## Table of Contents

It will be the responsibility of each student to review a copy of the handbook which will be posted electronically on the official college website ([www.opt.uh.edu](http://www.opt.uh.edu)). Handbook content is subject to change with administrative consent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Optometric Oath</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies and Procedures</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Probation &amp; Suspension</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinic Policies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Dishonesty</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonacademic Regulations</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules of Conduct</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Harassment</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Information</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizations</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Curriculum</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First year</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second year</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third year</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Year</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Descriptions</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OATH OF A STUDENT OPTOMETRIST

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 will be granted to me upon completion of all academic requirements.

- 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
GRADING POLICIES

Final course grades are determined by the instructor of record. All final grades are reported by the course master and displayed on the student’s my.uh account. The faculty of the college has the responsibility of determining a student’s qualifications to practice optometry. Personal integrity, initiative, motivation, and a professional attitude are essential attributes of optometrists. Therefore, while the grading of written, oral, and practice examinations represents the basic source of evaluating performance, these additional factors may be considered in determining the final grade in a given course.

SCHOLASTIC HONORS

Students who earn a cumulative GPA between 3.75 and 4.00 for optometry course work are eligible to graduate summa cum laude. Those who earn a cumulative GPA between 3.50 and 3.74 are eligible to graduate magna cum laude. The University of Houston chapter of Beta Sigma Kappa, the national optometric honor society, offers membership to students who maintain at least a 3.50 GPA through the first year, a 3.40 through the second year, a 3.30 through the third year, and a 3.20 through the fourth year. Phi Kappa Phi is a national university honor society that offers membership to students meeting its academic and personal standards. Each year the college awards honors based on excellence in various aspects of academic performance and patient care.

DEAN’S LIST

The Dean’s List is determined at the end of each semester. The dean’s office will award and publish a list of those students in each class whose grade point average during the preceding semesters was 3.50 or above. To qualify for this recognition, the student must be enrolled as a full-time, degree seeking student, during the semester. Students who earn a grade of I, D, F, W, or U during the semester are excluded from consideration for the Dean’s List. Individual petitions will be completed and submitted by OOR team member so UH can add to Dean’s List for the designated semester.

CALCULATION OF GPA

Grade point averages (GPA) are calculated and recorded at the conclusion of fall, spring, and summer semesters. If any course in the professional program is repeated for any reason, both grades in the course are used in calculating GPA. While grades earned for courses completed at another university are not used to calculate GPA, course credit may be accepted at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Professional Studies or recommendation of the Admissions Committee.

Grades in the College of Optometry are awarded in each course at the end of the semester as follows:
A EXCELLENT: Demonstration of consistent outstanding performance in the comprehension and interpretation of the subject.
B GOOD: Demonstration of comprehensive knowledge of the subject and marked ability to interpret it.
C FAIR: Demonstration of comprehensive knowledge of the subject.
D UNSATISFACTORY: Demonstration of an unacceptable level of understanding in some important area of the subject.
F FAILING: Failing work or withdrawal while doing failing work.
S/U The grades of S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory) are awarded for most instances of clinical performance.
I INCOMPLETE: The grade of I (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when a student is passing a course but for reasons beyond his/her control, has not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. The grade of I must be changed to a letter grade by fulfillment of course requirements within one academic year of the date awarded, or it will be change automatically to a F. An I may be changed to a W only if an administrative withdrawal is granted by the Dean.
W WITHDRAW: The grade of W (Withdrawn) indicates that (a) the student was passing, or (b) no evalutative data was available at the time the student dropped the course. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the action to drop or withdraw from a class. A student who fails to do so will be retained on the class rolls even though he/she may be absent for the remainder of the semester. In such instances, a grade of F will be awarded unless the conditions for a grade of I have been met.

- This symbol may be used to indicate that a student is performing satisfactorily in a course that continues beyond a given grading period.

The GPA is the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the number of semester hours in which a student is enrolled. Required courses awarded a grade of “F” must be repeated until they are passed, and all of these grades must be used to calculate the GPA. In computing the grade point average, decimals beyond two places are truncated, not rounded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C−</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D−</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades of S, U, I, W, and (•) are not assigned grade point values, and are not used in the computation of the GPA.

Some courses are graded on a satisfactory/ unsatisfactory scale. These grades are not used in the calculation of the GPA, but will be used in the consideration of appeals of academic suspension or probation.

If a student receives an incomplete (I) during the semester that he/she is placed on probation or suspension, the Academic Committee will not consider the final grade received for the course even if the course work is completed prior to the date the student files an appeal for reinstatement.
Academic Probation and Suspension

A full-time student in the professional program will be placed on academic probation at the end of a semester or summer session in which his or her semester grade point average falls below 2.00. A student will be suspended from the professional program for academic reasons under any or all of the following conditions:

- The student is placed on academic probation for two consecutive semesters or three nonconsecutive semesters, including any full-time summer session;
- The student earns a grade lower than a “C” (i.e. grading of C- or lower) in four or more courses in any semester;
- The student’s cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.00 in any semester after the first semester in the program; or
- The student earns a semester grade point average of 1.00 or below in any semester.

The placement of students on academic probation or suspension is carried out automatically and does not require initiating or confirming action by the Dean, the Academic Committee, or any other administrative unit. Every effort will be made by the college’s Associate Dean for Professional Students to notify students placed on academic probation or suspension. However, failure to provide students with notification of their academic status does not nullify academic probation or suspension. Each student is responsible for knowing his or her academic status before attempting to enroll for the subsequent semester.

Besides the conditions for automatic academic probation or suspension, the Academic Committee may recommend that the Dean place or continue a student on academic probation when the student’s academic performance is unsatisfactory. The committee may also recommend that the Dean suspend a student from the professional program when the student’s academic performance suggests that he or she will not be able to successfully complete the program. A student may also be placed on probation or suspended if the associated clinical course master recommends either of these actions based upon the criteria outlined in the clinic manual and summarized in the appended document, “Criteria for Clinic Probation and Suspension.” If a recommendation for probation or suspension which is not automatic is made by the committee and accepted by the Dean, the student will be notified by the Dean’s office within five (5) working days of the Dean’s decision.

Removal from academic probation or suspension may be granted on appeal. Students must initiate all appeal procedures. Appeals of these actions within the college will be filed with the college Academic Committee. A student considering an appeal must consult with the Executive Director of Optometry Relations and may select additional advisors. Appeals must be stated in writing and delivered to the chair of the Academic Committee within two weeks after the last final examination as posted on the University Calendar. Appeals will ordinarily be granted only in the presence of extenuating circumstances and when subsequent improvement seems likely. A student who has been suspended and is involved in the appeals procedure within the university is permitted to continue in school as long as the appeals procedure is in progress. A student who has been placed on academic probation and who fails to raise his or her cumulative grade point average above a 2.00 in the subsequent semester, but who nevertheless achieves a semester grade point average of 2.50 or better, and who has no individual course grade below a “C,” may be retained on academic probation. Students placed on suspension for academic reasons may continue in the professional program only with the recommendation of and under the conditions specified by the Academic Committee and approved by the Dean. These conditions may exceed
those demanded of students at the same level who are not on probation or suspension. Students on suspension, who fail to matriculate for a particular semester either because they did not file appeal in a timely manner or such an appeal was denied, must apply to the Admissions Committee for readmission to the College of Optometry. The suspension must stand for a period of at least one year. These students can only be readmitted by the Admissions Committee in competition with other current applicants. They may only be readmitted following consultation between the Admissions Committee and representatives of the Academic Committee. The Admissions Committee will then determine whether admission will be granted while the Academic Committee will determine the level at which the student is to be readmitted. Any student readmitted at a level other than the Fall semester first year will be on probation for a minimum of one semester. During this time, his/her class schedules must be approved by the Associate Dean for Professional Studies. The Academic Committee will recommend which courses, if any, must be repeated. Suspension does not require two semesters below a 2.00 but may occur at any time the student fails to satisfy any of the stipulated requirements, fails to show sufficient improvement in coursework, or fails to perform in a satisfactory manner in clinic.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND CPR CERTIFICATION

The Texas State Board of Health requires all students to have vaccinations before they engage in health-related higher education programs. Per admittance into Optometry School students receive the UHCO Immunization Memorandum specifying requirements. Registered students must be in compliance with the immunizations required by UH System & UHCO. Additional policies will be provided during student clinic orientation and again at extern rotation orientation.

CPR cards must be completed demonstrating competency in resuscitation techniques prior to completing the first semester of second year to advance to clinic rotation. Online course are acceptable, but ONLY if there is an additional hands-on portion/certification were you physically have to demonstrate competency in appropriate rescue breathing techniques, placement of AED electrodes, etc. CPR cards are valid for 2 years and are up to the individual student to obtain and maintain certification.

CLINICAL PROBATION, FAILURE, AND SUSPENSION

The University of Houston College of Optometry is committed to producing competent clinicians who can render appropriate vision care and therapeutic treatment to their patients. In order to achieve this goal, students must successfully complete and achieve a grade of “Satisfactory” for their clinical rotations. Failure to do so results in Clinical Probation, Failure, or Suspension, as described below:

Failure (Unsatisfactory Clinical Performance)

Students who demonstrate serious deficiencies (perform well below expected level) in examination skills, assessment and/or treatment planning—thus potentially jeopardizing the patients’ health, comfort and/or visual efficiency—will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory. Other reasons for an unsatisfactory rating include, but are not limited to, failing to observe and/or record obvious ocular abnormalities, consistently maintaining inadequate records, unprofessional conduct, or entering false data. Students must repeat any clinical semester for which they receive a grade of Unsatisfactory.
Clinical Probation
Students demonstrating consistently marginal performance will be placed on clinical probation. Students placed on clinical probation must demonstrate “Satisfactory” performance in all rotations (perform at the level expected of a student at that particular point in the program) by the end of the next semester or he/she will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory. A failure (“Unsatisfactory”) generated in such a manner will result in a recommendation of suspension by the clinical course master.

Clinical Suspension
Students placed on Clinical Probation must demonstrate “Satisfactory” performance in all rotations (perform at the level expected for a student at that particular point in the program) by the end of the next semester or he/she will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory for both semesters and thus be suspended. Any combination of two semester grades of Clinical Probation OR Unsatisfactory will result in suspension from the College of Optometry. Clinical assignments, if any, for students on suspension awaiting appeal will be determined by the Dean of the college in consultation with the clinic director and the appropriate course master.

Procedures for Clinical Probation, Failure, and Suspension
If a student is placed on Clinical Probation at the midterm evaluation, he/she has until the end of that same semester to successfully complete the semester’s clinical work. If the student is not at expected level by the end of the semester, a grade of Unsatisfactory for that semester’s clinical work will be given. Students placed on Clinical Probation at the end of a semester will receive an “I” for that semester and must demonstrate Satisfactory performance (be at the level expected for a student in that semester) by the end of the next semester. If the student does not achieve satisfactory performance by the end of the next semester, he/she will receive two semester grades of Unsatisfactory (one for the semester in which he/she received an “I” and one for the current semester). A student cannot advance to the next clinical year while on Clinical Probation. In the third or fourth year, probation or failure of any clinical rotation will result in a semester grade of Probation or Unsatisfactory for the entire semester’s clinical course. If a student is placed on Clinical Probation for two or more rotations in a semester, he/she will automatically fail that semester’s clinical course.

Optometry II
Optometry II clinical rotations include interpersonal skills workshops, primary care clinic, dispensary, and vision screenings (fall and spring semesters only). Students placed on Clinical Probation at the end of the spring OPT II term will repeat a semester of clinical work during the first seven weeks of the summer term following the spring OPT II term. If successfully completed, the student will then progress to OPT III clinics which he/she will complete during the second seven weeks of the summer term. Should that same student now fail or be placed on Clinical Probation for an OPT III clinic session, the student will be suspended from the clinical program due to the accumulation of two Probations and/or Unsatisfactory grades.

Optometry III
If a student is placed on Clinical Probation for a summer session, he/she will enter the fall semester on probation. The student cannot register for the second summer session for the purpose
of removing Clinical Probation. If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade either the first or second summer session, he/she must repeat the summer semester’s work during the fall semester. Any student placed on Clinical Probation or Unsatisfactory for the last semester of OPT III clinics must successfully complete another semester of all OPT III clinics prior to entering OPT IV. That student cannot register for OPT IV clinics prior to successfully completing the OPT III clinical year.

**Optometry IV**

Students who have previously received a grade of Clinical Probation or Unsatisfactory in any prior semester will not be allowed to begin an externship during the first semester of OPT IV. The student may appeal this provision to a committee composed of the clinic course masters, Clinic Director, and Director of Externships. This appeal must be presented in writing to the Associate Dean for Professional Studies.

**OUTCOMES**

The status of Clinical Probation and Unsatisfactory performance will be monitored by the appropriate clinical course master. The course master will notify the student in writing concerning his/her clinical status. The course master will also inform the Academic Committee chair and place a letter in the student’s academic file concerning the student’s status of Probation, Unsatisfactory Performance, or Suspension. The Academic Committee chair will be notified by clinical course masters at the end of each semester regarding each probationary student’s clinical status. Letters of suspension will be sent to the student through the Dean’s office. The student may appeal the suspension by notifying the chair of the Academic Committee within two weeks of notification of the suspension.

**COLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

The Academic Committee acts as advisor to the Dean on academic or student issues. The Dean may seek advice from the committee and may then accept, reject, or modify the Committee’s recommendations. The Executive Director of the Office of Optometry Relations serves as advisor and resource person to the student involved. The Executive Director of the Office of Optometry Relations is not a voting member of the Academic Committee. The Academic Committee serves as the standing committee of the faculty to hear appeals of the following academic issues:

- **Academic Probation**: Probation is automatic under the rules described elsewhere; it does not require action by the Committee. The Committee will hear appeals of this administrative action.
- **Academic Suspension**: Same as above.
- **Disputes regarding course grades**: The awarding of grades is the responsibility of the course instructor. If a student wishes to appeal a course grade, he or she should first discuss the matter with the responsible instructor. The student may wish to arrange a joint consultation with the instructor and the concerned department chair. Finally, if not resolved to his/her satisfaction, the student may appeal to the Academic Committee.
- **Requests for a Leave of Absence**: Requests for Leave of Absence should initially be presented to the Associate Dean for Professional Studies who may recommend to the Dean the granting of the request and may outline requirements for return to the college. If the circumstances surrounding the request are complex, or if the student is not in good
academic standing, the Associate Dean for Professional Studies will refer it to the Academic Committee for a hearing. The Committee will consider issues which, in the student’s opinion, justify a leave of absence from the professional program. Students wishing to receive this type of consideration must submit written requests to the Associate Dean for Professional Studies. Should the student be denied a Leave of Absence, he/she may appeal that decision to the Academic Committee.

- **Charges of academic dishonesty:** The objective of an academic dishonesty hearing is to determine whether or not an accused student violated college and/or university policy, and, in the event of a violation, to assess an appropriate consequence. In the event of a charge of dishonesty, the chair of the Academic Committee handles all notices from faculty members and students. Unless there is a specific rule governing the particular matter, the chair of the Committee may adopt any reasonable procedure, including order of proceedings, to carry out the objectives of the hearing.

- **Extension of Educational Program:** Students in good standing may develop a plan for extending their educational program beyond the minimum time of four years. This is typically done for students who have significant health problems or life issues and need to take a reduced course load. Such plans should be submitted to the Associate Dean for Professional Studies. The Academic Committee will then be asked to judge the academic feasibility of the student’s plan. Approval to the plan will be given by the Associate Dean upon receiving the Committee’s positive recommendation.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The information below is a summary of the college’s Dishonesty Policy. A complete description of the college’s Academic Policies and Procedures may be obtained through the Dean’s Office or the Office of Optometry Relations and is also available on the intranet [http://intranet.opt.uh.edu/](http://intranet.opt.uh.edu/). Academic dishonesty is a serious breach of ethics and professional conduct. A student who engages in academic dishonesty will be expelled from the college.

Following are examples of academic dishonesty:

- stealing tests or grade books from faculty offices or elsewhere;
- using notes to aid in answering questions during examinations;
- getting another student to take a test;
- plagiarizing;
- changing answers or grades on a test after the test has been returned;
- giving or receiving aid during an examination;
- using another person's laboratory result as one's own;
- mis-shelving books with the intent of reducing access by other students;
- using mail-order or Internet term papers;
- seeking information about exam questions by a student who is taking the exam after the rest of the class;
- falsifying clinic data, records or results in laboratory experiments;
- any conduct which a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstance would recognize as dishonest or improper in an academic or patient care setting.
College Dishonesty Hearings
A faculty member who has reasonable grounds to believe that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty is required to: 1) notify the student about the accusation, specifically identifying and describing the alleged offense; and 2) notify the chair of the UHCO Academic Committee or, at his/her discretion, consult directly with the Associate Dean for Professional Studies, the person designated by the College as the investigator in cases of alleged academic dishonesty.

A college hearing is investigative rather than adversarial. The chair of the Academic Committee will give the accused student written notice of the time and place of the college hearing. College hearings will be audio-recorded in accordance with university regulations. Any evidence that the Committee considers relevant may be received at a hearing. Students have the responsibility of reporting alleged academic dishonesty to either the appropriate faculty member involved or to the Associate Dean. The Academic Committee will send a comprehensive report complete with enforcement recommendations to the Dean, who has final jurisdiction in the case.

NON-ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Rules of Conduct
Except for the following rules of conduct and those relating to academic matters, students promulgate their own behavior codes through approved student organizations and student committees established in cooperation with the Office of Optometry Relations. The college assigns great importance to self-discipline, the ability to work effectively with others, and the ability to conduct oneself in a professional manner. A demonstration of deficiency in any of these qualities will be deemed as evidence that the student is not suited to a professional career. The faculty of the college has the authority to establish and maintain standards of ethical and personal conduct for students in the professional degree program. The Dean is responsible either for enforcing all rules governing student affairs or for delegating the enforcement to others.

By accepting admission to the College of Optometry, students indicate their willingness to subscribe to and to be governed by these rules and regulations. They acknowledge the right of the college and the university to take disciplinary action, determined through regular process, either for failure to abide by such rules and regulations or for conduct determined by such process to be detrimental to the college or the university. The college may terminate enrollment of any student at any time for what the faculty and administration believe to be good and sufficient reasons, such as cheating, plagiarism, misuse of university property, or unprofessional conduct.

It is the responsibility of students to become familiar with the various regulations of the university and the college and to meet the conditions they impose.
Sexual Harassment Policy

Sexual Harassment is unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. "Unwelcome" behavior is determined by the recipient. It is not the intent behind the sexual behavior that counts, but its impact on the recipient that constitutes sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment may include:

- Use of graphic or degrading verbal, written, or electronic comments of a sexual nature about a person;
- Verbal remarks of a sexual nature, including sexually offensive jokes;
- Any unwelcome physical contact (touching, pinching);
- Actual or threatened physical assault;

Protection from sexual harassment applies not only to instructional and workplace settings, but also to clinical settings, where the person exhibiting the inappropriate behavior may be a patient, relative of a patient, or anyone working in the clinic. Sexual Harassment is illegal. Specifically, it is a form of sex discrimination that violates Titles VII and IX of the Civil Rights Act which prohibit sex discrimination and harassment of students and all employees in academic institutions. The University of Houston and the College of Optometry prohibit all forms of sexual harassment by its employees, students, off-campus personnel, and campus visitors. Sexual Harassment is not limited by gender or by superior-subordinate relationships. Although most frequently experienced by women in subordinate positions, it may also be experienced between peers, members of the same sex, or by subordinate to superior.

Course of Action

Harassment by a patient: If you believe you are being sexually harassed by a patient in a UHCO clinic, you should excuse yourself from the examination room and notify the service director immediately. This person will assist you in managing or resolving the situation. No student is ever expected to remain in a harassment situation in a clinic (internal or external), a classroom, or any other setting of the college. Sexual harassment is rare, but it does occur and is unacceptable in the college and the university. Students, like other professionals, are expected to understand what constitutes sexual harassment and to act accordingly.

Other circumstances: If you believe you have been sexually harassed by someone other than a patient, you may seek to resolve the complaint with the Dean of the college or the Assoc. Dean of Professional Studies. You may also contact the University Affirmative Action Office (713-743-8835) to receive counseling or to file a formal complaint. Ignoring sexual harassment does not make it go away. Students should speak up, tell someone, keep a record of what happened, and seek support and counseling.

CODE OF ETHICS

UHCO follows the Code of Ethics approved by the American Optometric Association in 1944. It shall be the Ideal, the Resolve, and the Duty of the Members of the American Optometric Association:

| TO KEEP | the visual welfare of the patient uppermost at all times; |
TO PROMOTE

in every possible way, in collaboration with this Association, better care of the visual needs of mankind;

TO ENHANCE

continuously their education and technical proficiency to the end that their patients shall receive the benefits of all acknowledged improvements in visual care;

TO SEE THAT

no person shall lack visual care, regardless of his financial status;

TO ADVISE

the patient whenever consultation with an optometric colleague or reference for other health professional seems advisable

TO HOLD

in professional confidence all information concerning a patient and to use such data only for the benefit of the patient;

TO CONDUCT

themselves as exemplary citizens;

TO MAINTAIN

their offices and their practices in keeping with professional standards;

TO PROMOTE

and maintain cordial and unselfish relationships with members of their own profession and of other professions for the exchange of information to the advantage of mankind.

PERSONAL ATTIRE AND HYGIENE

Since the treatment of patients occurs in close proximity to classrooms and laboratories, each student is expected to dress appropriately and in a professional manner, and in accordance with the clinical attire policy whenever in patient care areas. Students who are not properly attired or who have not observed adequate personal hygiene may be barred from patient areas by the faculty.

HAZING

Initiations by organizations may involve NO action that is either dangerous or degrading to students.

NONACADEMIC DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Any student who engages in an act that violates existing student life policy is subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal. Moreover, students who demonstrate blatant disregard for the rights of others or who show other unprofessional conduct may be dismissed from the college.

GRIEVANCES

Students have the right to appeal any action they feel is unfair or in error. The Office of Optometry Relations will work closely with students to initiate the appeals procedure and to give advice. All appeals must be presented in writing to the Dean. If an appeal is determined to warrant a hearing, the Academic Committee will serve as the hearing committee. Finally, the student may appeal an unfavorable decision to the Dean for consideration.
OTHER INFORMATION

Providing Information
All students are responsible for keeping the college’s Office of Optometry Relations informed of their current local address, telephone number, home address, home telephone number, and where they may be reached if employed. This includes keeping information updated in PeopleSoft and responsible for checking UH and UHCO messages which are sent through approved system accounts.

External Clinic Rotations
Students spend 32 weeks in interdisciplinary clinic rotations during the fourth year. Several of these clinics are in or near Houston and require no extra expense except for transportation. Other externship sites are located in other regions, states, or countries. A complete list of current externship sites is available through the Office of Optometry Relations. Students should plan ahead for additional transportation and room and board expenses for extern assignments outside the Houston area.

I.D. Cards
Each student is required to have in his or her possession a photo-I.D. card issued by the University of Houston. Students may go online to www.uh.edu/cougarcard/ and upload a picture or stop by the CougarCard office located next door to the UH Welcome Center parking garage. If you have any questions regarding your CougarCard please contact 713-743-2273.

Parking
There are a variety of parking options available for students through the Parking and Transportation Office. To view options and purchase parking permits, visit www.uh.edu/pts/ for more information. There is NO student parking allowed in the UHCO designated patient lot. Student vehicles parked in any unauthorized spaces on campus will be towed at the owner’s expense. Optometry students who park in the patient parking area may be charged with unprofessional conduct.

Right to Privacy
Privacy of student records and other personal information is protected under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (PS. 93-380), (http://www.uh.edu/legal-affairs/contract-administration/pdf-documents/FERPA%20Authorization%20Form%20OGC-SF-2006-02.pdf) and by policies issued by the university. Students who have specific questions concerning government and university policies on privacy should consult the Office of Optometry Relations. Transcripts and other personal information will be released by that office only upon receiving written permission from a student or from persons authorized by law.

Optometric Services
Current students, faculty, staff, and members of their immediate families (spouse, children, step-children, parents, step-parents, and siblings) may obtain examinations at the clinical center operated by the college. Faculty and Staff covered through United Healthcare (UH insurance policy) will receive Well Vision examinations, copays waived. For covered dependents, copays will be collected and then refunded back through the Dean’s Office. NOTE: Covered children and
medical exams require a referral from their PCP for billing purposes. If you are unable to obtain this referral, services are rendered at no cost. Extended family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws) may also receive courtesy reductions on services provided. Insurance policies will be billed, and copays will be collected when applicable.

Courtesy reductions for ophthalmic materials are provided when applicable. The service director alone has the authority to extend professional courtesy to a patient, in the form of a total or a partial waiving of the examination fee.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

For complete information about loans and scholarships or to obtain needed forms, contact the financial aid officer in the Office of Optometry Relations. **UHCO Academic deadlines and Academic calendar may differ from the UH Main Campus deadlines and calendar. The EXCEPTION to this occurs with Financial Aid deadlines which are University System wide and applied universally. File all financial paperwork according to UH Policy.**

**FINANCIAL AID SERVICES**

The college works with a university financial aid officer to assist students with loans, grants and scholarships. The financial aid officer is located at the UH Welcome Center and holds limited office hours at the college. To schedule an advising appointment or inquire about financial aid, please contact Scott Parker in person or via e-mail at sparke2@central.uh.edu

**EDUCATIONAL COSTS**

Tuition rates for 2012-2013 for all UHCO students will be $545 per semester credit hour for Texas Residents and $896 per semester credit hour for non-residents plus the mandatory University and College fees. Tuition and mandatory fees for first year students will total approximately $19,500 (Texas residents) and $32,000 (out-of-state residents).

**BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT**

Students are required to purchase designated textbooks and equipment. Books and supplies purchased at the University Bookstore cost approximately $800 during the first year. Estimated books cost are approximately $650 for the second year and $550 for the third year. Costs for the fourth year are substantially less. Students may be required to purchase a laptop or notebook computer. Students may purchase required equipment for the first year of study through the
Optometric Student Association for slightly below cost, which is now approximately $5,500. Trial lenses and hand-held instruments—a retinoscope, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopes—are some of the required pieces of equipment that are used throughout the student’s educational career and later in professional practice. A service policy may be purchased with the equipment. Students receive specific equipment lists and information concerning purchase and rental possibilities prior to enrollment.

**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

The optometry curriculum requires the major portion of a student’s time and concentration. During the first academic year, students should outline a financial plan that does not require them to work. College assignments and clinical duties cannot be altered to fit work schedules. Students should discuss the possibility of any employment with the Director of the Office of Optometry Relations to determine if their academic performance would be jeopardized. Work-study funds and a limited number of teaching and research assistantships are available for upper-level students with excellent academic records.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID**

Before pursuing a degree in Optometry, students must consider a sound financial plan for their educational expenses early in their decision-making process. Financial assistance may or may not meet all of the student’s expenses. Eligible students will be awarded as much financial assistance as possible but not beyond their cost of attendance (budget). All financial aid awards are based on information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) needs analysis form. A Student Aid Report is sent to the student shortly after applying. Financial aid is not awarded until the Student Aid Report is on file at the university and the student is admitted.

Many of the financial aid programs are funded either by governmental agencies or sponsoring individuals and organizations and therefore may be changed or eliminated at any time. All aid programs are subject to the rules, regulations and guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education, State of Texas, University, UH Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and the College of Optometry Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee. There are no special loan application forms for the Federal loan programs or grants. Applicants who complete the FAFSA may eligible for these loan programs. Early applicants are given first consideration for these loans. The UHCO financial aid priority processing deadline is **April 1st. All financial aid applicants are strongly encouraged to complete and submit their FAFSA online in January and no later than mid-February.**

The UHCO Financial Aid Office provides information on a variety of other private loan programs for students who need financial assistance beyond the traditional resources in order to meet their expenses. Credit based private loans are available from major lenders. Please borrow only the loan funds needed and know your rights and responsibilities as a borrower.

**FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAMS**

**FEDERAL UNSUBSIDIZED DIRECT LOANS**

These loans are for eligible students who (1) require additional funds beyond the subsidized Stafford loan or (2) show no financial need based on information provided on the Free
Application for Federal Student Aid; i.e. if their FAFSA Expected Family Contribution (EFC) figure is higher than their financial aid budget total. Current eligibility for this loan is $40,500 for the Fall & Spring semester and $47,167 for the 12 month period per academic period (Fall, Spring, Summer) less any subsidized Stafford loan amount already awarded. The annual maximums shown are for both types of Direct Loans combined. (See also the Financial Aid Budget Limitation note). The lifetime maximum for both subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans is $224,000.

UNSUBSIDIZED DIRECT LOAN INTEREST PAYMENTS
Students are cautioned to use this loan program only when necessary because the Federal government does not pay the interest while the student is in school. Students can make the decision to: 1) have the interest added (capitalized) to the amount borrowed or 2) make quarterly interest payments while enrolled when billed.

ENROLLMENT
All students must enroll for at least 6 hours each semester in order to be considered for the Direct Loans. Per Federal loan guidelines, Summer enrollment will require a 6 hour minimum enrollment. Direct loan amounts are reduced for enrollment less than 12 hours.

INTEREST RATES:
Effective July 1, 2009, the interest rate for all Direct Loans, subsidized and unsubsidized disbursed on or after July 1, 2006, will be at a 6.8% fixed rate.

LOAN ORIGINATION FEES
Loan fees for the Direct Loans are deducted prior to disbursement to the student. Presently, a 0.05% origination fee is deducted prior to disbursement.

LIFETIME AND ANNUAL DIRECT LOAN LIMITS
Total Direct lifetime limit allowed for graduate or professional students is $224,000, i.e., $65,500 in Subsidized and $158,500 in Unsubsidized Direct Loans. The graduate debt limit includes loans received for undergraduate study. Students are reminded that the maximum nine (9) month Direct Loan limit is $40,500. The maximum student can borrow for the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters is $47,167.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID
The only financial assistance available in the Summer is a Direct Loans. Summer is a separate semester and Summer forms are not available until mid-April. You must enroll for at least 6 hours to be considered for the summer Stafford loan.

OTHER TUITION & FEE PAYMENT OPTIONS
If your financial aid file is not complete by the tuition due date if you do not have accepted sufficient financial aid, there is an Emergency Deferment Plan available. This option will defer your tuition & fees for the current semester only. This deferment will incur an interest charge. Additionally, a student can also be placed on an installment plan if their financial aid is insufficient. Please see the Student Financial Services page at the UH website for further details.

FINANCIAL AID BUDGET LIMITATION
In no case will the student be awarded aid over and above their financial aid budget total. For example, if the financial aid budget total is $36,000, the total of all aid offered including grants, loans, scholarship etc. will not exceed $36,000.

OVER-AWARDS
Students can be over awarded aid due to a number of circumstances such as receipt of a late scholarship, change in tuition amounts, and change of residency status (out of state to in-state), reduced enrollment and other circumstances. If the aid awarded exceeds the student budget, the university is required to reduce the amount of aid awarded and the student may be responsible for repayment of the over award. However, the student will still receive aid equal to 100% of their financial aid budget.
OTHER LOAN PROGRAMS
Many state optometric associations and related organizations have loan or grant programs for resident students. To obtain information or apply, students should contact their state optometric association.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
The UHCO Scholarship Committee and/or the UHCO Financial Aid Office will notify by e-mail all eligible students of any currently available scholarship. Each scholarship will have different requirements, deadlines and application forms. The UHCO Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee meet as necessary to review all scholarship applications.

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY LOANS
A limited number of short-term loans are available for unexpected emergency financial needs. Students who experience such needs should contact the Office of Optometry Relations for information on this loan.
STUDENT SERVICES

THE COLLEGE’S OFFICE OF OPTOMETRY RELATIONS (OOR) PROVIDES STUDENT SERVICES FOR FUTURE OPTOMETRISTS. STUDENTS MAY CALL OR VISIT THE OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

TUTORING
Tutoring services are available through the OOR. Students may request tutoring through the Office of Optometry Relations. It is the student’s responsibility to identify the need for tutoring and actively seek assistance. The tutoring program also provides a source of income for academically advanced second- and third-year students who have previously taken the course they want to tutor and have received an A in the course.

LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES (LSS)
Learning Support Services offers assistance in study skills, time management and test anxiety. Counselors are familiar with the demands of the optometry program and have experience with counseling optometry students. All services are funded by Student Service fees and are free to currently enrolled students. LSS is located in room 321 Social Work building, 713-743-5411.

REGISTRAR SERVICES
The University uses PeopleSoft (MyUH) for all registration and student service needs. Students register and view their schedules at www.my.uh.edu. The Office of Optometry Relations will remind students via email of the time of registration and other matters including: academic records, residency status determinations, graduation, orientation, and degree confirmation. Notary services are available. The Office of Optometry Relations, Academic Advisor, notifies all students of required courses and electives due to requirements, lab assignments, etc. If changes are made by the student or Associate Dean or Profession Studies due to academic issues, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the Academic Advisor of any changes to his/her schedule and accept those changes through their PeopleSoft account. The Academic Advisor will assist in registration for course overload and changes made by the college after registration deadlines. Fees accrued through any course changes are the student’s responsibility and a reimbursement will not be issued for any reason.

STUDENT COUNSELING
Program Manager for Admissions, Recruiting and Current Student Services, Lyle Tate (ltate@optometry.uh.edu) is available to provide guidance and counseling for a broad range of student issues, both academic and nonacademic. Additional student counseling is also available at the UH Counseling and Testing Center (713-743-5454). Melissa Mares, Executive Director of OOR, serves as student advocate and advisor in dealings with the Academic Committee. For appointments: mmares@optometry.uh.edu

STUDENT HINTS

Q: When and how should I seek help in a course?
A: Don’t wait until after your first test; seek help the minute you begin to have difficulties.

Q: How do I become a tutor?
A: You must have completed the course and get permission from the professor and the Office of Optometry Relations.
MESSAGES
Students who must unavoidably miss classes or exams due to an emergency situation may use the Office of Optometry Relations to notify the college at large. However, students should contact instructors directly if they must miss an exam, class, or clinic. Instructors should always be notified before—not after—an exam or important assignment must be missed. It is the student’s responsibility to verify that the faculty member received the appropriate notification.

LIBRARIES
The Weston A. Pettey Library is a resource for faculty, staff and students of the College of Optometry. The Library has an excellent core collection in optometry, ophthalmology, vision science, psychophysics, optics, vision rehabilitation, neuroscience, ocular pharmacology, psychology, general medicine and pediatrics. Electronic access for journals is provided through the UH Libraries. For materials not available through the University Libraries, the Pettey Library staff will obtain the materials for you, free of charge, from Inter-Library Loan. The Library has a computer lab providing access to 36 computers, 2 laser printers and 2 scanners. All computers are networked providing word processing, email, and Internet access. Students are able to access class assignments through the College’s Intranet. Students and faculty are able to use their personal computer via Ethernet connections to the UHCO network throughout the Library. The Library also offers 24 netbook computers with wireless capabilities for checkout. We have nine group study rooms with Ethernet connections and two rooms with audiovisual capabilities. Students may also use the materials and services of the M.D. Anderson Library or any of the other libraries on the University of Houston campus.

HEALTH INSURANCE
All students enrolled at the University of Houston are eligible for a private endorsed insurance policy. Information is available through the University Health Center, 713-743-5151. The American Optometric Association provides medical insurance at low rates, or students may contract for health insurance at a special group rate. (https://www.uhcsr.com/AOSA)

Non-immigrant International students will be enrolled and charged for health insurance each semester to satisfy the University policy regarding maintaining acceptable health insurance coverage. A waiver of the health insurance fee may be requested online with proof of acceptable alternate insurance. (http://www.studentinsurance.com/Schools/TX/UH/) The insurance plan and University’s criteria are reviewed periodically and may be subject to change.
Students are urged to participate in student government at the college and campus-wide levels. In the college, each class elects representatives annually and students serve on standing faculty committees. Student affiliates of optometric associations offer additional opportunities to participate in student governance and activities. Information is provided by each college organization.

**AOSA: American Optometric Student Association**

The purpose of the American Optometric Student Association is to improve the visual welfare and health of the public, to promote the profession of optometry, and to enhance the education and welfare of optometry students. AOA is the voice of optometry as a whole and speaks as you advocate before the government.

**BSK: Beta Sigma Kappa**

Is the International Optometric Honor Society and their mission is to stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence and the ethical practice of optometry; and to promote and provide financial support for worthy research projects relating to vision care and the eyes.

**FCO: Fellowship of Christian Optometrists**


**NOSA: National Optometric Student Association**

The National Optometric Student Association is the student extension of the National Optometric Association and is a service organization dedicated to providing the delivery of effective and adequate eyecare to the minority and underserved communities. In addition NOSA creatively markets the field of optometry in an effort to increase recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities into the profession.

**OSA: Optometric Student Association**

The Optometric Student Association is to promote the profession of optometry to students and encourage high professional standards within the student body. The OSA is there for the students to help contribute to and enhance the educational experience of its members. The OSA serves as a liaison to the optometric profession at the local, state and national level.

**SOPMA: Student Optometric Practice Management Association**

Our mission is to provide optometry students with the education, resources, and confidence necessary to pursue their individual goals as optometric professionals and preserve the integrity of the profession.
STOA: **Student Texas Optometric Association**  
The Student’s Texas Optometric Association (STOA) serves as an open line of communication between the students and the Doctors of Optometry in Texas. Our goals include; working to ensure that each community in Texas has access to the highest quality eye care continually providing Optometry students with up-to-date information regarding Legislation impacting Optometry’s scope of practice further strengthening the links between students and Optometrists in both academic and clinical settings. The STOA helps to spread the word about what changes are being made to the Profession of Optometry and what we as students can do to facilitate any changes that may need to be made in the future.

SVOSH: **Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity**  
The mission of SVOSH is to provide eye care services to all who need it, especially those who would not normally receive such care, primarily through vision screenings at the local level, eye prescriptions and eyeglasses at the international level, and finally to assist those patients in gaining access to the needed health care services.
## DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY PROGRAM CURRICULUM (177 HOURS)

| Fall Semester (First Year)                                      | Cr. | GRADE |
|=================================================================|-----|-------|
| OPTO 5314 Optics I                                              | 3   |       |
| OPTO 5111 Optics I Lab                                         | 1   |       |
| OPTO 5320 Vision Science I                                      | 3   |       |
| OPTO 5334 Neuroanatomy & Physiology                            | 3   |       |
| OPTO 5134 Neuroanatomy Lab                                     | 1   |       |
| OPTO 5233 Advanced Human Anatomy                               | 2   |       |
| OPTO 5344 Advanced Human Physiology and Molecular Biology       | 3   |       |
| OPTO 5133 Advanced Human Anatomy Lab                           | 1   |       |
| OPTO 5271 Optometry I                                           | 2   |       |
| OPTO 5171 Clinic Practicum I                                   | 1   |       |
| **Total**                                                       | 20  |       |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Semester (First Year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPTO 5282 Community Health Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 5315 Optics II</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 5194 Ophthalmic Optics Lab</td>
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</tr>
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<td>OPTO 5221 Vision Science II</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 5331 General Pathology &amp; Medicine</td>
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<td>OPTO 6190 Ophthalmic Optics Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 6363 Primary Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 6173 Clinic Practicum III</td>
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<td>OPTO 6234 Ocular Pathology I</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 6351 Pediatric Optometry I</td>
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<td>OPTO 6151 Pediatric Optometry I Lab</td>
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<td>OPTO 6291 General Clinic II</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 6174 Contact Lens Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 6335 Ocular Pathology II</td>
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<td>OPTO 6374 Contact Lens I</td>
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<td>OPTO 6224 Perception</td>
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<td>OPTO 6333 Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics</td>
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### Summer Semester (Third Year)

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<td>OPTO 7150</td>
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### Fall Semester (Third Year)

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<td>OPTO 7375</td>
<td>Contact Lens II</td>
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<td>OPTO 7361</td>
<td>Geriatric Optometry</td>
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<td>OPTO 7252</td>
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<td>OPTO 7152</td>
<td>Pediatric Optometry II Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7230</td>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7336</td>
<td>Ocular Pathology III</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7131</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
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### Spring Semester (Third Year)

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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7495</td>
<td>General Clinic IIIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7330</td>
<td>Ophthalmic Lasers &amp; Refractive Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7130</td>
<td>Ophthalmic Lasers &amp; Refractive Surgery Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7162</td>
<td>Vision Rehabilitation Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7262</td>
<td>Rehabilitative Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTO 7337</td>
<td>Ocular Pathology IV</td>
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<td>OPTO 7383</td>
<td>Practice Management I</td>
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<td>OPTO 7120</td>
<td>OPT III Rounds/Case Discussion</td>
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<td>OPTO 7253</td>
<td>Pediatric Optometry III</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Rotation A (Summer or Fall or Spring)
Externship I – Primary Care

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Rotation B (Summer or Fall or Spring)
Externship II – Medical Care

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<tr>
<td>OPTO 8992</td>
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Rotation C (Summer or Fall or Spring)
Specialty Clinic/Didactic

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<tr>
<th>FOURTH YEAR</th>
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<td>OPTO 8696</td>
<td>General Clinic IV</td>
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<td>OPTO 8338</td>
<td>Rounds &amp; Recent Developments</td>
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<td>OPTO 8384</td>
<td>Practice Management II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives *</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

* Elective requirements may be fulfilled at any time prior to graduation. They are listed in the curriculum only for suggested times.

*The professional curriculum is delivered by two academic units: optometric sciences and basic sciences.
5000 LEVEL COURSES

5111: Optics I Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Selected experiments in geometrical optics.

5112: Optics II Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Selected experiments in physical and modern optics.

5133: Human Anatomy Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Laboratory in human anatomy with emphasis on head and neck.

5134: Neuroanatomy Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Laboratory in neuroanatomy with emphasis on the visual system.

5135: Ocular Anatomy Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Laboratory in ocular anatomy.

5171: Clinic I Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5271. Laboratories in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques used in primary care optometric practice. Introduction to ocular health assessment techniques and use of ophthalmic diagnostic agents.

5172: Clinic II Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5191; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5272. Laboratories in objective and subjective examination of refractive error, and binocular vision assessment. Application of psychophysical methods to the clinical examination.

5194: Ophthalmic Optics Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5311 and 5111; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5312, 5112. Lenses and frame selection; ordering; fabrication; verification; dispensing procedures.

5221: Vision Science II Cr. 2. (2-0). The optics and image-forming properties and refractive conditions of the eye.

5233: Advanced Human Anatomy Cr. 2. (2-0). Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5133. Advanced human anatomy for health care professionals with emphasis on the gross anatomy and histology of the human structure for the eye-care specialist and vision scientist.

5271: Optometry I Cr. 2. (2-0). Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in 5171. Overview of the optometric examination. Discussion of the diagnostic examination process with emphasis on the patient history interview. Introduction to problem-oriented record-keeping as applied to optometric practice.

5272: Optometry II Cr. 2. (2-0). Prerequisites: OPTO 5271; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5172. Conventional therapies utilized in delivering basic optometric primary care services, diagnostic strategies, and problem solving. Topics of discussion include: epidemiology of ametropias; diagnosis, management, and treatment of ametropias; optical principles of diagnostic instrumentation; symptoms and management of binocular vision anomalies and presbyopia.

5282: Community Health Cr. 2. (2-0). This course is designed to acquaint the student with the organization of the health care delivery system and to provide the underpinning of the profession of optometry including its history and socioeconomic, ethical and legal elements. It will include epidemiology and biostatistics as they apply to optometry.

5314: Optics I Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5111. Propagation of light; reflection and refraction; lenses and prisms; aberrations.

5315: Optics II Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5112. The nature of light; apertures and stops; optical instruments; photometry dispersion; polarization, interference, diffraction; lasers and modern optics.
5320: Vision Science I Cr. 3. (3-0). Monocular sensory aspects of vision; including sensitivity to light and color, and spatial vision.

5331: General Pathology and Medicine Cr. 3. (3-0). Fundamental pathological processes; anomalies of cellular function; disorders of organ systems; immunology; and principles of medicine.

5334: Human Neuroanatomy and Physiology Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5134. Neuroanatomy and neurophysiology with emphasis on the visual system.

5335: Ocular Anatomy and Physiology Cr. 3. (3-0). Anatomy and physiology of the eye and visual system.

5344: Advanced Human Physiology and Molecular Biology Cr. 3. (3-0). Advanced human physiology and molecular biology for health care professionals with emphasis on the physiology of major organ systems of the body and the molecular basis for health and disease. This course is specialized for eye-care practitioners and vision scientists.

6000 LEVEL COURSES

6132: Medical Laboratory Procedures Cr. 2. (0-3). Medical laboratory procedures; analysis and interpretation of results.

6151: Pediatric Optometry I Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Procedures used in the diagnosis and prognosis of strabismus and amblyopia.

6163: Primary Optometry Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5172, 5271, 5272, 5194; Concurrent enrollment in 5131. Laboratory exercises in eye movements, accommodation and convergence relationships, and binocular vision analysis.

6173: Clinic Practicum III Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5171, OPTO 5172, OPTO 5271, and OPTO 5272. Advanced diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. Continued practice in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques used in optometric practice with emphasis on preparation for the Pre-Clinic Credentialing Examination. Vision screenings.

6174: Contact Lens Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5190 and concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5374 and OPTO 5292. Modification of rigid lenses. Procedures for fitting and dispensing rigid and flexible contact lenses. Introduction to contact lens clinic policies and procedures for follow-up care and record-keeping.

6190: Ophthalmic Optics Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5194; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 6311. Frame selection and ordering, dispensing, spectacle fabrication, and contact lens verification.

6219: Vision Science III Cr. 2. (2-0). Normal and abnormal eye movements, pupil responses, and accommodation.

6224: Perception Cr. 2. (2-0). Development and function of visual perception.

6234: Ocular Pathology I Cr. 2. (2-0). Prerequisites: OPTO 5335, 5171, 5234, and 5135. Development of logical diagnostic sequence for patients with disease presentations. Obtaining appropriate problem-focused history. Familiarization with various presentations of ocular disease, isolate specific tissue(s) affected by the disease process, and identify the main features of the condition. Management or referral of patient will be covered.

6260: Orthokeratology Cr. 2. (2-0). Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Designed for third- and fourth-year students. Familiarization with orthokeratology and CKR as alternatives to refractive surgery. Corneal topography, how it is measured and altered will be discussed in detail. Course will include hands-on experience with corneal topographers.

6291: General Clinic II Cr. 2. (0-10). Prerequisites: OPTO 5331, 5131, 5132, 5190, 5222, 5232, and 5373. Clinical
practice in the primary care clinic. Patient communication and interpersonal relationships.

6311: Optics III Cr. 3. (3-0). Physical and optical characteristics of ophthalmic lenses and prisms; multifocal lenses.

6312: Optics IV Cr. 3. (3-0). Theory of lens design; reflectance; absorption; protective lenses; optics of anisometropia, aphakia, and aniseikonia; optics of visual aids.

6333: Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: OPTO 5234, OPTO 5331, OPTO 5335, OPTO 6234, and OPTO 6434; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 6335. Ocular pharmacology and therapeutics, actions of ophthalmic drugs, clinical considerations including indications, contraindications, and side-effects.

6335: Ocular Pathology II Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: OPTO 5190, and 5373. Concurrent enrollment in OPTO 5192. Optometric diagnosis and treatment: effects of contact lenses on corneal physiology; applied optical principles of contact lenses; rigid and flexible contact lens fitting; patient care of lenses; adverse effects of contact lenses.

6434: General Pharmacology Cr. 4. (4-0). General principles of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and therapeutics. Fundamental biochemical and cellular sites and mechanisms of action of drugs.

7000 LEVEL COURSES

7120: OPT III Rounds/Case Discussion Cr. 1. (1-0). Clinical decision making through case discussions. Case presentations and discussion will be used to illustrate and integrate clinical diagnosis and management. Topics include binocular anomalies, refractive problems, low vision, and systemic and ocular pathology.

7130: Ophthalmic Lasers, Refractive Procedures, and Surgical Techniques Lab Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in OPTO 7330. Hands on learning with several laser and surgical techniques. Lab exercises on appropriate use of Nd:YAG, argon, and Excimer lasers. Both non-living tissue exercises as well as simulations with living tissue will be offered. Suturing techniques, injection techniques, miscellaneous minor surgical procedures and proper operating room protocol.

7150: Developmental Optometry Cr. 1. (1-0) Prerequisites: OPTO 6151, and 6351; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 7493. Role of the optometrist in diagnosis, remediation, and clinical management of enigmatic learning problems including visual and auditory perception skills, learning disabilities, dyslexia and minimal brain damage; clinical procedures and practices in the diagnosis and prognosis of strabismus and amblyopia.

7152: Pediatric Optometry II Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-3). Prerequisites: OPTO 5151 and 5351; concurrent enrollment in 6352. Instrumentation and methods used to remediate anomalies of binocular vision.

7162: Vision Rehabilitative Laboratory Cr. 1. (0-2). Techniques for assisting visually impaired
patients including trial frame refraction, fitting bioptic telescope systems, use and verification of telescopic, microscopic, and magnifier systems. Billing codes and strategies for payment from agencies will be discussed.

**7230: Glaucoma** Cr. 2. (2-0). **Prerequisites:** OPTO 6234, OPTO 6333, OPTO 6335, and OPTO 7493; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 7336, OPTO 7361, and OPTO 7494. Review of anatomy and physiology of the eye pertinent to glaucoma mechanisms. Overview of the diagnostic process including photographic analysis, visual fields, gonioscopy, nerve fiber analysis, and patient examination. Secondary glaucoma’s discussed as they relate to differential diagnosis of primary open angle glaucoma. Treatment strategies for all forms of glaucoma, including acute glaucoma, POAG, and secondary glaucoma’s. Treatment strategies will include: topical medical, surgical, and systemic approaches, as well as advancements in therapeutic strategies as they occur.

**7252: Pediatric Optometry II** Cr. 3. (3-0). **Prerequisites:** OPTO 5151, 5191, 5351 and 5373; concurrent enrollment in 6152. Treatment of binocular vision anomalies including those conditions which result in a reduction of visual efficiency (phorias, decreased vergence facility) and conditions which result in decreased binocular function (amblyopia and strabismus).

**7253: Pediatric Optometry III** Cr. 2. (2-0). Clinical assessment and management of the young patient (birth through preschool) with emphasis on the modification of standard clinical procedures to accommodate the very young patient and how the development of various visual functions impacts treatment and management decisions.

**7262: Rehabilitative Optometry** Cr. 2. (2-0). Concepts of management of patients with visual impairment, neurological injuries, and multiple handicaps. Includes examination strategies, the optics of low vision devices, and their use. Also includes the rehabilitation system and referral networks.

**7330: Ophthalmic Lasers, Refractive Procedures, and Surgical Techniques** Cr. 3. (3-0). **Prerequisites:** OPTO 6234, OPTO 6333, OPTO 7230, and OPTO 7336; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 7130. Familiarization with ophthalmic laser instrumentation, surgical laser procedures, management of ocular conditions with lasers. Types of ophthalmic lasers, laser-tissue interactions, technical considerations associated with laser surgery, and pre- and post-operative considerations for ocular conditions commonly managed with lasers. Principles of refractive surgery including pre-operative, procedural, and post-operative and complication management of radial keratotomy, lamellar procedures, and laser procedures. Special consideration given to anatomy, wound healing, and wound healing modulators. Role of optometry in refractive surgery. Operating room protocols, injection, and suturing techniques.

**7336: Ocular Pathology III** Cr. 3. (3-0). **Prerequisites:** OPTO 5232, 5332, 5134, and 5334. Congenital anomalies and diseases of the posterior segment and optic nerve. Differential diagnosis and interpretation of clinical data.

**7337: Ocular Pathology IV** Cr. 3. (3-0). **Prerequisite:** OPTO 6331. Neuro-optometry including the neurological assessment of the eye and visual system. Routine non-invasive assessment of the pupil, diplopia, nerve palsies, transient vision loss, optic nerve, nerve head and visual fields, and diagnostic imaging procedures.

**7361: Geriatric Optometry** Cr. 3. (3-0). **Prerequisites:** OPTO 4333, 5132, 5232, 5332, 5373; concurrent enrollment in 6491. Psychological, physiological, social, and ocular problems of the elderly. Examination procedures in the care of geriatric patients. Special eye and vision problems of concern to the elderly patient. Special problems of the institutionalized and the bedridden patient. Problems of therapy management and compliance.
7375: Contact Lens II Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: OPTO 5192, 5374. Concurrent enrollment in OPTO 6491.
Advanced contact lens fitting techniques. Special topics in contact lens fitting.

7383: Practice Management I Cr. 3. (3-0).

7494: General Clinic IIIB Cr. 4. (0-16).
Prerequisite: OPTO 7493. Clinical practice under supervision of clinical faculty; emphasis on general care of children and geriatric population; diagnosis of ocular disease; contact lenses; visual training and dispensing.

7495: General Clinic IIIC Cr. 4. (0-16).
Prerequisites: OPTO 7493, and OPTO 7494; concurrent enrollment in OPTO 7120. Clinical practice under supervision of clinical faculty; emphasis on general care of children and the geriatric population; diagnosis of ocular disease; contact lenses; visual training and dispensing.

8000 LEVEL COURSES

8338: Recent Developments/Rounds Cr. 3. (3-0). Recent developments and case presentations with emphasis on integration of knowledge representing the full scope of optometry.

8384: Practice Management II Cr. 3. (3-0).
Prerequisite: OPTO 6383. Managing an optometric practice. Day-to-day operations of a practice including communication with patients and the community; office equipment; establishing office policies; enhancing and expanding professional services; dispensary services; and estate planning.

8990:8991: Community Health Clinics Cr. 9 semester hours per 320 clock-hour unit. (0-40). Patient care provided in an interdisciplinary health care setting. Clinical environments are external to the campus in hospitals, health centers, prepaid care facilities, extended care centers, home health services to special populations, and ambulatory care centers. Practice in various areas of community health is provided, and a community health project will be completed.

8992:8993: Community Health Clinics Cr. 9. (0-20). Patient care provided in medical and surgical eye care setting. Completion of all required elements of the first three years of the professional curriculum.

8696: General Clinic IV Cr. 6. (0-16). Prerequisite: OPTO 6492. Emphasis on total scope of primary optometric care in a group practice setting.

Summary of Elective Courses**

1. Nutrition and the Eye
2. Decision Making in Optometric Office
3. Contact Lens Induced and Related Complications
4. Spanish for Optometrists
5. In-Office Binocular Vision Training
6. Continuing Education for Elective Credit
7. Contact Lens Workshop and Follow-Up Care
8. What Optometrists Should Know About Kids With Special Needs
9. Practical Pharmacology
10. Clinical Integration
11. Sports Vision Enhancement
12. Orthokeratology and Controlled Kerato-Reformation
13. Corneal Pathology

** These courses are not all the elective courses offered, but are examples of electives courses offered throughout an academic year. Students must refer to the Elective Course Preference Sheet sent out each semester.

**Students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of seven semester credit hours of approved elective courses to qualify for the O.D. degree. Courses in the graduate program or upper division courses in another college may be selected with the approval of the student’s academic advisor and the Associate Dean for Professional Studies.