Western University of Health Sciences

College of Optometry

Doctor of Optometry (OD)
2025/2026 Catalog

Conditions of Accuracy

The information within is accurate at the time of publication and reflects standard operating conditions for the academic year. Students are responsible for informing themselves of and satisfactorily meeting all requirements pertinent to their relationship with the University. Students and others who use this catalog should be aware that the information changes from time to time at the sole discretion of Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) and that these changes might alter information contained in this publication. More current and complete information may be obtained in the appropriate department, school, or administrative offices. Some changes can also be found on the Western University of Health Sciences website. Western University of Health Sciences reserves the right at any time, without advance notice, to change any part of the catalog; no vested rights shall run or be created by the catalog, including the right to notice of any modification, novation, amendment, supplementation, or other change of any term, provision, or content of the catalog; such right of Western University of Health Sciences to enact changes shall include but not be limited to (a) attendance or curriculum requirements; (b) changes to tuition and fees; (c) changes in the academic calendar; (d) changes in admission and registration requirements; (e) changes in the regulations and requirements governing instruction in and graduation from Western University of Health Sciences; (f) changes of instructors and faculty; (g) changes of rules and regulations governing the students and student body organizations; (h) changes of on-campus facilities; (i) changes of extra-curricular student activities, programs, and offerings; (j) conduct or academic standing; and (k) changes of any other program or regulation affecting students or other interested parties. Western University of Health Sciences further reserves the right to make such changes should economic conditions, health conditions, changes in law, government orders, or a local, state, or national emergency make it necessary to do so. Such changes may supplement and supersede any inconsistent provisions found in this Catalog, and will be published using typical communication channels, including mail, email, publication to the university web site, press releases, and other channels as deemed appropriate. This catalog does not constitute a contract, or terms or conditions of contract between the student, staff, and/or faculty and Western University of Health Sciences.

Text for the catalog was prepared as of May 2025. The information herein applies to the academic year 2025-2026.

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College of Optometry

The College Catalog serves as a supplement to the University catalog. The College faculty, staff, and students must abide by the content of the University catalog in addition to the College catalog. The 2025-2026 catalogs supersede previous versions, and all students are held responsible for the information contained in both the University and the College 2025-2026 catalogs.

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. To file a complaint with ACOE, please visit the ACOE Complaints and Comments website (Link: ACOE Complaints and Comments)

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 areeligible 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 studentstake 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 publicservice.

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 comprehensiveeducational program.

6. Research conducted will align with the program emphases as part of a comprehensive educationalprogram.

7. High quality patient care will be provided in the program emphases as part of a comprehensiveeducational 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.

Notice of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

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. WesternU strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination in all its programs, activities, admissions, and employment. WesternU prohibits discrimination based on the following characteristics:

- Race (including traits associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles)
- Ethnicity, Color, and National Origin
- Immigration Status and Ancestry
- Sex, Gender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Age
- Religion (including religious dress and grooming practices)
- Medical Condition and Genetic Information
- Marital Status
- Pregnancy (including childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions)
- Military or Veteran Status
- Perceived Characteristics - Discrimination is prohibited if an individual is perceived to have any of the above characteristics.
- Association with Protected Groups – Discrimination based on association with a person or group with one or more protected characteristics is also prohibited.
- Other Legally Protected Classes – WesternU complies with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances regarding discrimination.

WesternU has designated the Associate Vice President for the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Compliance Initiatives (OTIXEO) to coordinate WesternU's compliance with federal and state civil rights

laws regarding protected characteristics. Inquiries about WesternU's prohibitions against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation can be directed to Associate Vice President (AVP) for the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Compliance Initiatives (OTIXEO) or to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

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 asdemonstrating 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 careappropriate 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/socialdimensions 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: 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 workas 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 they are 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 they are knowledgeable of the cellular, molecular, and genetic basis of the development, physiology, pathology, and treatment of eye disease.

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

The graduate will have demonstrated that they are knowledgeable of mechanisms of action ofthe 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 they are 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 they are 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 they are knowledgeable of community health care resources and delivery systems to improve care.

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

The graduate will have demonstrated that they are 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, andapply 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 specialtycare.

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 abilityto 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.

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry's mission is to produce graduates fully qualified to provide quality comprehensive eye care services to the public. To fulfill this mission, 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 (HFCDHP) at Disability Accommodations (e-mail) or (909) 469-5441 or visit the HFCDHP web site.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student must have the capacity to manage their lives and anticipate their own needs and 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 useof 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 andexperiments.
    - Discriminating microscopic images of tissue and microorganisms.

- Observing a patient and noting non-verbal signs.
- Discriminating numbers, images and patterns associated with diagnostic testsand instruments.
- Visualizing specific ocular tissues 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 aswell 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 todemonstrate 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 lackof 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 patientsand 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 skills 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. 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 managementof patients
- Retain, recall, and obtain information in an efficient manner
- Identify and communicate the limits of one's knowledge and skill

Behavioral and Social

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

- Satisfactory emotional health required for full utilization of one's intellectual ability
- High ethical standards and integrity
- An empathy with patients and concern for their welfare
- Commitment to the optometric profession and its standards
- Effective interpersonal relationships with patients, peers and instructors
- Professional demeanor

- Effective functioning under varying degrees of stress and workload
- Adaptability to changing environments and uncertainties
- Positive acceptance of suggestions and constructive criticism

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Reasonable Accommodations during the Admissions Process

Candidates and students must be able to perform all essential functions of the program, with or without reasonable accommodation. The Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy ([HF]CDHP) will engage in an interactive process with students to determine appropriate accommodations, ensuring equal access to the program while maintaining the integrity of its essential requirements. To facilitate timely accommodations, students who may require reasonable accommodations are encouraged to register with [HF]CDHP as soon as they accept their offer to the program. Accommodations must be approved by [HF]CDHP and is not provided retroactively (if approved after the start of the program/semester. Candidates seeking accommodations during the admissions process, including for Interview Day, must contact the Office of Admissions in advance to request accommodations. All requests for accommodations will be handled in a manner that is consistent with the university's policies and in full compliance with the ADA, ADAAA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and applicable state laws). For further details regarding [HF]CDHP's registration process, please refer to https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/registration-process/, or review the *Student Disability Accommodation Process* section.

Application Requirements

The application requirements shown in this catalog apply to applicants who are seeking entry for the 2024-2025 academic year. Current admission and application requirements for the Doctor of Optometry (OD) program, including prerequisite coursework requirements, can be located on the ProspectiveStudent 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 $187 to apply to one school or college of optometry. An additional $80 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. Letters of recommendations cannot be from a family member or immediate relative. 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 beforeapplication will be considered.
    b. GRE scores may be considered at the discretion of the Admissions Committee if thecandidate'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 GREDesignated Institution (DI) Code of 4578 for your scores to match 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 testscores.
    d. Only scores after June 30, 2023, will be considered for the 2025 entering class.

4. Re-Applicants

    a. Re-applicants will need to submit a new set of official transcripts directly to OptomCAS. Ifthe 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 lettersto 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 earnedbachelor'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://support.westernu.edu/TDClient/1848/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=78200. Additional technology-related information can be found at https://www.westernu.edu/computing/new-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 or6 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 Physiologycourse 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 or6 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 Physiologycourse 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 June 30th of the matriculating year. No summercourses completed after June 30th will be accepted.
2. Online labs are NOT accepted. Exception: online prerequisite labs will be accepted for labs completed during spring 2020 through fall 2021 terms.
3. Pass/No Pass grades are not accepted for prerequisite coursework. Exception: Pass/No Pass willbe accepted for courses completed during spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021terms.
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, immunizationrecords (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 willbe granted an interview. If the candidate is deemed suitable, the individual will be invited to an in personor 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 determinewhether 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 applicantwill be notified of the committee's decision within three weeks of the interview. Decisions of the Admissions Committee regarding the admission of applicants are final and not subject to appeal.

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.eduPostal
address: Office of Admissions
Attn: OD Admissions
Western University of Health
Sciences309 E. Second Street
Pomona, CA 91766-1854

Once the transfer application is completed, applicants must upload the following documents via a securelink 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 inAugust 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 willbe 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 makeall 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.

Transferability of Courses Taken at WesternU

Whether WesternU course credits transfer to another institution is at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree or certificate you earn at WesternU is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. Further information regarding the transferability of courses taken at WesternU can be found in the University catalog.

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/

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 deadlinewill 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) priorto 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 UniversityCatalog, 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 informationon 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. For additional information on requesting a Leave of Absence, please 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.

Administrative Withdrawal

Please see 'Administrative Withdrawal from University/Program' section in the University Catalog.

Full-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. Therequirements 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 referred to the Student Performance Committee which may result in the Administrative Withdrawal of the student.

Tuition and Fees

By action of the Board of Trustees, OD tuition and fees for the 2025/2026 academic year (subject tochange) are as follows:

Institutional Fees

$48,618.00	Annual Tuition
$40.00	Student Body Fee, Years 1-3
$20.00	Student Body Fee, Year 4
$350.00	Graduation Fee

Non-institutional Fees

$1,800.00	Required Textbooks- Vital Source (Year 1, Estimate)
$475.00	Required Textbooks- Vital Source (Year 2, Estimate)
$450.00	Required Textbooks- Vital Source (Year 3, Estimate)
$450.00	Required Textbooks- Vital Source (Year 4, Estimate)
$3,448.00	Required Equipment (Year 1 Fall, Estimate)
$1,515.00	Required Equipment (Year 1 Spring, Estimate)
$6,220.00	Required Equipment (Year 2, Estimate)
$1,975	Board Review Course Materials (Year 3, Estimate)
$1,445.00	Board Examination Part 1 (Year 3)
$1,445.00	Board Examination Part 2 (Year 4)
$1,445.00	Board Examination Part 3 (Year 4)
$75.00	CPR Certification (Year 2, Estimate)
$75.00	Vision Therapy Equipment Kit (Year 2, Estimate)
$40.00	N-95 Respirator Fit Testing (Year 2, Estimate)
$110.00	Live Scan Fingerprinting (Year 1, Estimate)
$2,500.00	Personal Computer (Estimate)
$35.00	Classroom Engagement Software (Year 1, 2, & 3)
$55.00	AOSA Annual Dues (Required)
$30.00	Registration Late Fee (Per Business Day)
$50.00	Late Payment Fee (per month)
$235.00	Annual Parking Permit (Auto)
$118.00	Annual Parking Permit (Motorcycle)
$40.00	Locker Key Replacement Charge
$10.00	Official Transcript (Each)*
$11.75	Official PDF 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)

*Does not include National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) processing fee

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 2025/2026 are shown below:

$944.04	OD Year 1 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge
$1,002.43	OD Year 2 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge
$1,594.03	OD Year 3 Modified Curriculum Per Credit Hour Charge
$1,080.40	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

Students are required to have a personal computer for use beginning the first day of classes. Personal computers must meet pre-determined technical specifications that are updated annually. The personal computers 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. Personal computers 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 statedthat 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 (Link: NBEO Fees). Fees and application requirements are the responsibility of the student.

In order for the College to certify student eligibility to take the NBEO Part I ABS, the student must have successfully completed all first and second year course work, must have been registered in all of the third year fall semester courses and meet the eligibility requirements as determined by the faculty. Students are required to authorize that their scores be sent to the Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry. All individual scores received will remain confidential.

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 instructors of record 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 AssistanceProgram (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.

Student Disability Accommodation Process

The Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (HFCDHP) values the uniqueness of each student as an integral member of our diverse WesternU community and is the designated office to determine and approve academic modifications or accommodations. Given HFCDHP's role in the accommodation process is to provide students with disabilities with the legally mandated and necessary support to work toward a higher education, any requests made directly to instructional personnel related to their academic courses, even if implemented, are not considered a reasonable accommodation. Additionally, a student's disclosure of a disability or health-related condition, or the submission of documentation related thereto, in response to a process or procedure established by their respective college, does not constitute formal notification of a request for accommodations. Students must be able to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodations.

Students must adhere to the enrollment procedures set forth by HFCDHP to formally request accommodation. In the event a student discloses a disability in such a manner, they will be referred to HFCDHP for further guidance on the accommodations request process. Requests for accommodations related to circumstances other than the student's own disability (e.g., family bereavement or common illness) shall not be considered requests for reasonable accommodations under HFCDHP Provision of Academic Accommodation(s) Policy and Procedure or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

To request accommodations and start the interactive process at WesternU, students are encouraged to visit the HFCDHP webpage (https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/) to learn more about the registration process, requirements for disability documentation, and to complete the Student Intake Form. All inquiries are confidential, and students are welcome to obtain general information without registering. The University will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program. To schedule an appointment with

HFCDHP, please email disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu. Students are welcome to call the office at (909) 469-5441, or visit the Pomona office in person at 309 E. Second Street, Pomona CA, 91766, Building 390. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, please visit the website: https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/.

Attendance and Absences

Attendance is required at all scheduled instructional periods, including but not limited to didactic classes, orientations, examinations, laboratories, workshops, and clinical assignments. Additional course specific attendance requirements are published in each course syllabus. Absence from instructional periods for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, 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 make-up, without penalty, missed assignments, assessments, etc. The nature and time of the make-up will be determined at the discretion of the course instructor.

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 their discretion. Decisions related to absences are final and not subject to appeal.

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

Consistent with the University catalog policy, please find the college specific information below.

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 faculty advisor. If the problem is not resolved at the faculty advisor/course director level, the matter should be brought to the appropriate college's Student Affairs personnel, then the College Dean, or Dean's designee. If the matter has not been resolved at those levels, the final arbiter is the 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 Department Chair, then the appropriate Dean, or Dean's designee, in that order. The final arbiter is the 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 Supervisor followed by the appropriate Dean, or Dean's designee. 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.

This protocol does not apply to concerns involving discrimination, harassment or retaliation. For information related to complaints involving discrimination, harassment and retaliation, including community resources, emergency and on-going assistance; mental health services; reporting options and other available support are as follows and can be located on the University's Title IX resource website.

Student Injuries and Illnesses in Clinical Settings

If a student is injured or is exposed to potentially infectious (includes blood borne pathogens) or hazardous substances during a clinical rotation the student is required to notify the clinical instructor immediately and seek assessment and/or treatment per facility policy. Follow-up care should be continued at the contracted clinical facility as needed and ordered by the evaluating health care professional. Expenses incurred are to be submitted to the student's personal insurance as the primary coverage and to the university as the secondary insurance, for the reported incident only. The Incident Report Form can be found on the university website and must be completed by the student and/or faculty and submitted electronically. There may also be a requirement to fill out a more detailed report within the student's program of study (please refer to specific program clinical handbook).

Drugs and Alcohol on Campus Policy

The Drugs and Alcohol on Campus Policy can be located in the University Catalog. Students will be required to complete a drug screening along with a background check on an annual basis to be permitted to begin any clinical practice experiences. This is in addition to what is outlined in the University Catalog. Students are expected to be aware of, and abide by, both University and applicable College policies.

Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct ("Standards of Student Conduct")

The University Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct can be found 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 "Standardsof Academic Integrity, Professionalism, and Student Conduct" as outlined in the General Section of the University Catalog. A student who allegedly violates 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. 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, studentsaffirm that they will strive in all efforts to meet these standards for the betterment of the profession andthe 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 anyonewho does.

The following Student Honor Code 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 Student Conduct.

I will never knowingly or willfully obtain or utilize an unfair advantage in the taking of any examination orother 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 in inappropriate or unprofessional conduct towards a patient, colleague,

5. instructor, or other member of the community
6. Behave in a way that disrupts or obstructs the learning environment for others
7. 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 this Policy, 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 violation of this Policy, and I recognize that failure to do so may be considered a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct and this Policy.

Standards of Academic Progress

Students in the Doctor of Optometry program must maintain a semester grade point average of 2.60 or above on a semester 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 the following non-exhaustive items:

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 theCollege
4. Recommending students for academic or conduct suspension, medical and/or educationalassessment.
5. Recommending students' eligibility for NBEO Part 1 Examinations for all who satisfactorily completethe 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.

Evaluation of Student Academic Performance (Academic Hearing Process)

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. Students are provided an opportunity to be heard before the Student Performance Committee on such academic matters, whether in person or in writing. The Committee Chair will provide recommendations which may include but are not limited to remediation, probation, suspension, or dismissal to the Dean, or Dean's designee, or Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. 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 Dean's designee, has the authority to accept the recommendations or may make such other decisions, as they deem appropriate under the circumstances. The Dean, or Dean's designee, will issue a decision, in writing, to the student. For matters relating to a student's first probationary status, the Dean, or Dean's designee, designates the Associate Dean as decision maker on behalf of the Dean.

A student may appeal the decision of the Dean, or Dean's designee, to the Provost. Dean's, or Dean's designee's, decisions related to grades or related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation are considered final and not appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process).

Outcomes for Unsatisfactory Academic Progress

Certain scenarios described in this section result in probable outcomes in the following table. For all of the probable outcomes listed below, students are provided an opportunity to be heard before the Student Performance Committee (SPC) whether in person or in writing. Further, for any Any scenarios not referenced belowwill be referred to the SPC where the SPC may consider the full range of actions indicated in the SPC section above.

College of Optometry SPC Recommendations of Probable Outcomes Table

Didactic		
Type of Trigger	**Status**	**Probable Outcome**
Receipt of "NCR" or "U" grade in a single course and semester GPA of 2.6 or above without prior academic probation	Academic Probation	Remediation of Course
Receipt of "NCR" or "U" grade in one or more courses and a semester GPA below 2.6 without prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal, Academic Suspension Until Return, Academic Probation During Repeat Year	Repeat of Academic Year
Receipt of one semester GPA below 2.6 without prior academic probation	Academic Probation	Learning plan
Receipt of two semesters GPA's below 2.6 without record of prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal, Academic Suspension Until Return, Academic Probation During Repeat Year	Repeat of Academic Year
Receipt of an academic probation trigger with a record of multiple prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal	Dismissal

Patient Care Services (PCS)		
Type of Trigger	**Status**	**Probable Outcome**
Receipt of "Remedial" grade in a	Academic Probation	Learning Plan

single PCS course without record of prior academic probation		
Receipt of "No Pass" grade in a single PCS course without record of prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal, Academic probation during repeat of course, Delay in completion.	Repeat of Course
Receipt of "No Pass" grade in a repeated PCS course without record of prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal, Academic Probation during repeat year, Delay in completion.	Repeat the Year
Receipt of "Remedial" grade in a single PCS course with a record of prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal, Academic probation during repeat of course, Delay in completion.	Repeat of Course
Receipt of "No Pass" grade in a repeated PCS course with record of prior academic probation	Eligible for Dismissal	Dismissal

The College of Optometry is committed to supporting students throughout the Student Performance Committee (SPC) process. Students have access to academic advising through the Office of Student Affairs, LEAD tutoring, financial aid counseling, and wellness resources to proactively address challenges.. The college's goal is to foster growth, provide resources for improvement, and ensure students have the tools needed to achieve their academic and professional goals.

Evaluation of Student Conduct (Student Conduct Hearing Process)

For a full account of the hearing process applicable to allegations of violations of the Standards of Student Conduct and associated College conduct policies and procedures, please refer to "Information for Students about Hearings Involving Alleged Violations of the Standards of Conduct", located in the General Section of the University Catalog.

Promotion

Promotion is defined as academic and professional progression from one academic year to the next. When considering a student for promotion, the Student Performance Committee will consider ethical, professional, and personal conduct as well as academic performance. The Student Performance Committee will recommend students to the faculty for promotion.

Students may not be recommended for progression from one semester to the next with a semester GPA of less than 2.60. A student on a remediation plan will have their semester GPA calculated after the resolution of the remediation.

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. 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.

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 2.60 or above.

2. Has completed all service requirements as noted in the "Graduation Service Requirement" sectionof the catalog.

3. Has demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct, as definedin 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 theUniversity 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, or Dean's designee, each student must participate in their respective commencement ceremony. If the Dean, or Dean's designee, grants special permission for excusal from commencement, the graduate may be required to present themselves to the Dean or their designee at another specified date to take their profession'soath 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 complete all requirements of the program by December 31 of that calendar year. No student will receive their degree until the studenthas 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 UniversityCatalog, students may be placed on academic probation for the following reasons:

1. Semester grade point average is below 2.60.

2. Student earns a final course grade of U (Fail), NP (No Pass), or NCR (No Credit).

3. Student earns a first-time course grade of R (Remedial) in any Patient Care Services course.

4. 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 ethical, professional, or personal misconduct, as defined in the WesternU and/or College Standards of Student Conduct or other relevant policies.

When it is determined that a student is placed on probation according to the conditions listed above, the 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 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 paragraphs 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 their status and pathway to remediation, if applicable, is being reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and the Dean of the College, or Dean's designee, the student will be allowed to progress in the didactic portion inthe 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. Dean's decisions (or their designees) related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation are considered final and not appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process).

Financial Aid Warning Policy (Title IV and Title VII)

Academic Probation Policy

If a student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) they will be placed on "Financial Aid Warning" status for the next payment period and 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 (based on the criteria of the stipend). Students who fail to make SAP by the end of that 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 Financial Aid Office 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 charged tuition for the audited courses. Students that are required to repeat coursework are encouraged to meet with a financial aid counselor with respect to their financial aid eligibility.

Conduct Probation Policy

If a student has been placed on conduct probation by their College, it is the policy of the Financial Aid Office (FAO) that the student be placed on "Financial Aid Warning" status.

The financial aid warning for a conduct probation is a status that is assigned to the student who fails to meet the College's standards for professional/personal conduct, as defined by the College. If the student does not meet the Colleges' professional/personal conduct standards and the College places the student on conduct suspension the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid. 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 (based on the criteria of the stipend). If the student appeals the conduct suspension and the appeal is approved, financial aid will be reinstated.

Students are encouraged to meet with a financial aid counselor with respect to their financial aid eligibility.

Tutorial Assistance Program

A Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) has been established to assist students experiencing academic difficulty or desiring content support. It is free to all students. Students can be recommended for this program by any faculty member or may self-identify to TAP to receive assistance. Tutors are experienced students who are in good academic standing and are identified through an on-line application process as well as faculty/staff recommendation. Group tutoring is the methodology most used by the TAP. To receive TAP services during a semester, students first must have a LEAD counseling appointment during the semester. TAP support is contingent upon availability of tutors and the support of the college program. For more information on academic counseling and the TAP program, contact the Office of Learning Enhancement and Academic Development (LEAD).

Remediation of Coursework and Repeating Courses Coursework

Students who are placed on probation, suspension, or who are eligible for dismissal may be given the opportunity to remediate coursework or repeat a course(s), when deemed appropriate. After consultation with the course instructor, the Student Performance Committee may recommend one of the following means for remediating coursework or repeating a course(s):

1. Passing examination(s)

2. Completion of special projects or studies in the deficient area(s)

3. Repeating of the course or clinical assignment

4. Repeating of the academic year

The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or Dean, or Dean's designee, will decide the means for remediation. 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 Office of the Registrar. The grade earned by remediation will be re-recorded on thetranscript next to the original grade. Grades earned during remediation of a course or clinical assignmentwill 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, or Dean's designee, at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the start date, or within fifteen (15) working days after the close of the academic year in which the student is presently enrolled, whichever comesfirst. Notification must be sent either by email or hand-delivered to the student and must be acknowledged with the signatures of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or Dean, or Dean's designee, and returned to the College with the signature of student verifying confirmation of receipt.

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 OPTM 8122 Foundations of Optometry, the student will be charged at the per credit hour rate and will be responsiblefor paying 100% of the tuition for the course. As OPTM 8122 is not a degree required course, students required to complete this course are ineligible to receive additional financial aid. Additionally, if special assessments, diagnostic procedures, or therapy are required as part of a remediation plan, or if such activities are recommended and the student electsto 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 orprogram, 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. Theparticular 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 their 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 they have 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 arerequired 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.

Conduct Suspension

A conduct suspension is a period of time when a student is barred from enrollment in an academic program because of a violation of applicable University or College conduct policies, as implemented

through the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. A student may not receive financial aid during any time of suspension.

Summary Suspension

Actions that threaten or endanger, in any way, the personal safety, and/or well-being of self or others, or that disrupt or interfere with the orderly operation of the College or University are cause for immediate disciplinary action. Either the University President, SVP, or Dean, or Dean's designee, has the authority to summarily suspend a student when the student admits to guilt or when, in the opinion of these entities, such action is appropriate to protect the health or safety of any individual, or to preserve the orderly operation of the University. Further details regarding the summary suspension action can be found in the University Catalog.

Dismissal from the Program

The College of Optometry may require dismissal of a student from the optometry curriculumfor failure to meet standards of attendance, academic performance or conduct. A student will become eligible for dismissal if one or more of the following conditions are met:

1. Student earns more than one grade of "U", "NP," or "NCR" in an academic term.
2. Student earns a grade of "NP" in any Patient Care Services course.
3. Student earns a second grade of "R" in any Patient Care Services course.
4. Student is placed on academic probation for two or more times.
5. Student fails to successfully remediate any required course or clinical assignment.
6. Student fails to achieve remediation within the designated time frame.
7. Student demonstrates a pattern of unexcused absences from scheduled learning activities.
8. 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 fordismissal. All consequences of being eligible for dismissal will apply. While their status and pathway to remediation, if applicable, are being reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and the Dean of the College, or Dean's designee, 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 the Patient Care Services track will have to be madeup, hour for hour, prior to the student advancing to the ensuing clinical course.

A student who becomes eligible for dismissal will be automatically placed on academic probation and may be subject to a referral to the SPC for appropriate action which includes, but is not limited to, academic dismissal. 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 theacademic status of eligible for dismissal, regardless of the number of times that student has been placedon 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 beingplaced 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 becomes 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 a status of eligible for dismissal, any subsequent event that meets one or more of the criteria for academic probation will result in anotherdismissal hearing. Once a student has the status of eligible for dismissal, for the remainderof their enrollment at Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry, they 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 orclubs) 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. All readmitted students will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the program and are subject to the standards of academic progress.

Appeal Process

Dean's (or designee's) decisions related to grades or related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation are considered final and not appealable to the provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process). Students may appeal the decision of a Dean (or designee) according to the process 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.

Grade	Equivalent	GPA Points
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, Clinical Courses

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

Administrative Grades

Grade	Equivalent	GPA Points
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, or Dean’s designee, 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 timedesignated by the instructor-of-record but no later than three (3) weeks following the end of the semester. Incomplete grades that are not replaced with a letter grade within three (3) weeks of the end of the followingsemester will automatically be changed to a grade of “U,” “NP” or “NCR.” Students earning an incompletegrade in a clinical assignment may have the completion deferred for a period greater than three (3) weeks with approval from the instructor-of-record and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Withdrawal

Course is assigned a grade of “W” to indicate the student withdrew from the course. A grade of “W” can be assigned if 20-99% of the course is completed. “W” grades will appear on the student’s transcript but will not be included in the GPA calculation.

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” gradesshould not be used by the program in place of an Incomplete (I) grade.

Grade Reports

Grades may be viewed, and unofficial transcripts are available onthe 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 areview by the Instructor of Record. If the matter is not resolved at this level, the student should submit awritten request for a grade appeal to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. A student has no more

thantwo (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 their designee, is the final decision. The Dean's (or designee's) decisions related to grades are not appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process).

A student may also appeal a course grade if they believe 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 outof 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 firstsemester 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 2022 and beyond, one (1) elective credit is required in order to graduate. Students entering the Doctor of Optometry program in fall 2021 or earlier are required to complete two (2) elective credits. All elective credits must be completed prior to the start of 4th year curriculum.

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 forthe 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 clinicalskills (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 studentsfrom different disciplines learn from each other as they provide a team approach to the delivery of healthcare 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	An Interprofessional Approach 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	5.50
OPTM 5042	Vision Science I: Visual Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology	3.00
OPTM 5043	Basic Science I	2.50
OPTM 5050	Optical Science I: Geometrical and Ophthalmic Optics I	4.00
OPTM 7001	Patient Care Services I	0.50
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 1.00
	Semester Total:	**22.00-23.00**
Year 1, Spring Semester		
Course	**Title**	**Credit Hours**
IPE 5100	An Interprofessional Approach 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 5143	Basic Science II	2.50
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	0.50
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 1.00
	Semester Total:	**21.00-22.00**
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 5252	Optical Science III: Geometrical Optics II	2.00
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 1.00
	Semester Total:	**8.50-9.50**
	First Year Total:	**51.5-54.5**

Year 2

Year 2, Fall Semester		
Course	**Title**	**Credit Hours**
IPE 6000	Interprofessional 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 IV: Ophthalmic Optics II	2.50
OPTM 6073	Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma	3.00
OPTM 6076	Ocular Disease: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Clinical Decision Making for the Anterior Segment	4.00
OPTM 7003	Patient Care Services III	0.50
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 1.00
	Semester Total:	**21.00-22.00**
Year 2, Spring Semester		
Course	**Title**	**Credit Hours**
IPE 6100	Interprofessional 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	0.50
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 1.00
	Semester Total:	**20.00-21.00**
Year 2, Summer Semester		
Course	**Title**	**Credit Hours**
OPTM 6250	Integrative Clinical Analysis II	1.50
OPTM 6260	Optometry Review Course I	1.00
OPTM 6272	Special Considerations in Pediatrics	2.50
OPTM 7005	Patient Care Services V	2.50
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00 – 1.00
	Semester Total:	**7.50-8.50**
	Second Year Total:	**48.5-51.5**

Year 3

Year 3, Fall Semester		
Course	**Title**	**Credit Hours**
OPTM 7006	Patient Care Services VI	4.50
OPTM 8011	Contact Lenses II: Theory and Practice	3.50
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	2.50
OPTM 8081	Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation II: Strabismus and Amblyopia	3.00
	Semester Total:	**17.00**
Year 3, Spring Semester		
Course	**Title**	**Credit Hours**
OPTM 7007	Patient Care Services VII	4.50
OPTM 8120	Principles and Practice of Optometry VI: Surgical Eye Care	2.50
OPTM 8150	Integrative Clinical Analysis III	1.50
OPTM 8161	Optometry Review Course III	1.00
OPTM 8170	Grand Rounds	2.00
OPTM 8182	Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation III: The Neurologically Challenged Patient	2.00
OPTM ELCX	Elective Coursework	0.00-1.00
	Semester Total:	**13.50-14.50**
	Third Year Total:	**30.5-31.5**

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: 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 CurriculumCommittee, the faculty, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and the Dean of the College of Optometry, or Dean's designee.

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

IPE 5000 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 will introduce professions across various fields with content related to roles, responsibilities, team, teamwork, communication, values and ethics. Introductory level content related to cultural humility, social determinants of health, and health systems will be explored. Activities in this course may include exposure level asynchronous lectures, interactive health professions program exposure, and in-person group/team experiences. Experiences will integrate elements common to all professionals such as ethical, behavioral, social, and psychological. This course is a graduation requirement for all health professional programs with attendance required. Absences may be excused but this does not exclude students from the responsibilities associated with the course and required for its completion.

IPE 5100 An Interprofessional Approach II (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is a required university seminar for all first-year health professional students. Working in interprofessional teams, this course builds upon the knowledge and experience gained in the IPE 5000 course. Activities in this course may include asynchronous lectures, clinical scenario role-playing, synchronous discussion sessions, in-person/group team experiences, health events. Experiences will integrate elements common to all professionals such as ethical, behavioral, social, and psychological with increasing levels of complexity. This course is a graduation requirement for all health professional programs with attendance required. Absences may be excused but this does not exclude students from the responsibilities associated with the course and required for its completion.

IPE 6000 Interprofessional 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 elevate learning activities deeper in the immersion phase expanding upon knowledge gained in previous IPE courses with additional community health event planning experiences to apply advanced tools and strategies that are crucial in working as a collaborative healthcare team. Activities in this course include immersion phase level activities such asynchronous recorded lectures, mock patient experiences, synchronous discussion sessions, in-person/group team experiences related to health systems, patient advocacy, health event planning, and/or interprofessional research exposure. This course is a graduation requirement for all health professional programs with attendance required. Absences may be excused but this does not exclude students from the responsibilities associated with the course and required for its completion.

IPE 6100 Interprofessional Team Training in Health Care II (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course continues to build on experiences in IPE 6000. In a culminating semester for the foundational IPE course series, students will deepen their knowledge gained in prior IPE courses and the current IPE 6100 entry-level content via asynchronous lecture and through activities that can include health event planning, community health learning event, team/group in-person experiences related to health systems, patient advocacy, and/or interprofessional research exposure. This course is a graduation requirement for all health professional programs with attendance required. Absences may

be excused but this does not exclude students from the responsibilities associated with the course and required for its completion.

OM 5001 Summer Preparedness and Readiness Course (SPaRC) (0 credit hours, CR/NCR)
In an interprofessional environment, SPaRC prepares incoming students for the rigors of their program with an introduction to various curriculum topics including the skeletal system, gross anatomy, and pharmacology. The anatomy component focuses on the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular, nervous, and other body systems. Additional lecture overviews to program-specific content are also provided. Academic skills presentations focus on enhancing study, test taking, and the development of EQ skills. Acceptance into this program is at the discretion of the coordinating office. The course is elective and doesnot meet any specific requirements of the program curriculum. A separate tuition is charged. For additional information, contact the Office of Learning Enhancement and Academic Development (LEAD).

OPTM 5001 Introduction to Optometry (1.5 credit hours, CR/NCR)
This course guides students into the transition for rigorous study required for graduate health professional students, develops appropriate use of optometric and medical terminology, and provides important information about the profession of optometry. The course is comprised of three sections including success as an optometry student, preparing for future practice, and envisioning your future. Guest speakers will talk about the pathway to success to become a caring, comprehensive health care professional who will serve the needs of a diverse global society.

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 (5.5 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 thenumerous clinical syndromes that affect them as they pertain to optometric practice.

OPTM 5042 Vision Science I: Visual Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology (3.0 credit hours)
This course introduces the basic principles of structure, function, and the underlying mechanisms of vision from a neuroanatomical and neurophysiological perspective. It includes the construction of representations of the world via neural information processing from the retina to the tectum, primary visual cortex, and visual areas beyond the striate cortex. Additional topics will include development, nervous system cells, neurotransmission, the ventricular system, and the brain's blood supply.

OPTM 5043 Basic Sciences I (2.5 credit hours)
This course provides foundational knowledge in the basic sciences, emphasizing genetics, cell and molecular biology, histology, and biochemistry. Topics include genetic inheritance patterns, DNA

structure and replication, cellular processes such as transcription and translation, tissue organization and function, and biochemical pathways critical to human physiology. The course establishes a scientific basis for understanding cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying health and disease.

OPTM 5050 Optical Science I: Geometrical and Ophthalmic Optics I (4.0 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 integratesnew 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, druginteractions, and contraindications. Additionally, a review of the pathophysiology of systemic diseases asit relates to current drug treatment paradigms will reinforce the connection between the medications and their corresponding indications.

OPTM 5143 Basic Sciences II (2.5 credit hours)
This course introduces essential concepts in immunology, microbiology, and pathophysiology. Topics include the structure and function of the immune system, host-pathogen interactions, microbial identification and control, and the physiological and biochemical mechanisms of disease processes. The course integrates these disciplines to provide a comprehensive framework for understanding disease etiology and progression.

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. Physiologicaloptics 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. Characteristicsof 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 affectsdepth 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 highlymorbid 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 andsymptoms, 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 willlearn 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 throughone eye. It covers concepts including light stimuli, photometry, signal detection, physiological processingof 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 5252 Optical Science III: Geometrical Optics II (2.0 credit hours)
This course emphasizes the study of refraction at complex lens systems, lens mirrors, monochromatic aberrations, pupils, stops and ports, field of view, field of illumination, prism power and its effectivity for, various clinical scenarios, optics of magnifying lenses, optics of telescopes and tele-microscopes, and optical instruments.

The course also emphasizes the study of schematic eyes, discussed optical aspects of emmetropia and

ametropia, far point and near point of accommodation, correction of ametropia with spectacle lenses, optics of accommodation, optics of astigmatism and optical rules based on clinical tests for astigmatism, and retinal image size in corrected and uncorrected ametropia.

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 careoptometric 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, andelectronic 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 ofclinical assessment, diagnosis, and management are introduced. Case examples are used to illustrate keyconcepts.

OPTM 6050 Optical Science IV: Ophthalmic Optics II (2.5 credit hours)

This course emphasizes the study of spectacle lens material characteristics, spectacle lens aberrations, geometrical measurements, spectacle lens tilt, spectacle lens blank size and base curve calculation, segmented multifocal lenses, and progressive addition lenses. The course also emphasizes frame elements, frame alignment, lens insertion, frame measurements and markings, frame selection, and adjusting a frame to a patient. In addition, the course includes cases and examples of patients with eye glass concerns. Students will resolve the needs of the patient through the application of ophthalmic optics formulas and principles, and practice prescription writing.

OPTM 6073 Ocular Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma (3.0 credit hours)

This course covers the pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with all formsof glaucoma, with an emphasis on evidence-based therapeutic interventions. The course includes technique and interpretation of ancillary glaucoma tests and glaucoma diagnosis and management through lectures and small group activities. Topical and systemic medical therapies will be emphasized. The course will also discuss current surgical managementof 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. Advancedconcepts 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 approachwill 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, lensmodifications, 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 detectionof common normal and abnormal findings. This course completes the integration of clinical skills into thecomprehensive 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 rehabilitationstrategies.

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 inorganizing their previous course material, and develop effective study strategies in preparation for patient care and national licensing examinations.

OPTM 6272 Special Considerations in Pediatrics (2.5 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 normalgrowth and development with an emphasis on expected visual development from birth through childhoodwill 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 facultymembers. 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 (0.5 credit hour, HO/P/R/NP)
This clinical course provides direct patient care experiences in community-based vision screenings. The student will perform a variety of activities including vision screenings, technician and paraoptometric testing. 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 grade in PPO-I is a pre-requisite for matriculation to PCS-II.

OPTM 7003 Patient Care Services III (0.5 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, auxiliaryclinical 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 (0.5 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 isa 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 (2.5 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)
Students will be assigned to provide direct care in primary eye care in the on-campus facility or affiliated clinical sites. They may also rotate through different specialty services (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation, Optometric Vision Therapy, and Specialty Contact lenses). 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. Students will also participate in lectures, grand round presentations, and small groups problem-based learning format.

OPTM 7006 Patient Care Services VI (4.5 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)
Students will be assigned to provide direct care in primary eye care in the on-campus facility or affiliated clinical sites. They may also rotate through different specialty services (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation, Optometric Vision Therapy, and Specialty Contact lenses). Students will be supervised by licensed optometrists who are faculty or auxiliary clinical faculty members. Students will assume an increasing role and increasing responsibility for the delivery of patient care. Students will also participate in discussions, grand round presentations, and/or small groups problem-based learning format. Completion of the course will require demonstration of patient care competency and skills assessment. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I through IV is a prerequisite for matriculating to PCS-VI.

OPTM 7007 Patient Care Services VII (4.5 credit hours, HO/P/R/NP)
Students will be assigned to provide direct care in primary eye care in the on-campus facility or affiliated clinical sites. They may also rotate through different specialty services (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation, Vision Rehabilitation, Optometric Vision Therapy, and Specialty Contact lenses). Students will be supervised by licensed optometrists who are faculty or auxiliary clinical faculty members. Students will assume an increasing role and increasing responsibility for the delivery of patient care. Students will also participate in discussion, grand round presentations, and/or small groups problem-based learning format. Completion of the course will require demonstration of patient care competency and skills assessment. Earning a passing grade in PPO-I through IV is a prerequisite for matriculating to 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. 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. Earninga 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 toa wide variety of clinical conditions. 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. Atthe 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. Earninga passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculatingto 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 toa wide variety of clinical conditions. 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. Atthe 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. Earninga passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculatingto 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 toa wide variety of clinical conditions. 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. Atthe 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. Earninga passing grade in PPO I through VI and successful completion of PCS VII are prerequisites for matriculatingto 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 forspecialized contact lenses including keratoconic lenses, therapeutic lenses, post-surgical patients and contact lenses for infants will be discussed.

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, punctual occlusion, punctual 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, aidstudents 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 (2.5 credit hours) This course will introduce students to neuro-ophthalmic thinking, history, and examination techniques. Aproblem-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 assessmentof 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 RehabilitationI: 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 (2.5 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 managementand 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 course provides an individualized review of information and problem solving for studentswho 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, or Dean's designee. Tuition for this course cannot becovered by financial aid.

OPTM 8150 Integrative Clinical Analysis III (1.5 credit hour)
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 (1.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)
This course will cover previously taught material that is relevant to the clinical practice of Optometry, aidstudents in organizing their previous course material, and develop effective study strategies in preparation for national licensing examinations.

OPTM 8170 Grand Rounds (2.0 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 ofmultiple 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: How to Make a Living as an Optometrist (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
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.

Elective Courses

OPTM 5099 Elective I One and Done: Applied Basic Sciences IA (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is designed to provide students with structured support through collaborative study groups, guided by faculty advisors, to enhance their learning and performance in the first year of the OD program. The course will focus on strategies proven to improve retention and comprehension of material critical for success in both coursework and the NBEO examinations. The course also fosters a mutual partnership among students, encouraging the development of a student-driven study guide, participation in mock exams, and active involvement in peer learning sessions. 1st Year, Fall.

OPTM 5199 Elective II One and Done: Applied Basic Sciences IIA (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is designed to provide students with structured support through collaborative study groups, guided by faculty advisors, to enhance their learning and performance in the second year of the OD program. The course will focus on strategies proven to improve retention and comprehension of material critical for success in both coursework and the NBEO examinations. The course also fosters a mutual partnership among students, encouraging the development of a student-driven study guide, participation in mock exams, and active involvement in peer learning sessions. 1st Year, Spring.

OPTM 6099 Elective III One and Done: Applied Basic Sciences IB (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is designed to provide students with structured support through collaborative study groups,

guided by faculty advisors, to enhance their learning and performance in the first year of the OD program. The course will focus on strategies proven to improve retention and comprehension of material critical for success in both coursework and the NBEO examinations. The course also fosters a mutual partnership among students, encouraging the development of a student-driven study guide, participation in mock exams, and active involvement in peer learning sessions. 2nd Year, Fall.

OPTM 6199 Elective IV One and Done: Applied Basic Sciences IIB (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is designed to provide students with structured support through collaborative study groups, guided by faculty advisors, to enhance their learning and performance in the second year of the OD program. The course will focus on strategies proven to improve retention and comprehension of material critical for success in both coursework and the NBEO examinations. The course also fosters a mutual partnership among students, encouraging the development of a student-driven study guide, participation in mock exams, and active involvement in peer learning sessions. 2nd Year, Spring

OPTM 6297 Elective VI Advanced Topics in Diabetes and Diabetes-Related Eye Disease (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course will consider a range of topics regarding diabetes and its ocular manifestations, allowing students to be maximally prepared to deliver excellent optometric care to their patients with diabetes. Topics will include: a deeper dive into the underlying biology of diabetes, diabetic retinopathy and other complications common to the disorder; understanding systemic diabetes drugs to allow practitioners to not only save vision, but also patients' lives; up-to-the-minute evidence-based recommendations for treating diabetes-related eye disease and resources for getting reliable information for both doctors and patients; practical considerations for working and communicating with other diabetes care providers including retinal specialists, primary care providers, and endocrinologists; how to be an effective diabetes educator in optometric practice; advanced imaging and functional vision tests for detection of diabetes-related eye disease; efficient assessment of patient lifestyle and relevant environmental/nutritional recommendations; diabetes and diabetic retinopathy case examples allowing students to work through common and not-so-common patient presentations in a fun, interactive and thought-provoking environment. This course is taught by an optometrist specializing in diabetes eye care & education who has had diabetes himself for 50 years. 2nd Year, Summer.

OPTM 6298 Elective VII Introduction to Medical and Vision Insurance (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
The course introduces the historical, authoritative, and legal relationship of a managed medical and vision plan to its contracted providers. The claims submission, rejection, and denial processes will be reviewed. Lastly strategies for financial and professional audits are compared and explained to minimize financial and contractual consequences. 2nd Year, Summer.

OPTM 8099 Elective IV One and Done: Applied Basic Sciences IIIA (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is designed to provide students with structured support through collaborative study groups, guided by faculty advisors, to enhance their learning and performance in the third year of the OD program. The course will focus on strategies proven to improve retention and comprehension of material critical for success in both coursework and the NBEO examinations. The course also fosters a mutual partnership among students, encouraging the development of a student-driven study guide, participation in mock exams, and active involvement in peer learning sessions. 3rd Year, Fall

OPTM 8199 Elective IV One and Done: Applied Basic Sciences IIIB (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)
This course is designed to provide students with structured support through collaborative study groups, guided by faculty advisors, to enhance their learning and performance in the third year of the OD

program. The course will focus on strategies proven to improve retention and comprehension of material critical for success in both coursework and the NBEO examinations. The course also fosters a mutual partnership among students, encouraging the development of a student-driven study guide, participation in mock exams, and active involvement in peer learning sessions. 3rd Year, Spring

OPTM 8198 Elective V Advanced Optics Problem-Solving: A Comprehensive Review (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This elective course offers a comprehensive, problem-based review of optics, specifically tailored for optometry students in their third year, after all core optics courses are finished. Designed to sharpen problem-solving skills, the course is structured around seven main pillars: Geometrical Optics, Physical Optics, Ophthalmic Optics, Optics of Ametropia, Low Vision Optics, Contact Lens Optics, and Ophthalmic Instruments. 3rd Year, Spring

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 duringHonor's Day:

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 in held in May just before graduation. The following are examplesof 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 2025	
June 2, 2025	Fall Classes Begin (Year 4)
July 4, 2025	Independence Day Observed, No Classes*
August 4-8, 2025	Orientation/Welcome Week (Year 1)
August 9, 2025	White Coat Ceremony (Year 1)
August 11, 2025	Fall Classes Begin (Years 1-3)
September 1, 2025	Labor Day, No Classes*
October 8-11, 2025	American Academy of Optometry
October 13, 2025	Indigenous Peoples' Day
November 7, 2025	Fall Classes End (Year 4)
November 11, 2025	Veterans Day Observed – No Classes*
November 26, 2025	Thanksgiving Recess Begins @ 5:00 p.m.*
December 1, 2025	Fall Classes Resume
December 18, 2025	Fall Classes End (Years 1-3)
December 19, 2025	Winter Recess Begins (Years 1-3)
Spring 2026	
November 17, 2025	Spring Classes Begin (Year 4)
January 5, 2026	Spring Classes Begin (Years 1-3)
January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Classes*
February 16, 2026	Presidents' Day, No Classes*
March 16, 2026	Spring Break Begins (Years 1-3)
March 16-19, 2026	Board Examinations, No Classes (Year 3)
March 23, 2026	Spring Classes Resume (Years 1-3)
May 8, 2026	Spring Classes End (Year 4)
May 15, 2026	Spring Classes End (Years 1-3)
May 18-20, 2026	WesternU Commencement
Summer 2026	
May 25, 2026	Memorial Day, No Classes*
May 26, 2026	Summer Classes Begin (Year 2)
June 1, 2026	Summer Classes Begin (Year 1)
June 19, 2026	Juneteenth Holiday, No Classes
June 17-20, 2026	AOA Optometry's Meeting
July 3, 2026	Independence Day Holiday Observed, No Classes
July 6, 2026	Summer Classes Resume (Years 1-2)
July 24, 2026	Summer Classes End (Years 1-2)
4th Year Externship Dates	
Externship 1	June 2, 2025 – August 15, 2025
Externship 2	August 25, 2025 – November 7, 2025
Externship 3	November 17, 2025 – February 13, 2026
Externship 4	February 23, 2026 – May 8, 2026

**Students in clinical courses observe their preceptor's hours, which may include working on federalholidays.*

The Optometric Oath

With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I AFFIRM that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.

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 the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I WILL work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.

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 Doctor of Optometry 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 a Doctor of Optometry.

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

Adopted by the American Optometric Association