Graduate Programs

**PhD Program**

- Designed to prepare students for careers in vision science research and education.
- Special attention is given to fundamental background in vision science in addition to the students' specialty area. Requires a minimum of 30 semester hours, including a research project, a written dissertation and defense of the dissertation.

**MS Program**

- Provides a broad background in vision science and supervised research training in an area of specialization. Requires a minimum of 20 semester hours, including a research project, and technical skill, a qualifying examination, original research, a written dissertation and defense of the dissertation.

Combined OD/MS Program

- For ODs who are interested in combining the MS or PhD degree with advanced research, a written dissertation and defense of the dissertation.

Combined OD/PhD Program

- Separate applications must be submitted to the graduate and residency programs.

- Applicants must have an OD and be Texas State eligible.

**Combined OQMS Program**

- For OD students who are interested in both clinical practice and basic or translational research. The College provides tuition fellowships for the graduate program in conjunction with the residency program. Prior participation in research, generally in the OD student summer research program during the summer between first and second year. Separate application submitted to the graduate program in the Fall of the 2nd year of the OD program Accelerated entry to PhD program is possible.

**Financial Assistance Available for Graduate Students:**

- Teaching/Research Assistantship at $23,376/year, amount of support depends on prior degrees and experience.
- High-need clinical appointments to qualified optometrists at $38,000/year.
- Tuition support for full-time graduate students, tuition waiver, graduate courses for OME students.

**Research Specialties**

- **Glucoma**
  - Leah Hiskin, Assistant Professor, PhD, University of Southwest Florida; OD, University of Houston. Development of novel non-invasive screening for glaucoma.
  - Ronal Harwerth, Associate Professor, OD, University of Houston. The structure and functional development of the visual pathways in normal and pathological conditions.
  - Lisa Ostrin, Assistant Professor, OD, PhD, University of Houston. Myopia, amblyopia, refractive errors, visual function, analysis and modeling of refractive error.

- **Optical Surface/Contact Lenses**
  - Juan Bergmann, Professor, PhD, City University (London); OD, Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Structure, function, analysis and modeling of optical aberrations of the eye.
  - Nimesh Patel, Assistant Professor, OD, Southern College of Optometry; PhD, Brown University. Visual neuroscience, studies of sensory effects of early abnormal visual experience.

- **Perception & Psychophysics & Low Vision**
  - Bolstar, Professor, PhD, City University (London); OD, Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Structure, function, analysis and modeling of optical aberrations of the eye.
  - John Robson, Professor, PhD, University of Houston. Optical coherence tomography, structure of the eye and retina.
  - Scott Stevens, Associate Professor, OD, PhD, University of Houston. Development of novel non-invasive optical techniques for visualization of the corneal endothelium.

- **Visual Optics**
  - Alston, Assistant Professor, OD, PhD, University of Houston. Structural and functional imaging of the eye and retina.
  - Nimesh Patel, Assistant Professor, OD, Southern College of Optometry; PhD, Brown University. Optical coherence tomography, structure of the eye and retina.

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