The Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

The four-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) program at SUNY Optometry is highly selective and academically rigorous. Each year, students will have the opportunity to treat an untraditional array of ocular diseases and visual conditions at the College's state-of-the-art patient care facility, the University Eye Center. Students improve clinical skills and problem-solving skills through challenging coursework in biological and visual sciences.

Beginning in the first year, students are exposed to patient care with faculty who help integrate classroom learning with what they are observing clinically. During the third and fourth years, student intern comprehensive rotations in all specialty areas, including three clinical rotations at affiliated hospitals and other healthcare facilities as part of the University Clinical Education Program.

Specialty areas
- Pediatrics
- Contact lenses
- Contact lenses for special needs
- Myopia
- Amblyopia
- Vision rehabilitation
- Uveitis and anterior uveitis
- Head trauma
- Neuro-ophthalmology
- Dry eye
- Special testing
- Glaucoma
- Ocular surface
- Ocular surface disease
- Myopia
- Sports vision

A 70%+30% Female/Male Ratio

1,500-2,000 Patient Encounters

A student will have over 6,000

70% Patient Visits to University Eye Center Per Year (One of the Largest Primary and Specialized Vision Centers in the Nation)

Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

Why Optometry?

1. Make a positive impact
   Improve patients' lives by preventing their vision and detecting and managing ocular diseases, including glaucoma and retinal disease, refractive errors and myopia, and ocular conditions that affect quality of life.

2. Choose your own path
   It’s a dynamic field, with opportunities to work in many different settings, including private or group practice, clinics, hospitals and academia.

3. Enjoy job security
   Optometry is one of the fastest growing health professions and provides stable employment.

4. Find fulfillment
   Optometrists enjoy rewarding professional pathways, regular hours, and a relaxed, congenial work environment.

Admissions Guide
SUNYOPT.EDU/EXPLORE

Estimated Job Growth

17.9% occupational
7.4% national average

The number of jobs for optometry professionals is expected to grow at a slower rate than the average for all occupations.


Vestry and Faculty.

SUNY Optometry is accredited by the Board of Regents of the State University of New York (State Education Department). The College is regionally accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Its professional program and its program 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 religion in its admission policy.

In compliance with federal regulations, the College’s Annual Security Report may be viewed at www.suny.edu/safety/annualsecurityreport.
The Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

The four-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) program at SUNY Optometry is highly selective and academically rigorous. Over half the students are interviewed 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.

At a Glance

- 100 Students INCOMING CLASS
- 28 States / 4 Countries REPRESENTED IN STUDENT BODY
- 350 Average OAT OF ENTERING CLASS
- 70% Female/Male Ratio
- 3.50 Average GPA OF ENTERING CLASS
- 1:4 Faculty/Student Ratio

- 1,500-2,000 Patient Encounters A STUDENT WILL HAVE OVER EIGHT YEARS
- 70K Patient Visits TO UNIVERSITIES IN EYE CENTER PER YEAR (ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIMARY AND SPECIALIZED VISITORS IN THE NATION)

Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

Why Optometry?

1. Make a positive impact
   Improve patient lives by repairing their vision and detecting and managing ocular diseases, including glaucoma and retinal diseases, refractive errors and myopia, and scarring conditions.

2. Choose your own path
   In a dynamic field, each opportunities to work in many different settings, including private or group practice, clinics, hospitals and academies.

3. Enjoy job security
   Optometry is one of the fastest growing health professions; health care is in short supply, and an aging population pushes more people to seek care over time.

4. Find fulfillment
   No other health career path offers regular hours, and a relaxed, comfortable work environment. Optometry is regarded as one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable health professions.

Percentage of candidates who passed all NBEO parts at graduation
97%

97% NBEO Parts
SUNY Optometry students consistently exceed the national average on the NBEO Parts at graduation.

Estimated Job Growth

17.9%-
2025
- 7.4%-
2019

Ref: https://optometric.org/pdfs/2020/04/od_job_growth

ADMISSIONS GUIDE
SUNYOPT.EDU/EXPLORE

State University of New York College of Optometry
The Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

At a Glance

100 Students
28 States
4 Countries
350 Average OAT of Entering Class

1,500-2,000 Patient Encounters
3.50 Average GPA
1:4 Faculty/Student Ratio

70% Female/Male Ratio
70% Patient Visits to University of Eye Care Clinics

The SUNY College of Optometry is accredited by the Board of Regents of the State University of New York (State Education Department). The College is regionally accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Its professional program and its programs of residency education are fully 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 religion in its admission policy.

In compliance with federal regulations, the College’s Annual Security Report may be viewed at https://optometry.syr.edu/security_report/.

Why Optometry?

1. Make a positive impact

Improve patients' lives by restoring their vision and detecting and managing eye diseases, offering preventative care and disease management, improving quality of life, and reducing economic impact of eye diseases.

2. Choose your own path

Explore a variety of career pathways, from academic research to private practice, and from teaching to government service.

3. Enjoy job security

Optometry is one of the fastest growing health professions; optometrists (ODs) are in high demand, and an aging population pushes more people to seek aid over time than ever before.

4. Find fulfillment

Optometry is a caring profession, requiring regular hours, and a relaxed, organized work environment. Optometry is regarded as one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable health professions.

Estimated Job Growth

17.9% Optometric Services Practitioners

7.4% Optometric Services Practitioners

The above data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Please visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics for more information.
W HY S U N Y O P T M E T R Y

APPLIC ATION PROCESS

The SUNY Optometry Admission Committee considers a full picture of applicants when making admission decisions. For more than 60 years, SUNY Optometry has been committed to providing a diverse student body and accepting applications that result in a high quality of undergraduate education from a wide variety of undergraduate degree programs. To achieve this, the SUNY Optometry Admissions Committee considers applicants based on the following criteria:

1. Academic Requirements

   Required Courses
   - 3.0 or higher GPA
   - SAT/ACT scores

   Recommended Courses
   - Chemistry
   - English

   Additional criteria
   - Letters of recommendation
   - Personal statement

2. Professional Competence

   - Clinical experience
   - Volunteer work
   - Leadership roles

3. Personal Characteristics

   - Motivation
   - Commitment
   - Potential for success in optometry school

If a candidate meets all the criteria and submits a letter of recommendation, they may be invited to interview with the Admissions Committee. Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis. Admissions decisions will be made on a rolling basis, and applicants will be notified of their status once a decision has been made.
**Academic Requirements**

Candidates seeking admission to the SUNY Optometry Program are strongly advised to have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Students who have completed all prerequisite courses and a minimum of three years (90 semester credits) of undergraduate study at an accredited institution will also be considered for admission.

### Requirements
- **Required Courses**
  - General Chemistry with Labs
  - General Physics with Labs
  - Organic Chemistry with Labs
  - Microbiology
  - English Composition and Literature
  - Nutrition
  - General Psychology
  - Anatomy

### Recommended Courses
- Biochemistry
- Anatomy and Physiology

### Additional Information
- SUNY Optometry does not limit the number of courses in which to seek undergraduate college hours. A 2.0 grade point average is required for all prerequisite courses, and they should be completed within the past six years. No prerequisites are available for students whose undergraduate coursework has been completed in six years or more.

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**Value-added programs**

- **OSM650**
  - The combined CVI/OCV Vision Science degree program is designed for students preparing to enter professional schools in optometry or medicine.

- **OSM650/PLP6**
  - The CVI/OCV program prepares students to be clinical optometrists.

- **OSM650/OSM690/PLP6**
  - The combined CVI/OCV program is designed for students preparing to enter professional schools in optometry or medicine.

- **OSM650/PLP6**
  - This program is for students who meet academic requirements for either the combined CVI/OCV or CVI/OCV program.

- **OSM690**
  - This course is for students who meet academic requirements for either the combined CVI/OCV or CVI/OCV program.

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**Application Materials**

All application materials, including official transcripts, must be submitted through the Centralized Application Service (CAS) at www住所.com.

**Letters of Recommendation**

A composite letter of recommendation will be submitted by the pre-professional committee of the college(s) to which you applied. Each letter will contain the majority of your coursework. In addition to the committee’s evaluation, it should include:

- Two letters that assess academic performance in the sciences
- One letter from a prerequisite course you studied

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**Supplemental Questions and Fee**

Once you have designated SUNY Optometry as a school you are applying to within OptCare, you will have access to a drop-down menu of Supplemental Questions. It is your responsibility to select any of the required (SUNY) Supplemental Questions. The SUNY Optometry supplement questions (please use the 54 supplemental fee).

**OAT Scores**

We strongly recommend that you take the OAT before submitting your application. Ideally, submit your application before the start of the CASS application cycle. OAT scores are accepted only by SUNY Optometry. The exam must be taken no earlier than 18 months before the start of the current CAS application cycle. If you take the OAT February 28, 2021 (the calendar year), you may use it. It will not be accepted.

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**Accelerated Programs**

SUNY Optometry and 37 colleges and universities in New York, North Texas, and California, where students may complete a pre-baccalaureate degree and pre-medical training in five years.

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**AUDA Sample Class of 2021**

Rachel Cho, Class of 2021

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**Why SUNY Optometry**

The SUNY Optometry Admissions Committee considers a full picture of applicants when making admission decisions. For more: www.suno.edu/admissions.

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**Rolling Admissions**

1. Students complete a comprehensive curriculum designed to integrate basic sciences with clinical training.
2. First-year students receive extensive clinical training, working with the University Eye Center from day one and taking on more responsible duties as their clinical careers progress.
3. The University Eye Center handles 70,000 annual patient visits, offering students the opportunity to treat a wide variety of eye and vision disorders.
4. Students study in Manhattan, one of the most vibrant cities in the world.
5. Students have access to state-of-the-art clinical laboratories, from virtual reality training labs.
6. Faculty partners with students to conduct eye and vision research that moves the profession forward.
7. SUNY Optometry works with several international partners and offers internships in China and Australia.
8. The College has a remedial facility to foster remedial training.
9. SUNY Optometry offers a more open and diverse student population, contributing to a strong feeling of community.

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**1/2 Joint Degree**

Students in the accelerated program can complete their studies in five years.

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**Foreign applicants**

All foreign applicants must have completed the United States Preprofessional Apps Program (USPAP) for the purpose of obtaining credentials. Foreign applicants will need to have their foreign equivalency evaluated by the World Education Services (WES), which requires an evaluation from WES or a higher required.

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**Faculty**

Matt Geller, O.D., Class of 2015

Rachel Cho, Class of 2021

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**Raymond Farmer, Class of 2021**

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**Application Process**

Admission is conducted on a rolling basis. We encourage early submission of applications, as we review them on a rolling basis.

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**Submission of Application**

Application materials must be submitted through the Centralized Application Service (CAS) at www．scm．com．nz．

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**Deadline for OAT Submissions**

April 1

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**Deadline for OAT Submissions**

April 1

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**Deadline for Application Submission**

March 1

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**Deadline for Application Submission**

March 1

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**Admission to SUNY Optometry**

Admission is conducted on a rolling basis. We encourage early submission of applications, as we review them on a rolling basis.

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**Value-added programs**

- **OSM650**
  - The combined CVI/OCV Vision Science degree program is designed for students preparing to enter professional schools in optometry or medicine.

- **OSM650/PLP6**
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  - This program is for students who meet academic requirements for either the combined CVI/OCV or CVI/OCV program.

- **OSM650**
  - This course is for students who meet academic requirements for either the combined CVI/OCV or CVI/OCV program.
Why SUNY Optometry

Application Process

The SUNY Optometry Admissions Committee considers a full picture of applicants when making admissions decisions. For more information, we invite you to contact us. The SAT is required, and the ACT is optional. All SAT/ACT scores must be submitted electronically. All supporting documents must be submitted online. As a general rule, all applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, but decisions are typically made in early February. The deadline for submission of the application and all supporting documents is March 1.

Value-added programs

Rolling Admissions

Application Materials

All application materials, including official transcripts, must be submitted through the Centralized Application System at www.optomcas.org.

Letters of Recommendation

A composite letter of recommendation must be submitted by your pre-professional committee at the time of application. This letter must be completed by the majority of your coursework. In addition to the committee's evaluation, it should also include:

• Two letters that assess academic performance in the sciences
• One letter from a preceptor you studied

Supplemental Questions and Fee

Once you have designated SUNY Optometry as a school on your CAS application, you will have access to a drop-down menu of Supplemental Questions. It is optional to answer the questions. Some of the questions are mandatory and others are optional. If you choose not to answer them, your application is still considered complete.

OAT Scores

We strongly recommend that you take the OAT before submitting your application. Dates to keep in mind: October, November, or December of your application year. Scores should be sent directly to SUNY Optometry. The exam must be taken no earlier than 18 months before the opening of the current OptomCAS window. If you take the OAT in January, February, or March of the calendar year in which you wish to apply, it will not be accepted.

Academic Requirements

Candidates seeking admission to the SUNY Optometry program are strongly advised to have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Students who have completed all prerequisite courses and a minimum of three years (30 semester credits) of undergraduate study at an accredited institution will also be considered for admission.

Required Courses

Semester(s)

Quarter(s)

General Chemistry (I + II)*
2
3
General Physics (I + II)*
2
2
Organic Chemistry (I + II)*
2
2
English

Prerequisites

Credit Equivalent

General Chemistry (I + II)*

2
3
General Physics (I + II)*

2
2
Organic Chemistry (I + II)*

2
2
English

3
3

Admission to the optometry program is competitive; the College may not be able to accommodate all qualified applicants.

Application Materials

All application materials, including official transcripts, must be submitted through the Centralized Application System at www.optomcas.org.

Letters of Recommendation

A composite letter of recommendation must be submitted by the pre-professional committee at the time of application. In addition to the committee's evaluation, it should also include:

• Two letters that assess academic performance in the sciences
• One letter from a preceptor you studied

Supplemental Questions and Fee

Once you have designated SUNY Optometry as a school on your CAS application, you will have access to a drop-down menu of Supplemental Questions. It is optional to answer the questions. Some of the questions are mandatory and others are optional. If you choose not to answer them, your application is still considered complete.

OAT Scores

We strongly recommend that you take the OAT before submitting your application. Dates to keep in mind: October, November, or December of your application year. Scores should be sent directly to SUNY Optometry. The exam must be taken no earlier than 18 months before the opening of the current OptomCAS window. If you take the OAT in January, February, or March of the calendar year in which you wish to apply, it will not be accepted.

Accelerated Programs

SUNY Optometry and 27 colleges and universities in New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts offer students the opportunity to complete a 4th-year degree and optometry degree concurrently. Students enrolled in these programs must complete a post-Bachelors 4th-year degree and must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA. If you are interested in learning more about the accelerated program, please contact us.

Value-added programs

Rolling Admissions

Application Materials

All application materials, including official transcripts, must be submitted through the Centralized Application System at www.optomcas.org.

Letters of Recommendation

A composite letter of recommendation must be submitted by the pre-professional committee at the time of application. In addition to the committee's evaluation, it should also include:

• Two letters that assess academic performance in the sciences
• One letter from a preceptor you studied
Value-added programs

Application Materials
All application materials, including official transcripts, must be submitted through the Central Application at www.optomeguest.org.

Letters of Recommendation
A composite letter of recommendation must be submitted by the pre-professional committee at your school, preferably through the Central Application. In addition to supporting your education, it should include:
• Two letters that assess academic performance in the sciences
• One letter from a patron/mentor you studied

Academic Requirements
Candidates seeking admission to the SUNY Optometry (20 program are strongly advised to first complete a four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Students who have completed all prerequisite courses and a minimum of three years (60 semester credit) of undergraduate study at an accredited institution will also be considered for admission.

SUNY Optometry does not limit the number of courses in which a candidate may enroll. Acceptance to the program is based on an applicant's overall academic record and the quality of their scientific preparation. Candidates who have completed all prerequisite courses and a minimum of three years (60 semester credit) of undergraduate study at an accredited institution will also be considered for admission.

Required Courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester(s)</th>
<th>Course (s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Year</td>
<td>General Chemistry (4 credit hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Year</td>
<td>General Physics (4 credit hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Year</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry (4 credit hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Year</td>
<td>General Chemistry (4 credit hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Year</td>
<td>General Physics (4 credit hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUNY Optometry is a comprehensive program that is designed to be challenging and will provide valuable experience in a variety of scientific disciplines. Students should consult with their academic advisor to ensure that they are prepared for the rigorous academic requirements.
The Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

The four-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) program at SUNY Optometry is highly selective and academically rigorous. Over the past two decades, we have trained and placed our graduates in a wide array of optometric careers, ranging from private practice to academic medicine.

At a Glance

- 100 Students in the Incoming Class
- 70% Female/Male Ratio
- 28 States / 4 Countries Represented in Student Body
- 350 Average OAT of Entering Class
- 50% Patient Encounters in Optometric Settings
- 1,500-2,000 Patient Encounters Per Year
- 70% Patient Visits To University of Extensive Care Facilities
- 1:4 Faculty/Student Ratio
- 97% Pass Rate
- 70% of 2017-18 graduates continue on to graduate school

Why Optometry?

1. Make a positive impact
   Improve patient lives by treating a broad range of eye diseases and visual disorders.

2. Choose your own path
   Experience a diverse range of patient care opportunities.

3. Enjoy job security
   Optometric professionals are in high demand, with opportunities for job mobility.

4. Find fulfillment
   Optometry is a humanitarian profession, offering the chance to help others.

Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree

Admissions Guide

SUNY Optometry is accredited by the New York State Education Department. The College is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Optometry. The 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 retaliation in its admission policy.

In compliance with federal regulations, the College’s Annual Security Report may be viewed at www.sunyopt.edu/Clery. Suny.edu/study/}

Percentage of candidates who passed all NBEO parts at graduation

97%

150 100 50 0 2013 2015 2017

Reference: https://sunyopt.edu/nbdeo_exams