

## Aid for Canadian Students

Students applying for financial aid will be required to contact the Canadian Student Loan Program directly for information and applications:

**Human Resources Development Canada  
Education Support**

Student Assistance Branch  
Post Office Box 2090, Station "D"  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6C6

**T:** (212) 938-5500 / 800-291-3937

**F:** (819) 953-6057



33 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036  
P. 212-938-4000  
[www.sunyopt.edu](http://www.sunyopt.edu)

# FINANCIAL AID & HOUSING GUIDE



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

## Is SUNY a good value?

SUNY College of Optometry is one of the best investments in optometric education in the nation.

The total average cost of an optometric education is shown below as reported in the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry's 2010-2011 Annual Report from data provided by each school and college of optometry in the country. Financial aid is only available to US Citizens or permanent residents.



### THE COST OF OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

Optometry College	All 4 Years In-State Residents	Last 3 Years In-State Residents	All 4 Years Out-of-State Residents
<b>SUNY Optometry</b>	<b>\$157,954</b>	<b>\$173,944</b>	<b>\$221,914</b>
<i>Public Optometry School</i>	\$167,994	\$185,192	\$227,496
<i>Private Optometry School</i>	\$209,405	\$209,231	\$214,231



## How Much Does it Cost to Attend SUNY?

### Tuition and Fees: 2011-2012 Academic Year

Tuition and fees are as follows for the four-year professional program:

	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
<b>Tuition</b>	\$18,600	\$35,710
<b>College Fee</b>	\$25	\$25
<b>Student Activity Fee</b>	\$120	\$120
<b>Tech Fee</b>	\$250	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,995</b>	<b>\$36,105</b>

*\*Out-of-state residents may be eligible for in-state resident tuition after their first year. The average tuition for four years, based upon current rates, would then be \$22,878 per year.*

### Room and Board

A student's average cost for room and board is \$15,000. The average rent for a student living in walking distance to the College is \$1,350 per month. The average rent for a student commuting by subway is \$715 per month. Students are allowed a maximum financial aid allotment of \$13,580 for rent.

### Other Living Expenses

A student's average cost for other living expenses is \$5,220. Actual amounts spent will vary depending on a student's personal preferences. Students are allowed a maximum financial aid allotment of \$5,220 for all other expenses.

**NOTE** Students must make arrangements to have two months living expenses available for startup costs. Financial aid cannot be disbursed until you have enrolled in August.

# What Type of Aid is Available?

## GRANTS

**Grants are aid given to students generally on the basis of financial need and do not need to be repaid.**

### **Economically Disadvantaged First Professional Degree Students Program**

Students may receive between **\$500 to \$5,000** based on funding and eligibility determined from the SUNY College of Optometry Financial Aid form and a Needs Analysis form.

### **Graduate Opportunity Waiver**

Partial tuition waivers are granted to students who have participated in an undergraduate opportunity program such as EOP, HEOP or SEEK. Waivers are granted based on need and available funding.

### **Cultural Diversity Scholarship**

To be eligible for the Cultural Diversity Scholarship, a student must submit an essay and application each demonstrating how he/she can contribute to the diversity of the student body.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Scholarships are generally awarded on the basis of meritorious academic performance, need or a combination of both. Scholarships do not need to be repaid.**

### **Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students**

Students may receive between **\$3,000 to \$6,000** on average through the Disadvantaged Students Scholarship. The student must be from an economically disadvantaged background. Parental information is used to determine eligibility.

### **OCNY Scholarship**

Fifteen to 20 scholarships between **\$500 to \$2,000** are given to students with academic merit and financial need.

### **Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation and Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation Merit Scholarships**

Ten scholarships at **\$1,500** are awarded to the top 10 candidates in each class. Annual renewal of the scholarship is contingent upon remaining in the top 10 of the class.

## Armed Services Scholarships

Several branches of the Armed Services offer scholarships and stipends in exchange for post-graduation service. Please contact the individual branch you are interested in for more information.

## LOANS

**Educational loans are generally lower interest alternatives to market rate loans. Many have federal or state subsidies and delayed interest and/or principal repayments until after the academic program is completed.**

### Federal Perkins Loan Program

Qualified students may be awarded between **\$500 to \$2,000** each year at 5% interest.

### Health Professions Student Loans

Qualified students may be awarded **\$250 to \$6,000** at 5% interest. Parental information is used to determine eligibility.

### Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans

**Up to \$40,500** per year can be borrowed by the student depending on eligibility. The student pays interest while in school. The interest rate is fixed at 6.80%.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Employment for students can be part time at the College. The hours are flexible and are scheduled around the Academic Program.**

### College Work Study

Limited part-time employment may be available at the College. Students may be eligible to work outside the College after the 1st year, if they can show economic hardship. **\$500 to \$4,000** annually, based on need, can be earned by the student while working at the College.

### College Temporary Service Employment

Although not awarded as financial aid, students can be employed by an individual or by a faculty researcher with College funds.



# Housing

Moving to New York City (NYC) is an exciting transition, one that allows students to experience the benefits of living in one of the most vibrant cities in the world as they gain independence, discipline and maturity.

The Office of Student Affairs understands that this may be an overwhelming process for new students so we have a number of resources to assist you in the next chapter of your life in the Big Apple.

**Living in NYC is affordable.** NYC is divided into five boroughs: Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. Each borough has unique neighborhoods that will vary in price and distance from the College. Choosing your borough and neighborhood wisely is the first step for a good housing experience. While living in some parts of NYC can be expensive, there are many affordable options available to students. Parts of Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn are the most popular neighborhoods amongst our students. The Class of 2015 reported paying rents ranging from \$600 to \$2,000 per month. With enough time to look for an apartment, you will find a place that fits your budget.

**NYC is safe.** NYC is rated as the safest big city in the US according to the FBI. Just like with any city, there are parts of NYC that should be avoided, and the SUNY Housing Committee can help you identify the best areas in which to live. Remember that NYC has changed a lot in the past 30 years and what was true then is definitely not true now.

**Getting around NYC is easy.** With one of the best public transportation systems in the nation, moving around NYC is very easy. The *US News and World Report* ranks NYC's public transportation system as the second best in the nation. You will not need a car as you can get anywhere you want to go using public transportation.

**Many housing options are available in NYC.** Moving to NYC is much easier than it seems. Below are a number of services offered by the College to assist you with your housing needs and to help you transition into the next chapter of your life. As you search for a place to live, remember that you are not alone. We're here to help!

## Housing Committee

The SUNY Optometry Housing Committee provides information that will help you understand the apartment search

process in NYC. Students set their priorities regarding cost, space, distance and area, and the Housing Committee assists the student in locating and securing suitable housing to meet his/her specific needs.

The Housing Committee provides advice, maps of the city, directions, use of our telephones and online services and any other assistance you may require. The Housing Committee operates under the direction of the Financial Aid Office between April and September.

### **Social Media**

Every year we create a Facebook page for the incoming class where current students who are looking for roommates can contact you directly and offer housing opportunities. Social media makes the process of finding a roommate much less stressful.

### **Housing Day**

SUNY Optometry also sponsors an annual Housing Day in July where students can receive additional information about housing options. Students will have the opportunity to speak to upper-class students about living in the different boroughs and, possibly, will receive a list of available apartments or sublets.

### **Big Sibling**

In our "Big Sibling Program," incoming students are matched with upper-class students who can offer advice on how to find an apartment, adjust to life in the city and become familiar with the SUNY curriculum. Big Siblings are assigned in June and July.

### **Housing Websites**

Most apartments available for rent beginning in August will usually be on the market no sooner than July. Start looking online beginning mid-June to get a better understanding of rent in NYC and surrounding areas. Beware of internet scams. Never make a deposit before personally visiting an apartment and always remember the old adage, "if it is too good to be true, it probably is."

### **Helpful Websites:**

*newyork.craigslist.org*

*bestaptsnyc.com*

*nytimes.com*

*villagevoice.com*

*gramercyrly.com*

*cityrealty.com*

*nofeereals.com*

*halsteadproperty.com*

*corcoran.com*

*citi-habitats.com*

*rent-direct.com*

*sublet.com*

*apartmentsource.com*