

THE DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY (O.D.) DEGREE

The four-year Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program at SUNY College of Optometry is highly selective and academically rigorous. Over four years, students examine and treat an unparalleled array of ocular diseases and visual conditions at the College's state-of-the-art patient care facility, University Eye Center. Students improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills through challenging coursework in biological and visual sciences.

Even in the first year, students are exposed to patient care with faculty who help to integrate classroom material with what they are observing clinically. During the third and fourth years, student interns complete rotations in all specialty areas, including two quarters at off-campus hospitals and other health care facilities as part of the External Clinical Education Program.

SPECIALTY AREAS

- Pediatrics
Infants Vision
Vision Therapy
Strabismus
Perceptual Assessments
Low Vision
- Adults with Disabilities
Glaucoma
Ocular Disease
Cornea
Special Testing
Lasers
- Dispensing
Contact Lens
Head Trauma
Binocular & Accommodative
Learning Disabilities

At a Glance

Degrees awarded O.D., Ph.D., M.S./O.D. and O.D./Ph.D., M.S. in Vision Science (separate application for each)	Full-time faculty 77
Total four-year enrollment 302	Part-time faculty 81
Applicants (entering class of 2014) 664 applicants for 78 seats	Research National Eye Institute grants 11
Female/male ratio approx. 70%/30%	External grants \$3.4 million
Typical GPA of entering classes 3.5	Clinical Education Number of patient encounters by a student over four years 1,500-2,000
Range of GPA of entering classes 2.8-4.0	National Board average pass rate Average of 95% of SUNY students pass the licensing exam on their first attempt
Alumni 2,000	
Faculty 158 Ph.D.s, O.D.s and M.D.s	

JOIN US.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY (O.D.) DEGREE

JOIN US.

THE SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY offers students an outstanding optometric education and clinical experience in one of the most vibrant cities in the world. Founded in 1971, the College houses the University Eye Center, one of the largest in-house vision care clinics in the country. We are committed to academic excellence, improving patients' lives, enhancing public health through education and advancing the field of vision science.

CONTACT

SUNY College of Optometry
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www.sunyopt.edu

Office of Student Affairs and Admissions
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Admissions@sunyopt.edu

The SUNY College of Optometry is accredited by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York (State Education Department). It is regionally accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Its professional program and its programs of residency education are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association.

The College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, national origin, age, disability or residence in its admission policy.

In compliance with Federal regulations, the College's Annual Security Report can be viewed at <http://www.sunyopt.edu/police/reports.shtml>.



In 2009, 94% passed Part 1, 100% passed Part 2 and 99% passed Part 3 on the first attempt.

SUNY students consistently exceed the average national pass rate on the National Board of Examiners in Optometry exams.

ADMISSIONS

We consider the whole student during the admission process. Competitive undergraduate GPAs and OAT scores are only two of the factors we use to decide if a candidate is a good fit for us. The Committee on Admissions also considers the quality of the candidate’s undergraduate institution, type of program pursued, progression of grades, extracurricular activities, leadership and community involvement, communication and interpersonal skills, letters of recommendation, personal interview and commitment to the profession.

Out-of-state and foreign residents are encouraged to apply. We do not discriminate against out-of-state residents for admission. Most out-of-state USA citizens are eligible for in-state tuition after one year at SUNY.

1 Academic Requirements

Although a four-year baccalaureate degree is highly recommended, students may matriculate after successfully completing three years (90 semester credits from a four year college or university) of study.

REQUIRED COURSES	SEMESTER(S)	QUARTER(S)
General Biology (with lab)	2	3
General Chemistry (with lab)*	2	3
General Physics (with lab)	2	3
Organic Chemistry (with lab)*	2	3
Calculus**	1	1
English Composition and Literature	2	3
Social Science	2	3
General Psychology	1	1
Statistics	1	1

*Biochemistry may be substituted for one term. **Students must be able to apply elementary differential equations (particularly simple exponential processes) to practical scientific problems.

Advanced level courses that demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge expected from the prerequisites may be taken instead if approved by the Director of Admissions.

RECOMMENDED COURSES	SEMESTER	QUARTER
Microbiology	1	1
Biochemistry	1	1



3 Rolling Admissions

Most candidates apply through the Rolling Admissions option. The Committee on Admissions begins to make decisions early in the year. We strongly encourage submitting applications as early as possible. Applications can be submitted as early as July 15 (a year prior to entry), but no later than March 1 of the year the applicant plans to enroll.

2 Application Materials

Application

All application materials must be submitted through the Common Application found at optomcas.org.

Transcripts

Official transcripts of all college courses taken to date must be submitted by the institutions through optomcas.org.

Letters of recommendation

A letter of recommendation must be prepared and sent by the Pre-professional Committee at the undergraduate school where you completed the majority of your pre-professional courses through optomcas.org. If a committee exists and cannot submit a letter of recommendation, a letter from that committee indicating why, must be submitted directly to SUNY.

If there is no such committee at your undergraduate school, you must submit three letters of recommendation of your

choice. Two of the three must assess academic performance in the science or math areas.

OAT scores

Applicants should take the Optometric Admissions Test (OAT) by the fall of the application year, but OATs taken after March 1 in the calendar year you wish to enroll will not be accepted for Rolling Admissions. For more details on the OAT and where to take it, go to <https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>. Scores should be sent directly to the College.

SAT/ACT scores

An official report of all scores achieved on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT) if taken in high school should be submitted directly to the College. We accept scores submitted on an official high school transcript

All course requirements should be met by enrollment at an accredited four-year college or university. The courses should specifically be offered for departmental majors or pre-professional students and should not be survey courses. Letter grades should be awarded for all required courses and completed with a grade of C or better.

4 Early Decision

This option is designed for applicants who wish to obtain a commitment prior to entering their final undergraduate year. In order to be considered for Early Decision, applicants must have no more than two prerequisite courses still to be taken. Applicants must have overall and prerequisite math and science GPAs of at least 3.5, with no prerequisite grade below C, from a four-year college or university, and an OAT score of at least 340 (taken no later than September 1 of that year).

All materials and documents must be sent directly from the source to SUNY.

EARLY DECISION TIMELINE Prior to entering final undergraduate year

Submission of Early Decision application May 1 – July 1

A separate Early Decision application (downloadable at www.sunyopt.edu/prospective/applications.shtml) along with a \$75 fee must be submitted between May 1 and July 1 a year prior to matriculation.

Deadline for submission of other application materials by July 15

Other application materials (transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, letters of recommendation) must be submitted by July 15 of that year directly to the College.

Submission of Common Application July 15 – July 30

The Common Application (optomcas.org) must also be completed between July 15 and July 30.

Students accepted through Early Decision are required to submit a \$500 non-refundable deposit within a month of their acceptance.

5 Foreign Applicants and those with Foreign Credentials

Except applicants attending English-language Canadian universities.

In addition to the application materials required of all incoming students, you will need to have your high school and college records evaluated by World Education Services, Inc. More information is available at www.wes.org.

If English is your second language, you will be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if you’ve been in this country for fewer than three years or if the Committee on Admissions requires it of you. A score of 550 or greater is required. More information is available at www.ets.org/toefl.



FINANCIAL AID

Most SUNY students fund their education through educational loans, grants and scholarships. More information about eligibility for the numerous scholarships and grants can be found on the College website.

USA Citizens and Permanent Residents

USA citizens and permanent residents applying for financial aid will be required to submit the following:

- 1) SUNY-Optometry Application for Financial Aid.
- 2) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 3) A signed copy of student’s federal tax forms is required. A signed copy of parents’ federal tax forms may be required, or certification of non-filing status when applicable.*
- 4) Proof of non-taxable income as indicated on the application may be required.

*All graduate and professional students are considered independent. Parental information is required, however, to be considered for tuition waiver programs, HPSL loans and LDS loans.

The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to request additional information and documentation as appropriate.

The application deadline for financial aid is April 15 for the following academic year.

Canadian students applying for financial aid are required to contact the Canadian Student Loan Program directly for information and applications at www.canlearn.ca/.

