

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SAINT LOUIS  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
*established 1980*

**Our Vision**

Advancing the Science and Practice of Optometry

**Our Mission**

The mission of the College of Optometry is to promote and provide improved eye and health care for people throughout the country by preparing the next generation of optometrists and vision researchers. To accomplish our mission the faculty, staff and students will pursue excellence within our professional, residency and patient care programs.

**Our Values**

Optometrists, as essential primary eye care providers within an effective health care delivery system, frequently serve as leaders within the community. It is our commitment to demonstrate and instill an appreciation for the following values as we prepare our graduates to fulfill that role with distinction.

Growth—We are committed to creating evidence-based quality educational experiences and engendering a passion for lifelong learning within our students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Individual and collective discipline and perseverance are required for growth. Growth is an essential component of our commitment to make a positive impact upon the community that we serve.

Responsibility—We are committed to the pursuit of excellence, charity and compassion toward others, and to improved quality of life for those who live and work within our community. The fulfillment of that obligation is enabled by a dedication to personal and academic integrity.

Discovery—We are committed to the development and utilization of innovative approaches to maximize learning and improve patient care through research, scholarship and teaching. The pursuit and dissemination of new knowledge fulfills our responsibility to enhance the delivery of eye care and the quality of life for our fellow citizens.

Community—We are committed to supportive and productive relationships within our college, campus, professional and surrounding communities. We have an appreciation for the dignity of others and respect for the diversity that exists within our community. Teamwork and collaboration are essential as we strive to enrich the lives of our fellow citizens.

*Last Revised 2014*

**Goal 1: Recruit and educate highly qualified applicants who will become exemplary practitioners through a quality learning experience**

**Objective 1:** Recruit and retain a diverse student population with the appropriate academic capabilities and education to successfully complete the program of study

**Objective 2:** Maintain a program of academic excellence, which prepares students to enter the practice of optometry with a high level of technical competence, professional behavior and ethical acumen while incorporating curricular change consonant with the evolving practice of optometry

**Objective 3:** Provide a broad range of clinical experiences to produce highly qualified doctors of optometry possessing skills in accord with the evolving practice of optometry and at a high standard of patient care

**Goal 2: Encourage faculty and staff to achieve their highest potential, thereby fostering career satisfaction and creating outstanding role models for their peers and students.**

**Objective 1:** Maintain a system in which, for each year, faculty and staff develop individual action plans consistent with the mission of the College of Optometry

**Objective 2:** Provide the faculty with the opportunity to improve their teaching through enabling access to new technologies and innovative teaching methods, through encouraging the usage of critical thinking and scientific analysis in the classroom and clinics, and through ensuring opportunities to keep abreast of new knowledge in their areas of expertise

**Objective 3:** Faculty salaries remain competitive.

**Objective 4:** Provide staff members with opportunities to enhance their performance through enabling access to new technologies, through fostering intra-College communication, through encouraging active staff engagement in College Vision, Mission, Values, Goals and Objectives, and through ensuring opportunities for staff development.

**Objective 5:** Provide clinic staff opportunities for training which may include in-service, online and off campus opportunities in topics related to the practice of optometry;

**Objective 6:** Staff salaries remain competitive.

**Goal 3 Engage faculty and students in research that adds to new knowledge within the optometric profession, improves teaching, and enhances patient care.**

**Objective 1:** Promote and support faculty and student involvement in research

**Objective 2:** All students develop an understanding of scholarship and research in the health professions

**Objective 3:** Maintain and grow an Optometry Scholar\* Program

**Objective 4:** The College will communicate research findings from the college

**Goal 4: Conduct high quality, accredited post-graduate residency programs that enhance and extend optometric skills beyond entry-level optometry**

**Objective 1:** Continue to develop and expand the residency programs through on-going successful accreditation and the expansion and modification of current programs to maintain high quality.

**Objective 2:** Expand the residency programs by adding additional affiliations and positions as resources allow and opportunities arise.

**Objective 3:** All affiliated and in-house positions are filled by motivated and highly qualified graduates

**Goal 5: Provide high quality continuing education opportunities for optometrists in Missouri and surrounding states**

**Objective 1:** Continue to deliver high quality relevant continuing education opportunities

**Objective 2:** Engage other health care and associated professions on timely topics with the goal of collaboration to optimize education.

**Goal 6: Plan for improvements to the physical facility and equipment and maintain sufficient resources including technology so as to make the environment conducive to the highest level of learning, patient care, research, and service**

**Objective 1:** Establish a system for maintaining, adding, and replacing all equipment in the College, including office equipment, clinical, classroom and laboratory equipment

**Objective 2:** Maintain a system for sustaining all facilities, including University maintained, off-site clinical facilities, as appropriate

**Objective 3:** In light of the significant contributions to new facilities borne by current and future students and considering student recruitment and indebtedness and challenges associated with high educational costs, the College will seek to control the costs of tuition, fees, and equipment

**Objective 4:** In light of declining support from traditional sources of revenue including state appropriations, maintain a process to review operational efficiencies and make recommendations for operational improvements

**Goal 7: Contribute to the social welfare of the community through clinical and related service programs**

**Objective 1:** Provide access to quality vision care for patients in the St. Louis regions, including high-need, at-risk, under-served and indigent populations in the St. Louis region through established clinics and clinical agreements