



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
**COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

**DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY (OD) DEGREE**

**ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID**



JOIN US.

TOP TEN REASONS WHY  
SUNY OPTOMETRY IS THE  
RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU



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**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.



***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 Admissions Committee 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.*

Advanced level courses that demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge expected from the prerequisites may be taken instead if approved by the Director of Admissions. For a list of possible substitutions, visit [www.sunyopt.edu/prereq](http://www.sunyopt.edu/prereq).



Recommended Courses	Semester	Quarter
Microbiology	1	1
Biochemistry	1	1
Physiology and Anatomy	1	1

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 preprofessional 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.

## 2 Application Materials

### Application

All application materials must be submitted through the Common Application at [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org).

### Transcripts

Official transcripts of all college courses taken to date must be submitted by the institutions through [www.optomcas.org](http://www.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 preprofessional courses through [www.optomcas.org](http://www.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 February 28 in the calendar year in which you wish to enroll will not be accepted for Rolling Admissions. For more 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.



### 3 Rolling Admissions

Most candidates apply through the Rolling Admissions option. The Admissions Committee 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.

**Submission of OptomCAS and supplemental applications:**  
Starting July 1

**Deadline for OAT submission:**  
February 28

**Deadline for application submission:**  
March 1

### 4 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](http://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 TOEFL iBT score of 81 or greater is required. More information is available at [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl).

### 5 3/4 Accelerated Program

SUNY Optometry and 25 colleges and universities in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania offer an affiliation program to highly qualified students whereby students may complete a joint BS or BA degree and OD degree in just seven years instead of the usual eight. More information is available at [www.sunyopt.edu/34](http://www.sunyopt.edu/34).



# THE DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY (OD) DEGREE

The four-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) 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, the 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 three quarters at off-campus hospitals and other healthcare 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**

**Special Testing**

**Dispensing**

**Contact Lens**

**Head Trauma**

**Binocular & Accommodative**

**Learning Disabilities**

**Dry Eye**

**Sports Vision**

**Retina**

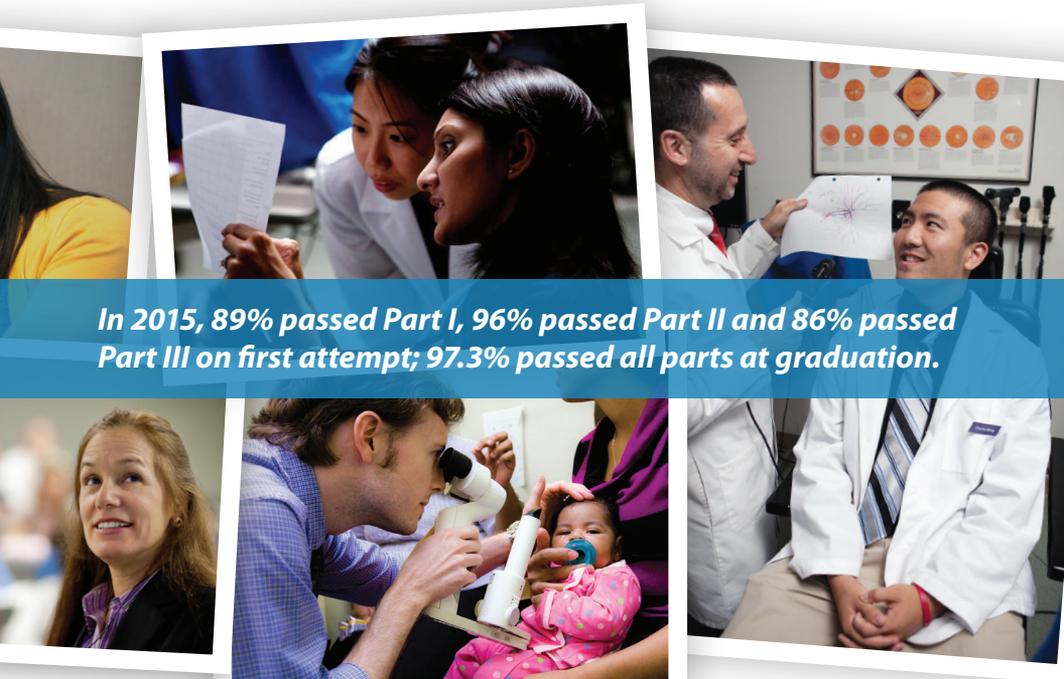
**Cataract**

**Cornea and Refractive Surgery**

**Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease**

**Ocular Plastics**

*In 2015, 89% passed Part I, 96% passed Part II and 86% passed Part III on first attempt; 97.3% passed all parts at graduation.*



# 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](http://www.canlearn.ca). For more financial aid information, visit [www.sunyopt.edu/finaid](http://www.sunyopt.edu/finaid).



## At a Glance

### Degrees awarded

OD, PhD, OD/MS and OD/  
PhD, Vision Science (separate  
application for each)

### Total enrollment

362

### Applicants (entering class)

611 applicants for 98 seats  
(Class of 2018)

### Female/male ratio

approx. 70%/30%

### Average OAT of entering class

345 (Range 310-400)

### Typical GPA of entering classes

3.5 (Range 3.0-4.0)

### Alumni

2,600

### Faculty

103 PhDs, ODs and MDs

### Full-time faculty

60

### Part-time faculty

43

## RESEARCH

### Grants

45

### External grants

\$3.1 million

## CLINICAL EDUCATION

**Number of patient encounters  
by a student over four years**

1,500-2,000

### National Board average pass rate

Average of 95% of SUNY  
students pass the licensing  
exam on their first attempt

## PATIENT CARE

The University Eye Center  
(UEC) is one of the largest  
primary and specialized  
vision care services.

### Patient visits on-site

70,000

## CONTACT

*SUNY College of Optometry*

33 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036

[www.sunyopt.edu/admissions](http://www.sunyopt.edu/admissions)

*Office of Student Affairs and Admissions*

tel: (800) 291-3937 or (212) 938-5500

[Admissions@sunyopt.edu](mailto: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 [www.sunyopt.edu/offices/university\\_police/crime\\_report](http://www.sunyopt.edu/offices/university_police/crime_report).

[www.sunyopt.edu/explore](http://www.sunyopt.edu/explore)



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