills, experience, or exposure to optometric procedures
3. Compromise confidentiality of patients or others

4. Engage in inappropriate or unprofessional conduct towards a patient, colleague, instructor, or other member of the community
5. Behave in a way that disrupts or obstructs the learning environment for others
6. Show disrespect, unprofessionalism, or of lack of compassion for patients, colleagues, instructors or other members of the community

I will:

1. Exhibit respectful, professional, productive, and polite interactions and/or communications with patients, colleagues, faculty, staff, or other members of the WesternU community
2. Maintain a drug-free environment in accordance with the University and College policy
3. Respect the rights and privacy of patients in accordance with HIPAA regulations

If I believe there has been a violation of the Honesty Code, I will immediately report the incident to a College Administrator or other appropriate University official. These designated authorities will follow protocol to determine the appropriate course of action. I understand that it is my obligation to report a possible Honesty Code violation and I recognize that failure to do so may be considered a violation of this Code.

Standards of Academic Progress

Students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall of 2019 and beyond must maintain a semester and cumulative grade point average of 2.60 or above on a yearly basis during all four years of the curriculum to be considered making satisfactory academic and professional progress. Students who entered the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2018 and prior must maintain a semester and cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or above on a yearly basis during all four years of the curriculum to be considered making satisfactory academic and professional progress. All grades of Incomplete (I) must be successfully completed, and "U," "NP," or "NCR" grades in any course or clinical assignment must be satisfactorily remediated prior to graduation.

Students who are on academic probation, academic suspension or who are eligible for academic dismissal are not considered to be in satisfactory academic standing.

Student Performance Committee

The Student Performance Committee is responsible for:

1. Maintaining the academic and conduct standards within the College of Optometry
2. Developing and proposing standards for dismissal, probation, satisfactory academic standing, based on grade-point average, clinical performance, professional behavior, etc.
3. Recommending students for academic promotion, probation, remediation, or dismissal from the College
4. Recommending students for academic or conduct suspension, medical and/or educational assessment
5. Determining students' eligibility for NBEO Part 1 Examinations for all who satisfactorily complete the eligibility requirements, as determined by the faculty.
6. Recommending to the Faculty the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Optometry to all students who satisfactorily complete all requirements for graduation as stated in the University Catalog.

Review of Student Academic Performance

Student performance is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Determination of eligibility for probation, suspension, or dismissal will be assessed at the conclusion of each course as well as at the end of each semester. Since courses may conclude prior to the end of the semester, a student may be placed on probation or suspension or become eligible for dismissal prior to the end of an academic term.

The Student Performance Committee makes recommendations to the Dean or Associate Dean of Academic Affairs regarding actions to be taken in cases of poor student performance. The Committee Chair will provide recommendations on remediation, probation, or suspension to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The Committee Chair will also provide recommendations on dismissal to the Dean. Guidelines for committee actions are included in the following section. A range of options may be recommended, including, but not limited to:

1. Remediation of an individual course or activity
2. A modified program
3. Repetition of an entire year of the program
4. Dismissal from the program

In determining the appropriate recommendation, the Committee may consider any information that is pertinent and/or relevant to academic performance. The Dean or Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will make the final decision on this recommendation and inform the student of that decision in writing. The student has a right to appeal such decisions to the Provost (excepting decisions that only place a student on academic probation).

Promotion

Promotion is defined as academic and professional progression from one academic year to the next. The Student Performance Committee will recommend students to the faculty for promotion.

Students will not be allowed to progress to the course OPTM 7008 Patient Care Services VIII, or any subsequent Patient Care Services course, if they have any outstanding grade of "I," "NP," "NCR," or "U" on their transcript.

Students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in the fall of 2019 and beyond will not be recommended for progression from one academic year to the next with a semester GPA of less than 2.60 for two consecutive semesters or a cumulative GPA of less than 2.60. A student on a remediation plan will have their cumulative GPA calculated after the resolution of the remediation. When considering a student for promotion, the Student Performance Committee will consider ethical, professional, and personal conduct as well as academic performance.

Students who matriculated into the program in the fall of 2018 or prior will not be recommended for progression from one academic year to the next with a semester GPA of less than 2.00 for two consecutive semesters or a cumulative GPA of less than 2.00. When considering a student for promotion, the Student Performance Committee will consider ethical, professional, and personal conduct as well as academic performance.

Progression into any Patient Care Services courses may be delayed due to having an outstanding grade of “I,” “NP,” “NCR,” or “U” in a didactic course.

Graduation

A student will be recommended for the Doctor of Optometry degree provided the student:

1. Has no outstanding grade of “I,” “NCR,” “NP,” “R,” or “U”; is not on suspension; and has completed all prescribed academic and clinical requirements with a cumulative grade point average of a 2.00 or above. Students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond must complete all prescribed academic and clinical requirements with a cumulative grade point average of a 2.60 or above.
2. Has completed all service requirements as noted in the “[Graduation Service Requirement](#)” section of the catalog.
3. Has demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct, as defined in the University Catalog’s, “Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism, and Student Conduct” section, which would make it inappropriate to award the degree of Doctor of Optometry.
4. Has complied with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the University Catalog.
5. Attends in person and participated in the Commencement ceremony at which time the Doctor of Optometry degree is conferred. Unless special permission has been granted by the Dean, each student must participate in his or her respective commencement ceremony. If the Dean grants special permission for excusal from commencement, the graduate may be required to present himself or herself to the Dean or their designee at another specified date to take their profession’s oath before their diploma will be released. Requests for excusal will only be granted for extenuating circumstances, such as a prior military commitment.

Students may participate in commencement activities provided they will complete all requirements of the program by December 31 of that calendar year. No student will receive his or her degree until the student has completed all requirements for graduation. Degrees will be dated as appropriate to completion date.

Adverse Actions

Probation

In addition to the reasons listed in the General Academic Policies and Procedures section of the University Catalog, students may be placed on academic probation for the following reasons:

1. Semester grade point average is below 2.00 in two consecutive semesters.
 - a. For students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond: Semester grade point average is below 2.60 in two consecutive semesters.
2. Cumulative grade point average is below 2.00, after two or more semesters have been

completed.

- a. For students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond: Cumulative grade point average is below 2.60, after two or more semesters have been completed.
 - b. For students on a remediation plan, the cumulative GPA will be calculated upon resolution of the remediation plan.
3. Student earns a final course grade of U (Fail), NP (No Pass), or NCR (No Credit)
 4. Student earns a first-time course grade of R (Remedial) in any Patient Care Services course
 5. For students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond: Failure to complete the "[Graduate Service Requirement](#)".

Students will be placed on conduct probation if any of the following occur:

1. A pattern of unexcused absences from scheduled learning activities is demonstrated.
2. When a student demonstrates deficient ethical, professional, or personal conduct.

When the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs determines that a student is placed on probation according to the conditions listed above, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will call for a Probation Hearing, and so inform the affected student, the Director of Student Affairs, and the Chair of the Student Performance Committee. Students placed on academic probation for the first time are recommended to meet with the Director of Student Affairs.

Students on academic probation must bring their cumulative GPA to a 2.00 or greater average and satisfactorily remediate every failed course within two semesters of the imposition of academic probation in order to be removed from probation. For students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond, on academic probation must bring their cumulative GPA to a 2.60 or greater average and satisfactorily remediate every failed course within two semesters of the imposition of academic probation in order to be removed from probation.

If the requirements above are not met, students may be eligible for suspension or dismissal from the Doctor of Optometry program. Students on academic probation for any reason are not permitted to hold leadership positions in extra-curricular activities associated with the University and/or with professional associations and/or federal work study nor be excused from any academic or clinical activity to attend any professional meeting. A student on academic probation will be removed from probation when the student resolves the issue that caused him or her to be placed on probation.

A student who earns a final course grade of "R" (Remedial) for the first time in any Patient Care Services course will be placed on academic probation. All consequences of being on academic probation will apply. The student will be allowed to progress in the program, including advancing to and earning credit for their ensuing Patient Care Services assignment, while their status and pathway to remediation are being reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or her/his designee. If the "R" grade is successfully remediated within the stipulated time limit, then the Remedial grade will be changed to "P" (Pass). If the "R" grade is NOT successfully remediated within the stipulated time limit, then the "R" grade will be changed to "NP" (No Pass) and the consequences described in the

next paragraph will be implemented.

If a student leaves a clinical assignment before it is finished without the permission of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or is asked to leave a clinical rotation by the Clinical Preceptor, a grade of “NP” will be assigned.

A student who earns a final course grade of “NP,” “U,” a second grade of “R,” or a second grade of “NP” in any course within the Patient Care Services track will be placed on academic probation and will be immediately eligible for dismissal. All consequences of being eligible for dismissal will apply. While his or her status and pathway to remediation, if applicable, is being reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and the Dean of the College, the student will be allowed to progress in the didactic portion in the program but will NOT be allowed to advance to the ensuing Patient Care Services assignment. All Patient Care Services hours missed due to the student’s inability to continue in Patient Care Services track will have to be made up hour for hour, prior to the student’s advancement to the ensuing clinical course.

Financial Aid Warning Policy (Title IV and Title VII)

If a student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), he/she may be placed on “Financial Aid Warning” status for the next payment period and may continue to receive financial aid for that period. Financial Aid is any financial assistance offered to the student for paying for their education, such as loans, scholarships, Federal Work-Study, grants and stipends (judged on the criteria of the stipend). Students who fail to make SAP by the end of the payment period lose Financial Aid eligibility.

It is the policy of the Financial Aid Office (FAO) that once a student has been placed on academic probation for not meeting SAP standards as defined by the college, the FAO will automatically place the student in a Financial Aid Warning status. During the next academic term, if the student does not meet SAP standards and the college places the student on academic suspension, the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid. If the student appeals the academic suspension and the appeal is approved, financial aid will be reinstated. If the student is directed to audit courses, those courses will **not** be covered by financial aid.

Tutorial Assistance Program

A Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) has been established to assist students experiencing academic difficulty. Students will be recommended for this program by the Student Performance Committee, a faculty advisor, or a professor. Students may self-identify to TAP to receive assistance. The tutors will be chosen on the recommendation of the faculty in each discipline. Group tutoring is the methodology most used by the TAP department. For assistance, contact the Learning Enhancement and Academic Development Office (LEAD).

Remediation

The educational objectives that underlie remedial teaching and evaluation are the same as the educational objectives that underlie regular courses in the curriculum. Students who are placed on probation, suspension or who are eligible for dismissal may be given the opportunity to remediate their weaknesses when deemed appropriate. After consultation with the course instructor, the Student Performance Committee may recommend one of the following means for remediation:

1. Taking, and passing, of a comprehensive examination
2. Completion of special projects or studies in the deficient area(s)

3. Repeating of the course or clinical assignment
4. Completion of remediation course
5. Repeating of the academic year

The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or Dean will decide the means for remediation. The grade(s) achieved in the remediation will be the grade(s) recorded on the student's transcript, except that the highest grade a student may earn by options 1 or 2 (above) is the lowest passing grade offered in the course on record at the Registrar's Office. The grade achieved by remediation will be re-recorded on the transcript next to the original grade. Grades earned during remediation of a course or clinical assignment will be reviewed critically by the Student Performance Committee.

A student who is required to repeat a course must be notified in writing by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or Dean at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the start date, or within fifteen (15) working days after the close of the academic year (June 30) in which the student is presently enrolled, whichever comes first. Notification must be either sent by email or hand-delivered to the student and must be acknowledged with the signatures of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or Dean and the student.

If a student is directed to repeat a course, the grade for the repeated course will be recorded on the official transcript. Only the most recent grade received for a repeated course will be included in the student's GPA calculation. Students will be charged full tuition for repeated coursework.

If a student is required to take a remediation course, the student will be charged and will be responsible for paying 100% of the tuition for the course. If special assessments, diagnostic procedures, or therapy are required as part of a remediation plan, or if such activities are recommended and the student elects to partake of them, then in either case the student is responsible for 100% of all associated costs.

If a student fails to achieve remediation within the designated period for any reason, then that student will automatically become eligible for dismissal. The student will be referred to the Student Performance Committee by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, as described above.

Modified Program

Under special circumstances, a student may be offered the opportunity to take a modified curriculum or program, such that the time to complete the program could be extended beyond four years, but not to exceed six years. A modified program may consist of a reduced course load, alternative course sequencing, the addition of OPTM 8122, and/or other modifications in support of the college's learning outcomes. The particular sequence and timing of courses in the modified program is to be arrived at through consultation among the student, the Director of Student Affairs, and the Dean or her/his designee. The student will have the right to accept or to reject the modified program as offered. A student who has failed to remediate a course in which he/she has earned a grade of "U" may be offered the opportunity to remediate the course by repeating it as part of a modified program. Students enrolled in OPTM 8122 are required to adhere to the above-mentioned academic standards.

Academic Suspension

Students who are directed to discontinue enrollment and return to repeat course(s) or an entire year will be placed on academic suspension. Students on academic suspension are not registered as active matriculants. Students placed on academic suspension should use the time to remediate the deficiency for which the academic suspension was levied.

Dismissal from the Program

The Faculty of the College of Optometry may require dismissal of a student from the optometry curriculum for failure to meet standards of scholarship, attendance, or conduct. A student will become eligible for dismissal under at least one of the following conditions:

1. Cumulative grade point average at the end of the first professional year of less than 2.00
2. Cumulative grade point average below 2.00 after having been on probation in any previous semester (see conditions for Probation above)
 - For students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond, Cumulative grade point average below 2.60 after having been on probation in any previous semester (see conditions for Probation above)
3. Student earns more than one grade of “U”, “NP,” or “NCR” in an academic term
4. Student earns a grade of “NP” in any Patient Care Services course
5. Student earns a second grade of “R” in any Patient Care Services course
6. Student is placed on academic probation for two or more times
7. Student fails to successfully remediate any required course or clinical assignment
8. Student fails to achieve remediation for any reason within the designated time frame
9. Student demonstrates a pattern of unexcused absences from scheduled learning activities
10. Student demonstrates deficient ethical, professional or personal conduct.

A student who earns a final course grade of “NP” or a second grade of “R” or a second grade of “NP” in a Patient Care Services course will be placed on academic probation and will be immediately eligible for dismissal. All consequences of being eligible for dismissal will apply. While his or her status and pathway to remediation, if applicable, are being reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and the Dean of the College, the student will be allowed to progress in the didactic portion in their program but will NOT be allowed to advance to their ensuing Patient Care Services assignment. All Patient Care Services hours missed due to the student’s inability to continue in Patient Care Services track will have to be made up; hour for hour, prior to the student advancing to the ensuing clinical course.

A student who becomes eligible for dismissal, but is not dismissed immediately, will be considered to be on academic probation and/or academic suspension. Each time a student meets one or more of the criteria for eligible for dismissal or for academic probation, then that time counts as a separate occurrence of being placed on academic probation, such that two or more such occurrences place the student in the academic status of eligible for dismissal, regardless of the number of times that student has been placed on or removed from academic probation. For Example: A grade of “U,” “NP” or “NCR” in a course AND a failure to remediate that same course in a timely manner are considered two distinct occurrences of being placed on academic probation. A student whose status is eligible for dismissal is also considered to be on academic probation and will only be removed from probation when all academic issues have been

resolved. Once a student has achieved the status of eligible for dismissal, if that student subsequently meets one or more of the criteria for academic probation and/or for eligible for dismissal, then that student remains on academic probation and in the status of eligible for dismissal.

Once a student has achieved the status of eligible for dismissal, the student remains eligible for dismissal. Any subsequent event that meets one or more of the criteria for academic probation will result in another dismissal hearing. Once a student has achieved the status of eligible for dismissal and for the remainder of his or her enrollment at Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry, he or she may not participate in Federal Work Study programs nor hold leadership positions in any extra-curricular activities associated with the University and/or with professional associations (i.e. student government or clubs) nor be excused from any academic or clinical activity to attend any professional meeting.

Readmission

Students dismissed from the program must reapply to be considered for readmission. All students readmitted after being dismissed will be subject to all curricular requirements in effect at the date of re-matriculation. Failure to achieve these requirements will result in permanent dismissal from the program. All readmitted students will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the program and maybe dismissed at any time due to unsatisfactory performance. Exceptions to these requirements may be granted by the Dean after consultation with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Appeal Process

Students may appeal decisions regarding suspension, student conduct, academic progression/promotion, and graduation according to the regulations listed in the "Student Appeals" section of the University Catalog.

Evaluation and Grading

The College of Optometry uses letter grades A through U and Credit/No Credit with clinical grading levels of Honors, Pass, Remedial, or No Pass. Honors/Pass/Remedial/No Pass courses will not be assigned letter grades. The student must satisfy the requirements of these courses, as determined by the faculty teaching the courses, to receive credit. Course grading scales will be published in each course syllabus. Letter grades assigned may vary from course to course, depending on the type of material and required competencies. Courses that are taken jointly with other colleges within Western University will have their own College of Optometry course number and course requirements and grading standards as determined by the College of Optometry faculty. Instructors of Record may choose to grade their courses from among some or all of the following grading scales:

Grading Scale, Didactic Courses

For students entering the Doctor of Optometry Program in fall 2019 and beyond.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
A+	97.00 – 100%	4.00
A	93.00 – 96.99%	4.00
A-	90.00 – 92.99%	3.70
B+	87.00 – 89.99%	3.30
B	83.00 – 86.99%	3.00
B-	80.00 – 82.99%	2.70
C+	77.00 – 79.99%	2.30
C	73.00 – 76.99%	2.00
C-	70.00 – 72.99%	1.70
U	0 – 69.99%	0.00
CR	Credit	N/A
NCR	No Credit	N/A

Grading Scale, Didactic Courses

For students who entered the Doctor of Optometry Program in fall 2018 and prior.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
A	Excellent	4.00
B	Good	3.00
C	Satisfactory	2.00
U	Fail	0.00
CR	Credit	N/A
NCR	No Credit	N/A

Grading Scale, Clinical Courses

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
HO	Honors	N/A
P	Pass	N/A
R	Remedial	N/A
NP	No Pass/Fail	N/A

Administrative Grades

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
AU	Audit	N/A
I	Incomplete	N/A
W	Withdrawal	N/A
M	Missing	N/A
WPC	Waived for Prior Credit	N/A

Audit

An “AU” (Audit) is assigned to a student who attends class activities but does not complete examinations and does not receive course credit. However, under certain circumstances, at the discretion of the College Dean, a student who is repeating or undergoing remediation may be required to complete course examinations and/or other required work products while auditing the course for no grade.

Incomplete

A grade of Incomplete (I) indicates that a student has not been able to finish all required work for issuance of a letter grade. An “I” is not counted in the grade point calculations until a letter grade is issued to replace the “I.”

Replacement of an “I” will be under the direction of the instructor-of-record with the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Grades of Incomplete must be replaced with a letter grade at a time designated by the instructor-of-record but no later than three weeks following the end of the semester. Incomplete grades that are not replaced with a letter grade within three weeks of the end of the following semester will automatically be changed to a grade of “U,” “NP” or “NCR.” Students earning an incomplete grade in a clinical assignment may have the completion deferred for a period greater than three weeks with approval from the instructor-of-record and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Withdrawal

A “W” (Withdrawal) is assigned to a student who initiates voluntary withdrawal prior to the administration of the final exam or the final day of a clinical course or rotation. Students may also be assigned a “W” by the instructor of record.

Missing Grades

A grade of ‘M’ for Missing will be input by the Office of the Registrar if a student’s grade is not available by the deadline for grade submission. An ‘M’ grade is not included in the GPA calculation and will be replaced by the grade earned in the course once submitted by the course director/instructor. ‘M’ grades should not be used by the program in place of an Incomplete (I) grade.

Grade Reports

Course grades are electronically entered by the Assistant Director of Academic Programs into the University’s student information system. Grades may be viewed, and unofficial transcripts are available on the Student Portal. The student must satisfy course requirements as defined by the course syllabus and clinical handbook to receive academic credit. Course syllabi inform students of the levels of academic accomplishment required for each grade.

A semester and cumulative grade point average are calculated and posted on each student's transcript. Courses graded on a Credit/No Credit or Honors/Pass/Remedial/No Pass basis do not contribute to the calculation of the grade point average. Class ranking is also available upon request from the Registrar's Office.

Grade Changes/Appeals

A student who believes that an appropriate grade has not been assigned for a course must first request a review by the Instructor of Record. If the matter is not resolved at this level, the student should submit a written request for a grade appeal to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. A student has no more than two (2) weeks to appeal a course grade after the grade has been entered into the student's official transcript by the University Registrar. The written appeal should include supporting documentation. The decision of the Dean, or her/his designee, is the final decision.

A student may also appeal a course grade if he or she believes there has been an error in computing or recording the grade. If an error was made in computing or recording the grade, then the grade will be changed only if the course instructor-of-record certifies in writing to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs that such an error did occur and indicates the proper grade. A student has no more than four (4) weeks to appeal a course grade after the grade has been entered into the student's official transcript by the University Registrar.

Credit Calculations

The College of Optometry defines one credit hour as 15 contact hours plus an average of 30 hours of out of class student work.

Classroom, Online, and Other Distance Learning Instruction

One credit hour is assigned for 15 hours of instruction.

Labs, Small Group Activities, Independent Study, and Workshops

One credit hour is assigned for 30 hours of contact time.

Experiential (Clinical) Education

One credit hour is assigned for 40 hours of rotations and other clinical experiences.

Curriculum Organization

The curriculum at the College of Optometry is a four-year, full-time academic and clinical program leading to granting the degree of Doctor of Optometry (OD). The over-arching themes of the curriculum include:

- Early entry into patient care
- Integration of basic and clinical sciences
- Interprofessional education in collaboration with other health disciplines
- Preparation for entry-level optometric care along with a special emphasis on optometric rehabilitation

Graduation Service Requirement

The college supports the ideal of the optometrist as a “servant-leader.” To support that goal, all students are required to complete 30 hours of approved community service. This is a program requirement and must be fulfilled in order to obtain the OD degree. The hours need to be completed by the end of the first semester of the third year. Failure to adhere to this deadline will result in the student being referred to the Student Performance Committee. No student will be allowed to progress to the year four of the curriculum if the service hours are not completed by the end the third curricular year. Details regarding the service options will be provided by the Office of Academic Affairs in coordination with the Director of Community Outreach. This requirement only applies to students admitted to the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond.

Elective Coursework

For students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2019 and beyond, two (2) elective credits are required in order to graduate. Students may complete up to four (4) elective credits if they choose, additional fees may be incurred for over two credits. All elective credits must be completed prior to the start of 4th year rotations.

All elective course enrollment, including adding/dropping, must be finalized prior to the start of each semester/term. Once the semester/term starts, students may only add or drop elective courses with consent from the course instructor who will evaluate each case independently.

Research

Students in the College of Optometry are encouraged to participate in research under the direction of faculty advisor(s). Students with appropriate interests and academic preparation may participate in research as part of the elective coursework. Participation in research for elective credit requires faculty advisor(s) approval.

Instructional Methods

A number of different instructional methods are used to support optimal teaching and learning. Years one through three of the curricula includes didactic lectures, biomedical laboratories, pre-clinical laboratories, small group learning, and clinical education. A variety of pedagogical techniques are used including case-

based learning, development of critical thinking techniques, and fostering of clinical thought processes. The fourth and final year of the curriculum consists of full-time patient care experiences.

Because WesternU graduates are expected to practice in all states and regions, they must be prepared for the broadest scope of practice of any state in the United States. State optometric practice acts have been considered in the curriculum design. Mastery of advanced diagnostic techniques and cutting-edge clinical skills (as demonstrated through lab proficiencies) will enable graduates to practice full-scope optometric care.

A key to the curriculum is to support and encourage collaboration between the various health professions. Interprofessional integration will be incorporated into the curriculum in several areas.

Students in the first and second years of the curriculum engage in integrated case-based learning within small groups, which includes representatives from each of the health disciplines on the WesternU campus.

Interprofessional integration also carries over to the clinical environment with the development of interprofessional clinical services in the Patient Care Center, the on-campus facility. Faculty and students from different disciplines learn from each other as they provide a team approach to the delivery of health care services.

The College of Optometry has incorporated into its mission a special emphasis on a unique learning opportunity: optometric rehabilitation. In addition to preparing students for full scope optometric practice, the clinical education curriculum also includes components emphasizing optometric rehabilitation. The on-campus clinical programs include hands-on training in optometric rehabilitative patient care and community-based opportunities for optometric rehabilitation, such as in rehabilitation hospitals.

The fourth year consists of full-time (40 hours per week) clinical instruction and learning experiences including: Primary Care, Advanced Optometric Care, Specialty Optometric Care, and Community Optometric Care.

Procedural Skills

Part of the College's expectation is that students will gain a knowledge and understanding of various procedural skills. In addition to proficiency in the psychomotor aspects of procedural skills, the College expects that the student will understand the indications, contraindications, risks, benefits, and alternatives for various procedures. Student performance of any procedure on a patient must be under the direct supervision of the assigned clinical faculty or their professional designee.

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

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

Course Descriptions

Courses listed in this Catalog are subject to change through normal academic procedures. New courses and changes in existing course work are initiated by the faculty, reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Committee, the faculty, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and the Dean of the College of Optometry.

All courses are awarded letter grades, except when indicated otherwise.

IPE 5000 Patient Centered Cases – An Interprofessional Approach I (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course is a required university seminar for all first-year health professional students. This course prepares students to practice health care services through a team approach. Working in small interprofessional teams, students will explore cases representing conditions across the life span. The cases will integrate elements common to all professionals such as ethical, behavioral, social, and psychological issues. This course is a graduation requirement for all health professional programs.

IPE 5100 Patient Centered Cases – An Interprofessional Approach II (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course is a required university seminar for all first-year health professional students. This course prepares students to practice health care services through a team approach. Working in small interprofessional teams, students will explore cases representing conditions across the life span. The cases will integrate elements common to all professionals such as ethical, behavioral, social, and psychological issues. This course is a graduation requirement for all health professional programs.

IPE 6000 Team Training in Health Care I (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

IPE 6000 will continue to build upon the knowledge from the IPE 5000 series but will expand upon that knowledge and require the student to learn and apply advanced tools and strategies that are crucial to develop a collaborative healthcare team. The majority of the course is independent study with students engaging in a large-scale tabletop activity where they apply team tools necessary to solve a healthcare dilemma.

IPE 6100 Team Training in Health Care II (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course is a continuation of IPE 6000.

OM 5001 Summer Preparedness and Readiness Course (SPaRC) (0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

This course provides an exploration of the role of health care providers in the larger society. The course covers topics on academic integrity. The course explores philosophical and ethical issues of health care, the impact of health care on society, and of society on health care. Professionalism and professional ethics specific to optometric practice are emphasized.

OPTM 5001 Introduction to Optometry (1.5 credit hours, CR/NCR)

This course is divided into two components. First, it provides an exploration of the role of health care providers in the larger society. The course explores philosophical and ethical issues of health care, the impact of health care on society, and of society on health care. Professionalism and professional ethics specific to optometric practice are emphasized. Second, the course will emphasize the application of published literature to clinical decision making. Students will learn how to select and analyze appropriate

and relevant information within the context of patient care scenarios. Strategies for informed clinical decision-making and for life-long learning will be demonstrated.

OPTM 5020 Principles and Practice of Optometry I: Primary Care Examination and Technique (4.0 credit hours)

This course introduces the components of primary eye care and community-based screenings. Entrance testing, ocular health assessment and refraction techniques will be included. The material presented prepares students to participate in the delivery of patient care. Strategies of examination, sequencing, patient communication, and medical record keeping will be included. In this course, students acquire knowledge, technical skills, and professional attitudes through lecture and laboratory activities.

OPTM 5041 Anatomy for the Optometrist (4.0 credit hours)

This course covers all aspects of anatomy relevant to the practice of Optometry. Course content covers broad aspects of gross anatomy. Ocular anatomy is covered in detail including adnexa, orbit, orbital content, structure, and functional relationship of various ocular structures and their clinical importance. Through lectures and laboratory exercises students are introduced to the anatomy of the head and neck and neuroanatomy. Particular attention is paid to the cranial nerves, both their normal function and the numerous clinical syndromes that affect them as they pertain to optometric practice.

OPTM 5042 Vision Science I: Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience of Vision (4.0 credit hours)

This course presents foundational information covering molecular biology, biochemistry, cellular physiology, systems biology, immunology, and genetics, with an emphasis on the brain and nervous system. This course introduces the underlying mechanisms of vision from a neurophysiological perspective, including the construction of representations of the world via neural information processing from retina to tectum and primary visual cortex and to visual areas beyond striate cortex. Special topics such as genetic association studies, color vision, and vision development will be included.

OPTM 5050 Optical Science I: Geometrical and Ophthalmic Optics I (3.5 credit hours)

This course presents foundational information on geometric optics, including basic ray tracing, the study of reflection and refraction at plane and curved surfaces, single refracting surfaces, thin lenses, thick lenses, prisms, and sphere-cylindrical lenses. Foundational material is applied to theory of ophthalmic optics, including lens power measurement, ophthalmic spectacle lens prescription writing, and elementary spectacle lens characteristics.

OPTM 5120 Principles and Practice of Optometry II: Primary Care Examination and Strategy (5.0 credit hours)

This course builds upon the foundation established in Principles and Practice of Optometry I and integrates new techniques within the context of the comprehensive eye examination sequence. The course introduces the clinical thought processes required for diagnosing and managing common refractive and ocular conditions including specific cognitive skills required for delivery of patient care. Strategy of examination, sequencing, and patient communication, clinical decision-making and medical record keeping will be included.

OPTM 5130 Ocular Physiology (3.0 credit hours)

This course presents in depth coverage of the physiology of the eye, adnexa and visual systems. Topics include the physiology of the eyelids, lacrimal gland and its apparatus, tear production, cornea and lens, ocular fluid dynamics, vitreous body, retina, choroid and optic nerve. Topics of visual function and nutrition related to development and normal ocular function will be covered. When possible relevant

comparisons to disease states will be discussed to show the clinical relevance of the physiological concepts. The topics related to visual function includes, visual acuity, color vision, contrast sensitivity function, in health and disease states, accommodation function and decline in accommodation function with aging and presbyopic changes.

OPTM 5133 Systemic Pharmacology (2.0 credit hours)

This course will cover medications commonly prescribed for systemic conditions, their indications and mode of action, as well as their ocular and visual side effects and toxicities. Topics include pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetic aspects of drug formulations, routes of administration, and dosing & elimination, with an emphasis on drug indications, mechanisms of action, adverse effects, drug interactions, and contraindications. Additionally, a review of the pathophysiology of systemic diseases as it relates to current drug treatment paradigms will reinforce the connection between the medications and their corresponding indications.

OPTM 5151 Optical Science II: Physical and Visual Optics (4.0 credit hours)

This course presents the physics of light, including the wave and particle behavior of light. In particular, the course will include the characteristics of electromagnetic radiation, wave motion, total and partial coherence of light, interference, diffraction (single slit, double slit, gratings, circular apertures), zone plates, polarization, birefringence, anti-reflecting lens coatings, lasers, emission and absorption spectra. Examples of applications in vision science and ocular diagnostic instruments will be provided. Physiological optics of the eye and the correction of ametropias will be presented. The various axes, angles, and landmarks of the eye will be presented in optical terms with the eye as an optical system. Characteristics of the ocular media and the interaction of light with the eye will be discussed. Optical aspects of accommodation, presbyopia, aphakia, and pseudophakia will be included. The role of the pupil as it affects depth of field, aberrations and accommodation will be described. Catoptric images and Entoptic phenomena will also be discussed in detail.

OPTM 5175 Clinical Medicine for the Optometrist (3.0 credit hours)

This course provides an introduction to cellular pathology and a survey of all major, common and/or highly morbid systemic diseases involving all major bodily systems. Diseases are included either because they should be familiar to every health care provider or because they are often accompanied by important ocular signs or symptoms. For each disease, the course covers the expected presenting signs and symptoms, basic pathophysiology, confirmatory tests, and general treatment, management, and prognosis. This course provides a foundation for practice in primary health care and for courses that follow in the curriculum.

OPTM 5240: Evidence Based Eye Care (2.0 credit hours)

This course will emphasize the application of published literature to clinical decision making. Students will learn how to select and analyze appropriate and relevant information within the context of patient care scenarios. Strategies for informed clinical decision-making and for life-long learning will be demonstrated.

OPTM 5242: Vision Science II: Monocular Sensory Vision (3.0 credit hours)

This course sets the foundation for the theory and methods of vision testing and visual perception through one eye. It covers concepts including light stimuli, photometry, signal detection, physiological processing of information, and psychophysics. Topics include visual sensitivity, spatial phenomena, modulation transfer function, flicker detection, contrast sensitivity, and visual acuity. Visual perception and the constancy of visual processes such as size and distance perception, form perception, the perception of motion and achromatic color perception are discussed.

OPTM 5250 Integrative Clinical Analysis I (1.5 credit hours)

The course introduces the clinical thought processes required in the delivery of primary eye care. Integration of knowledge and skills from previous and concurrent courses will be facilitated, including describing and interpreting clinical findings to diagnose and manage common conditions.

OPTM 6020 Principles and Practice of Optometry III: Tissue Evaluation of the Anterior Segment (4.0 credit hours)

As the third course in the series, new clinical skills will be integrated within the context of the primary care optometric examination. Emphasis will be placed on health assessment of the anterior ocular segment including slit lamp biomicroscopy, tonometry, and gonioscopy along with a variety of techniques for examination of the ocular adnexa. Strategy of the examination, sequencing, patient communication, and electronic medical record keeping will be included as well as the detection of common normal and abnormal findings.

OPTM 6033 Ocular Pharmacology (3.0 credit hours)

This course focuses on prescription and over-the-counter eye-care products commonly used for the purpose of diagnosis and/or treatment of ocular conditions. Topics include pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetic aspects of drug formulations, routes of administration, and dosing & elimination, with an emphasis on drug indications, mechanisms of action, adverse effects, drug interactions, and contraindications.

OPTM 6042 Vision Science III: Binocular Vision and Ocular Motility (3.0 credit hours)

This course covers concepts related to accommodation, binocular vision, and ocular motility. Concepts including the horopter, stereopsis, vision, rivalry, eccentric fixation, retinal correspondence, suppression, and aniseikonia are covered. The anatomy and physiology of the extraocular muscles, innervations, and actions associated with types of eye movements and their control mechanisms are reviewed. Concepts of clinical assessment, diagnosis, and management are introduced. Case examples are used to illustrate key concepts.

OPTM 6050 Optical Science III: Geometrical and Ophthalmic Optics II (3.0 credit hours)

This course completes the presentation of geometrical optics. The course emphasizes the study of refraction at complex lens systems, optical instruments, optical aberrations, pupils, stops and ports, prism power calculation for various scenarios, optics of magnifying lenses, telescopes and tele-microscopes. This course also completes the theory and application of ophthalmic optics. Spectacle lens characteristics and the optics of single vision, segmented bifocal, multi-focal lenses (PAL), and prismatic lenses are covered in depth. The course also covers the theory and methods of frame fitting and adjustment. This course includes cases and examples of patients with eye glass concerns. Students will work in small groups to troubleshoot and resolve the needs of the patient through the application of ophthalmic optics formulas and principles.

OPTM 6073 Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma (2.5 credit hours)

This course covers the pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with all forms of glaucoma, with an emphasis on evidence-based therapeutic interventions. The course includes technique and interpretation of visual fields for glaucoma diagnosis and management. Topical and systemic medical therapies will be emphasized. The course will also discuss current surgical management of various forms of glaucoma.

OPTM 6076 Ocular Disease: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Clinical Decision Making for the Anterior Segment (4.0 credit hours)

This course builds upon prior and concurrent information presented in ocular anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, clinical medicine, and the Principles and Practice of Optometry curricular track. Advanced concepts in diagnosis and management of diseases of the anterior structures of the eye are emphasized. The anatomical, physiological, histological, and pathological processes relating to these diseases will be explored.

OPTM 6111 Contact Lenses I: Theory and Practice (3.5 credit hours)

This course introduces the use of contact lenses in primary care optometry. The clinically based approach will include discussion of patient selection for lens wear, corneal topography, selection of appropriate materials, lens design, wearing schedules, and troubleshooting. Laboratory experience in lens design, lens modifications, contact lens fittings, and assessments will prepare students for patient care experiences.

OPTM 6120 Principles and Practice of Optometry IV: Tissue Evaluation of the Posterior Segment (4.0 credit hours)

As the fourth course in the series, new clinical skills will be integrated within the context of the primary care optometric examination. Emphasis will be placed on health assessment of the posterior ocular segment, the vitreous, and the optic disc. Techniques include binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy and fundus biomicroscopy with 78/90D lens and Goldmann three-mirror. Strategy of the examination, sequencing, patient communication, and medical record keeping will be included as well as the detection of common normal and abnormal findings. This course completes the integration of clinical skills into the comprehensive primary care examination. As such, it will conclude with a mandatory comprehensive clinical skills examination for competency in patient care. The competency will include techniques learned in all prior Principle and Practice courses such as VA, EOM, History, Refraction, Binocular Testing, Slit Lamp, and posterior segment examination.

OPTM 6161 Vision Rehabilitation: Low Vision (3.0 credit hours)

This course presents basic examination techniques and management strategies for people with visual impairments. Evaluation of visual disability and legal aspects of visual impairment will be discussed, as well as psychosocial effects of visual disability. Principles of magnification and optical assistive devices will be discussed, as well as adaptive technology for patients with visual impairment. The laboratory experience will provide hands-on opportunities to learn about examination techniques and rehabilitation strategies.

OPTM 6175 Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment of the Posterior Segment (4.0 credit hours)

This course builds upon the framework presented in the Principles and Practice of Optometry curricular track to present advanced concepts in ocular disease management. The anatomical, physiological, histological, and pathological processes of ocular disease will be emphasized. Topics include in-depth discussion of diseases and abnormalities of the vitreous and retina as well as vitreo-retinal pathology associated with systemic diseases.

OPTM 6182 Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation I: Non-strabismic Anomalies (4.0 credit hours)

This course introduces the common signs and symptoms associated with non-strabismic disorders of the binocular, accommodative, and perceptual systems. Diagnosis, treatment, management, and problem solving for common conditions will be introduced. Vision therapy programming will be discussed and techniques for vision therapy will be experienced hands-on within the laboratory.

OPTM 6250 Integrative Clinical Analysis II (1.5 credit hours)

The course focuses on the clinical thought processes required in the delivery of primary eye care. Integration of knowledge and skills from previous and concurrent courses will be facilitated, including describing and interpreting clinical findings to diagnose and manage common conditions.

OPTM 6260 Optometry Review Course I (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course will cover previously taught material that is relevant to the clinical practice of Optometry, aid students in organizing their previous course material, and develop effective study strategies. This course will cover previously taught material that is relevant to the clinical practice of Optometry, aid students in organizing their previous course material, and develop effective study strategies in preparation for patient care and national licensing examinations.

OPTM 6272 Special Considerations in Pediatrics (2.0 credit hours)

This course emphasizes the optometric care of patients from birth through age eighteen. The identification of children at risk of developing ocular, visual, perceptual, or visually related learning problems will be integrated with strategies for diagnosis, treatment, and management. Schema of normal growth and development with an emphasis on expected visual development from birth through childhood will be covered. Emphasis is placed on prevalent conditions and conditions with a high level of clinical criticality. An overview of care for children with special needs will also be presented. Examination techniques unique to the pediatric patient, including the use of hand-held instrumentation and special testing will be discussed.

OPTM 7001 Patient Care Services I (0.5 credit hour, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will spend 4 hours per week participating in community-based vision screenings. Techniques learned in Principles and Practice of Optometry I will be applied in the delivery of patient care via screenings. Students will be supervised by licensed optometrists who are faculty or auxiliary clinical faculty members. Earning a passing score on the competency exam in the course PPO-I is a prerequisite for matriculating to PCS-I.

OPTM 7002 Patient Care Services II (1.0 credit hour, HO/P/R/NP)

This clinical course provides direct patient care experiences in the on-campus clinical facility or off-campus eye care facilities. Experiential learning is accomplished through hands-on patient care experiences, observations, and case discussions. The student will perform a variety of activities including vision screenings, technician and paraoptometric testing, and portions of the patient eye exam up to their training level. Members of the Western University faculty, auxiliary clinical faculty members, or licensed

optometrists will supervise students. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I is a prerequisite for matriculating to PCS-II. Students will also participate in lectures and grand round presentations and small groups problem-based learning format.

OPTM 7003 Patient Care Services III (1.0 credit hour, HO/P/R/NP)

This clinical course provides direct patient care experiences in the on-campus clinical facility or off-campus eye care facilities. Experiential learning is accomplished through hands-on patient care experiences, observations, and case discussions. The student will perform a variety of activities including vision screenings, technician and paraoptometric testing, and portions of the patient eye exam up to their training level. Licensed optometrists will supervise students. Members of the WesternU faculty, auxiliary clinical faculty members, or licensed optometrists will supervise students. Earning a passing grade in PPO I-II and PCS II is a prerequisite for matriculating to PCS-III. Students will also participate in lectures and grand round presentations and small groups problem-based learning format.

OPTM 7004 Patient Care Services IV (1.0 credit hour, HO/P/R/NP)

This clinical course provides direct patient care experiences in the on-campus clinical facility or off-campus eye care facilities. Experiential learning is accomplished through hands-on patient care experiences, observations, and case discussions. The student will perform a variety of activities including vision screenings, technician and paraoptometric testing, and portions of the patient eye exam up to their training level. Basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation for adults and children is also covered. Licensed optometrists will supervise students. Members of the WesternU faculty, auxiliary clinical faculty members, or licensed optometrists will supervise students. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I through III and PCS III is a prerequisite for matriculating to PCS-IV. Students will also participate in lectures and grand round presentations and small groups problem-based learning format.

OPTM 7005 Patient Care Services V (3.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to provide direct care in primary eye care. They may also rotate through different specialty services (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation, and Optometric Vision Therapy and Specialty Contact lenses). In the on-campus facility or affiliated clinical sites. Students will be supervised by licensed optometrists who are faculty or auxiliary clinical faculty members. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I through IV and PCS IV is a prerequisite for matriculating in PCS-V. Furthermore, to enroll in OPTM 7005 PCS V, a student must achieve a passing score on a Clinical Competency Examination. Students will also participate in lectures, grand round presentations and small groups problem-based learning format.

OPTM 7006 Patient Care Services VI (5.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to provide direct care in primary eye care. They may also rotate through different specialty services (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation, Optometric Vision Therapy, and Specialty Contact lenses). Students will assume an increasing role and increasing responsibility for the delivery of patient care. Assignments may be made at the on-campus clinical facility or in affiliated clinical sites. Students will be supervised by licensed optometrists who are faculty or auxiliary clinical faculty members. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I through IV is a prerequisite for matriculating to PCS-VI.

OPTM 7007 Patient Care Services VII (5.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to provide direct care in primary eye care. They may also rotate through different specialty services (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation, Optometric Vision Therapy, and Specialty Contact lenses). Students will assume an increasing role and increasing responsibility for the delivery of patient care. Assignments may be made at the on-campus clinical facility or in affiliated clinical

sites. Students will be supervised by licensed optometrists who are faculty or auxiliary clinical faculty members. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I through V is a prerequisite for matriculating in PCS-VII.

OPTM 7008 Patient Care Services VIII (11.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to full-time externship clinical rotations providing patient care with exposure to a wide variety of clinical conditions. Externship sites will be selected through a lottery process. Students will be supervised by licensed eye care practitioners who are members of the WesternU faculty, or auxiliary clinical faculty. Students will experience the examination and management of primary eye care, ocular disease, pre- and post-operative care, standard and specialty contact lenses, and rehabilitation. At the culmination of the final rotation, it is expected that the student will possess the attributes, skills, knowledge, and ethical values required for the independent practice of contemporary optometry. Earning a passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculating to this course.

OPTM 7009 Patient Care Services IX (11.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to full-time externship clinical rotations providing patient care with exposure to a wide variety of clinical conditions. Externship sites will be selected through a lottery process. Students will be supervised by licensed eye care practitioners who are members of the WesternU faculty, or auxiliary clinical faculty. Students will experience the examination and management of primary eye care, ocular disease, pre- and post-operative care, standard and specialty contact lenses, and rehabilitation. At the culmination of the final rotation, it is expected that the student will possess the attributes, skills, knowledge, and ethical values required for the independent practice of contemporary optometry. Earning a passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculating to this course.

OPTM 7010 Patient Care Services X (11.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to full-time externship clinical rotations providing patient care with exposure to a wide variety of clinical conditions. Externship sites will be selected through a lottery process. Students will be supervised by licensed eye care practitioners who are members of the WesternU faculty, or auxiliary clinical faculty. Students will experience the examination and management of primary eye care, ocular disease, pre- and post-operative care, standard and specialty contact lenses, and rehabilitation. At the culmination of the final rotation, it is expected that the student will possess the attributes, skills, knowledge, and ethical values required for the independent practice of contemporary optometry. Earning a passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculating to this course.

OPTM 7011 Patient Care Services XI (11.0 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)

Students will be assigned to full-time externship clinical rotations providing patient care with exposure to a wide variety of clinical conditions. Externship sites will be selected through a lottery process. Students will be supervised by licensed eye care practitioners who are members of the WesternU faculty, or auxiliary clinical faculty. Students will experience the examination and management of primary eye care, ocular disease, pre- and post-operative care, standard and specialty contact lenses, and rehabilitation. At the culmination of the final rotation, it is expected that the student will possess the attributes, skills, knowledge, and ethical values required for the independent practice of contemporary optometry. Earning a passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculating to this course.

OPTM 8011 Contact Lenses II: Theory and Practice (3.5 credit hours)

This course builds upon the basic knowledge presented in Contact Lenses 1. Case examples will be used to encourage independent decision making for complicated problems in contact lens fitting. Strategies for specialized contact lenses including keratoconic lenses, therapeutic lenses, post-surgical patients and contact lenses for infants will be discussed.

OPTM 8013 Special Considerations in Geriatrics (1.5 credit hours)

This course will discuss health changes that affect the visual system associated with the aging process. Diagnosis and treatment of selected refractive conditions, eye diseases, and visual anomalies common in aging adults will be presented, as well as the effects of other aging processes that can impact the eye exam, including cognitive, hearing, and mobility changes, as well as ethical considerations. Examination techniques unique to the geriatric patient, including delivering bad news, will be discussed and geriatric clinical management will be incorporated into case examples.

OPTM 8021 Principles and Practice of Optometry V: Special Procedures (2.0 credit hours)

This course will cover the theory and methods of clinical techniques that build upon basic examination skills acquired during the courses Principles and Practice of Optometry I through IV. Clinical techniques including scleral depression, A- and B-scan ultrasonography, punctal occlusion, punctal dilation and irrigation, removal of foreign bodies from the cornea and conjunctiva, and the injection techniques of IM, SubQ and IV will be presented in a hands-on format. The course will include non-glaucoma visual fields and applications of significant optometric thought processing.

OPTM 8061 Optometry Review Course II (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course will cover previously taught material that is relevant to the clinical practice of Optometry, aid students in organizing their previous course material, and develop effective study strategies in preparation for national licensing examinations.

OPTM 8075 Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Management of Neuro-ophthalmic Disease (2.0 credit hours)

This course will introduce students to neuro-ophthalmic thinking, history, and examination techniques. A problem-oriented, anatomy-based approach will be used to explore the diagnosis and management of the most common neuro-ophthalmic disorders of the afferent and efferent visual systems encountered in optometric practice. Concepts learned in lecture will be solidified with case-studies that will be discussed during lecture and small group presentations. Practical aspects of neurological evaluation and assessment of the cranial nerves and visual fields will be included in the laboratory portion.

OPTM 8081 Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation II: Strabismus and Amblyopia (3.0 credit hours)

This course builds on the knowledge and skills developed in the course, Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation I: Non-strabismic Anomalies. It extends the application of previously learned knowledge and skills for strabismus and amblyopia. This course covers the techniques to examine, diagnosis, treat, and manage patients with amblyopia and/or strabismus. Etiology, prevalence and clinical characteristics of each strabismic/amblyopic syndrome will be highlighted. Prognosis and a comprehensive presentation of evidence-based treatment options for both strabismus and amblyopia will be presented. Associated sensory adaptations will also be discussed regarding their impact on prognosis and treatment options.

OPTM 8120 Principles and Practices of Optometry VI: Laser Eye Procedures and Minor Surgical Eye Care (2.0 credit hours)

This course covers the uses of lasers to perform certain surgical eye procedures, including laser therapies for open angle glaucoma, for angle closure glaucoma, and for posterior capsulotomy. The course will

include a review of laser biophysics, laser-tissue interactions, as well as contraindications and complications associated with laser procedures on ocular tissues. This course will review the management and co-management of corneal refractive surgeries, cataract surgery, and other ocular procedures. The course will also cover surgical preparation and management of lid and adnexal lesions with an emphasis on benign neoplasms and chalazion. Additional topics include medicolegal aspects of surgical eye care and postoperative wound care. The lab portion of this course will provide hands on experience in suturing techniques, ophthalmic laser operations, and other procedures related to surgical co-management.

OPTM 8122 Foundations in Optometry (0.5 – 4.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

This remediation course provides an individualized review of information and problem solving for students who need reinforcement in particular areas. Closely supervised patient encounters to reinforce the psychomotor and cognitive skills required to provide patient care may be included. This course is only open to students with prior approval of the Dean of the College of Optometry. Tuition for this course cannot be covered by financial aid.

OPTM 8150 Integrative Clinical Analysis III (1.0 credit hours)

This course reviews information previously taught in the curriculum but reorganizes it on the basis of patient presentation. Topics can include the patient who presents with blurry vision, loss of vision, diplopia, anisocoria, facial asymmetry, eye or head pain, asthenopia, and red eye. The emphasis of the course is on differential diagnostic thought processes, the problem-focused case history and exam sequences, and team-based approaches to health care.

OPTM 8161 Optometry Review Course III (2.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

This course will cover previously taught material that is relevant to the clinical practice of Optometry, aid students in organizing their previous course material, and develop effective study strategies in preparation for national licensing examinations.

OPTM 8162 Elective I (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

Students may choose from a variety of course offerings to further their understanding of contemporary topics in optometry or in health care. Topics may include, but are not limited to, nutrition, genetics, Spanish for health care providers, health care for vulnerable populations, international health, among others.

OPTM 8170 Grand Rounds (2.5 credit hours)

Students regularly meet as a class to individually present cases seen in clinic including an evidence search and differential diagnoses then accept challenges from fellow students and faculty. These sessions are considered an integral part of the patient care educational experience. Each session will be comprised of multiple individual presentations, challenges and discussion.

OPTM 8182 Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation III: The Neurologically Challenged Patient (2.0 credit hours)

This course elaborates on the complexities of optometric care for patients who have suffered neurological impairment from a variety of etiologies. Ocular and visual consequences of neurological disease will be discussed. Perceptual problems associated with stroke and traumatic brain injury will be explored. Co-management and inter-professional communications will be discussed. Tests for cognitive function and visual perception will be discussed. Various methods and techniques for rehabilitation will also be presented in a hands-on format. Cases will be used to illustrate concepts and management decisions.

OPTM 8261 Practice Management II: How to Make a Living as an Optometrist (1.0 credit hours)

This course will provide information relevant to entry into the business of clinical optometric practice, including information on billing and coding, employee relations, how to navigate the process of becoming a panel member, considerations in partnership formation, leasing and managing the facilities, entrepreneurship, sales and marketing of spectacles, contact lenses, and vision therapy, and tips on how to grow a patient base.

OPTM ELCX – (1.0 - 2.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

Students may choose from a variety of course offerings to further their understanding of contemporary topics in optometry or in health care. Topics may include, but are not limited to, nutrition, genetics, Spanish for health care providers, health care for vulnerable populations, international health, among others.

OPTM ELC1 – Research Elective (1.0 - 2.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

A semester long lab practicum course in which students work with College of Optometry faculty on an independent research project. Student research topics are determined in consultation with individual faculty course instructors. Enrollment requires prior approval by the participating faculty overseeing the agreed upon research project. Students will present their work to their peers and faculty.

Honors and Awards

The College hosts two annual events for presentation of awards and scholarships: Honor's Day and Commencement Awards Banquet.

Honor's Day is held each year in the spring and is used to recognize students for their yearlong accomplishments. The following are examples of awards scholarships and recognitions presented during Honor's Day:

- College of Optometry Core Values Award
- Dr. Harout Khanjian Annual Scholarship
- Dr. Jason Drobeck Annual Scholarship
- Dr. Krasnow Family Scholarship
- Dr. Thai Nguyen Annual Scholarship
- Drs. Gandhi/Silani Annual Scholarship for Clinical Excellence and Leadership
- HOYA Vision Care Clinical Excellence Scholarship
- The Dean's List Award
- The Dean's Scholarship
- The Hayes-Haine Family Scholarship
- The HOYA House Cup
- The President's Society Scholarship

The Commencement Awards Banquet is held in May just before graduation. The following are examples of awards and recognitions presented to our graduating seniors at this banquet.

- Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) recognition
- COVD Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy
- Dean's List Recipients
- Drs. Robert L Gordon and Andrea Silvers Endowed Scholarship
- Gold Key Honor Society
- Leslie B Williams Scholarship
- Optelec Excellence in Low Vision Award
- Optometric Residency Programs Recognition
- Recognition of Valedictorian and Salutatorian
- The Krasnow Family Public Health Scholarship
- VSP/AAOF Practice Excellence Scholarships

Academic Calendar

Fall 2021	
June 7, 2021	Fall Classes Begin (Year 4)
July 5, 2021	Independence Day Observed, No Classes*
August 2 – 6, 2021	Orientation/Welcome Week (Year 1)
August 7, 2021	Convocation/White Coat Ceremony (Year 1)
August 9, 2021	Fall Classes Begin (Years 1-3)
September 6, 2021	Labor Day, No Classes*
November 11, 2021	Veterans Day – No Classes*
November 12, 2021	Fall Classes End (Year 4)
November 24, 2021	Thanksgiving Recess Begins @ 5:00 p.m.*
November 29, 2021	Fall Classes Resume
December 17, 2021	Fall Classes End (Years 1-3)
December 18, 2021	Winter Recess Begins (Years 1-3)
Spring 2022	
November 22, 2021	Spring Classes Begin (Year 4)
January 3, 2022	Spring Classes Begin (Years 1-3)
January 17, 2022	Martin Luther King Day, No Classes*
February 21, 2022	President’s Day, No Classes*
March 15 – 18, 2022	Board Examinations, No Classes (Year 3)
May 13, 2022	Spring Classes End (Years 1-4)
May 19, 2022	College of Optometry Commencement Ceremony
Summer 2022	
May 23, 2022	Summer Classes Begin (Year 2)
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day, No Classes*
May 31, 2022	Summer Classes Begin (Year 1)
July 5, 2022	Independence Day Holiday, No Classes
July 6, 2022	Summer Classes Resume (Years 1-2)
July 22, 2022	Summer Classes End (Years 1-2)

**Students in clinical courses observe their preceptor’s hours, which may include working on federal holidays.*

The Optometric Oath

With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that...

I will practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I will uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I will provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I will place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I will hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I will advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain, or enhance their vision and general health.

I will strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I will share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I will do my utmost to serve my community, my country, and humankind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.

I hereby commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

Adopted by the American Optometric Association