

# UMSL | Optometry

University of Missouri–St. Louis



# Bulletin

2023-2024

[optometry.umsl.edu](http://optometry.umsl.edu)

The UMSL College of Optometry Bulletin is created and printed within the University of Missouri System. All statements in this publication are subject to change without notice; they are not to be regarded as offers of contract.

The policies of the UMSL College of Optometry comply with the provisions under those laws which forbid discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, handicap, or status as a veteran. Inquiries regarding compliance with these regulations may be directed to the UMSL Office of Affirmative Action, St. Louis, Missouri, 63121-4400, (314) 516-5695.

UMSL  
College of Optometry  
Office of the Dean  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

UMSL home page:	<a href="http://www.umsl.edu">http://www.umsl.edu</a>
College of Optometry home page:	<a href="http://optometry.umsl.edu">http://optometry.umsl.edu</a>
Student Services Admissions:	<a href="http://optometry.umsl.edu/ProspectiveStudents/index.html">http://optometry.umsl.edu/ProspectiveStudents/index.html</a>
Center for Eye Care home page:	(314)516-5131 <a href="https://eyecare.umsl.edu/">https://eyecare.umsl.edu/</a>
Admissions	(314) 516-6263 <a href="http://optometry.umsl.edu">http://optometry.umsl.edu</a>
	1-888-EYE-UMSL
Alumni Services	(314) 516-6263
Director of Academic Programs	(314) 516-6534
Career Placement	(314) 516-6263
Cashier's Office	(314) 516-5151
Continuing Education	(314) 516-5645
Dean	(314) 516-5606
Director of Clinical Operations	(314) 516-6532
Director of Fourth Year Clinical Rotations	(314) 516-5995/5615
Financial Aid	(314) 516-5526
Optometry Work Study	(314) 516-6263
Pre-Optometry Academic Advisory	(314) 516-6263
Residency Programs	(314) 516-6534
Scholarships, Grants, Awards	(314) 516-6263
Student Services	(314) 516-6263
University Eye Center	(314) 516-5131
Veteran Affairs	(314) 516-5705

---

**College of Optometry**  
**At UMSL**  
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 citizens.

*Last Revised 2014*

## Table of Contents

<b>Vision, Mission and Values Statement</b> .....	3	Pre-Optometry Programs.....	33
<b>Optometric Oath</b> .....	7	<b>Fees &amp; Estimated Cost of Education</b> .....	34
<b>Optometry: The Profession</b> .....	8	Education Fees.....	34
<b>Introduction to UMSL</b> .....	10	Late Registration Fee.....	34
UMSL Mission Statement.....	10	Personal Checks.....	34
The University: Academic Structure...	10	Delinquent Indebtedness.....	34
The University: Student Life.....	11	State Reciprocal Agreement.....	34
The University: Graduates.....	12	Estimated Cost of Education.....	34
The University: Accreditation.....	12	<b>Financial Aid</b> .....	36
<b>College of Optometry</b> .....	13	Eligibility for Financial Aid.....	36
History.....	13	Application Process.....	36
Educational Philosophy.....	13	Federal Work-Study (WFS).....	36
Goals.....	14	Veterans Benefits.....	36
Facilities.....	14	Financial Aid Appeal.....	36
University Eye Center.....	14	<b>Loans</b> .....	36
Libraries.....	14	Health Professions Student Loan	
Accreditation.....	14	(HPSL).....	36
Our Graduates.....	15	Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate and	
<b>Patient Care</b> .....	16	Professional Degree Students.....	37
Center for Eye Care.....	16	William D. Ford Federal Direct	
Third Year Patient Care Service.....	16	Student Loan Program.....	37
Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service.....	16	Unsubsidized.....	37
Pupil Project.....	16	<b>Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants</b> .....	37
Contact Lens Service.....	16	Air Force Scholarship.....	37
Low Vision Service.....	16	Alumni Scholarship.....	37
Eye Health Management Service.....	17	Army Scholarship.....	37
Dispensary Service.....	17	Bellingrath Scholarship in Optometry..	37
Fourth Year Externship Program.....	17	(Helen L.) Gadell Scholarship in	
Research.....	17	Optometry.....	37
<b>Faculty</b> .....	18	(Mary M.) Gilbert Scholarship in	
<b>Curricular Outcomes</b> .....	23	Optometry.....	37
<b>Curriculum</b> .....	24	The William R. Jackson, Jr., O.D.	
Academic Program.....	24	Memorial Scholarship.....	37
Four-Year Professional Degree (O.D.)		Dr. Robert A. Koetting Scholarship.....	37
Curriculum.....	24	Merit Scholarship.....	37
Elective Courses in the College of		Merit Minority Scholarship.....	38
Optometry.....	25	Navy Scholarship.....	38
Course Descriptions.....	23	(Dr. A.M.) Skeffington Memorial	
<b>Admission, Application, Selection,</b>		Scholarship.....	38
<b>Acceptance</b> .....	30	Vision Service Plan Scholarship.....	38
Admission Requirements.....	30	Women in Optometry (WinO)	
Admission Test.....	30	Scholarship.....	38
Application Procedures.....	30	<b>Graduation Awards</b> .....	39
Application Deadlines.....	31	Alcon Fourth Year Case Study	
International Students.....	31	Award.....	39
Selection Procedures.....	31	A.M. Skeffington Memorial Scholarship	
Admission Process.....	32	Award.....	39
Immunization.....	32	Clinical Binocular Vision/Vision	
Faculty Vaccination and		Therapy Award.....	39
Credentialing Statement.....	32	Clinical Excellence Award.....	39
Residency.....	33	Clinical Excellence Award.....	39
		Contact Lens Clinical Award.....	39
		Dean's and the Dr. M. Earl McClellan	
		Memorial Awards.....	39
		(William) Feinbloom Low Vision	
		Award.....	39

(Dr. William R.) Jackson, Jr. Memorial Award.....	39	Society for Advancement of Independent Optometry (SAIO).....	46
(Charles C.) Matlock Memorial Award.....	39	Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH).....	46
Ocular Instruments Award of Excellence.....	39	United Optometry Association (UOA). 46	
Silver Medal Award.....	39		
Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care.....	39		
<b>Office of Student Services.....</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Academic Policy.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Student Services.....</b>	<b>41</b>	Positive Work and Learning Environment.....	47
Millennium Student Center.....	41	College of Optometry Code of Conduct.....	47
Emergency Phones.....	41	Credit Hours.....	47
Parking.....	41	Non-Clinical Grading Criteria.....	47
MetroLink Pass Program.....	41	Delayed Grade.....	48
Campus Shuttles.....	41	Grade Point Average (GPA).....	48
Bookstore.....	41	Time Limitations.....	48
Information Technology Services.....	41	Clinical (Patient Care) Grading Criteria.....	48
Student Computing Services.....	41	Clinical Privileges.....	48
Health and Fitness Facilities.....	42	Academic Promotion and Management of Students in Academic Difficulty... 48	
University Health Services.....	42	Grades/Graduation Requirement.....	49
Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program.....	42	Course Waivers.....	49
Standards of Conduct.....	42	Curriculum Changes.....	49
Legal Sanctions.....	42	Dean's List/Dean's List with Honor.....	49
University Discipline.....	42	Leave of Absence.....	49
Health Risks.....	42	Withdrawal from the University.....	50
Resources.....	43	Transcripts.....	50
Non-Smoking Policy.....	43	Commencement Exercises.....	50
Housing.....	43	Retention.....	50
Placement.....	43	Transfer Students.....	50
Upperclass Student Advisory Program.....	43	Confidentiality Policy.....	51
New Student Orientation Program... 44		<b>Residency Programs and Clinical Fellowships.....</b>	<b>52</b>
Tutorial Service.....	44	Hospital Based Optometric Residency Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.....	52
Counseling.....	44	Hospital Based Optometric Residency Robert J. Dole Veterans Affairs Medical Center.....	52
Service to Students with Disabilities... 44		Hospital Based Optometric Residency St. Louis Veterans Affairs Medical Center.....	52
International Student Services.....	44	Hospital Based Pediatric Optometry Residency Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics in Kansas City, MO.....	52
Veteran Affairs.....	44	Residency in Pediatrics and Vision Therapy Rehabilitation .....	52
Minority Affairs.....	44	Residency Program in Cornea/Contact Lens.....	52
<b>Student Activities/Organizations.....</b>	<b>45</b>	Residency in Pediatric Optometry at Children's Wisconsin.....	53
Campuswide Student Government.... 45		Residency Program in Refractive Surgery at Kugler Vision.....	53
<b>Student Organizations.....</b>	<b>45</b>	Washington University Ocular Disease and Contact Lens .....	53
American Academy of Optometry (AAO) American Optometric Association (AOA) and the Missouri Optometric Association (MOA).....	45		
American Optometric Student Association (AOSA).....	45	<b>Continuing Education.....</b>	<b>54</b>
American Optometric Student Association-St. Louis (AOSA-St. Louis).....	45	<b>Licensure.....</b>	<b>54</b>
Beta Sigma Kappa-St. Louis (BSK-St. Louis).....	45	<b>Faculty.....</b>	<b>55</b>
College of Optometrist in Vision Development (COVD).....	45		
Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO).....	46		
Gold Key Honor Society.....	46		
Missouri Optometric Student Association (MOSA).....	46		
National Optometric Student Association-St. Louis (NOSA-St. Louis).....	46		

<b>Collected Rules and Regulations.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Grade Appeal Process.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Profile.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Optometry Academic Calendar for 2023-2024.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Campus Map.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Index.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Curriculum Addendum.....</b>	<b>66</b>

---

## Optometric Oath

With full deliberation I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I will practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I will uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I will provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion, and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I will place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I will hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I will advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I will strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I will share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I will do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.

I hereby commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this, my solemn oath and obligation.

Adopted by the American Optometric Association and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

## Optometry: The Profession

According to the American Optometric Association, Doctors of optometry (O.D.s/optometrists), America's primary eye health care providers, are the frontline of eye and vision care. Doctors of optometry are essential health care providers and are recognized as physicians under Medicare. They examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the eye. In addition to providing eye and vision care, they play a major role in an individual's overall health and well-being by detecting systemic diseases, and diagnosing, treating and managing ocular manifestations of those diseases, and providing vaccinations. Doctors of Optometry;

- Prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses and perform certain surgical procedures.
- Counsel patients regarding surgical and non-surgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations and lifestyle.
- Complete pre-professional undergraduate education in a college or university and four years of professional education at a college of optometry, leading to the doctor of optometry (O.D.) degree. Many doctors of optometry complete an additional residency in a specific area of practice.

-Approved by the AOA Board of Trustees, 2021

Optometry is the nation's third largest independent healthcare profession. With favorable working conditions, it offers many career options and great freedom in choosing a location to live and practice. Optometrists provide the majority of primary vision care administered. Over half the people in the United States wear glasses or contact lenses. Even people who may not require corrective eyewear need regular care to prevent and detect eye and vision problems, and manage eye disease.

The aging of the U.S. population has had two effects on the practice of optometry. First, nearly one quarter of practicing optometrists are approaching retirement age. As the baby-boomer generation enters retirement, many aging optometrists are looking for younger doctors who can take over their practices or offer new specialties to their practices.

Second, as the population ages, optometry services will be in increasing demand. Ninety percent of Americans 45 years of age and over will require vision correction. The growing number of senior citizens with age-related eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, hypertensive retinopathy, and macular

degeneration will increase the demand for services from optometrists.

As our society becomes more highly mechanized, vision requirements become more exacting. The number of people needing professional help for near-point visual tasks and computer usage among all people including young children, is steadily growing. Increased demands for vision care result not only from population changes but also from an increased understanding of how quality vision relates to driving, workplace requirements, student achievement, leisure activities, adjustments to aging and other areas crucial to a modern computer and technology-driven society.

Demand for optometry services is also expected to increase as state laws, which regulate optometric practice (similar to all medical professions), are expanded. All states in North America recognize that optometrists are appropriately trained to prescribe medications for the treatment of diseases of the eye and surrounding structures.

Most new opportunities for graduates are created by the retirement of optometrists, the establishment of new offices, the inclusion of optometrists in interdisciplinary practices, and the growth of group practices, as well as from the expanding scope of care provided by optometrists. An increase in the number of corporate optometry locations has also created an increased demand for optometrists.

The number of new practicing optometrists is limited since there are only twenty-three schools and colleges of optometry in the United States, with two additional colleges in Canada. Class sizes are restricted and therefore the number of new graduates remains fairly constant. Federal data indicate that opportunities for optometrists are expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2008 in response to the vision care needs of a growing and aging population. (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-2001).

Doctors of Optometry experience good satisfaction in their profession. U.S. News and World Report ranked optometry one of the best careers in 2016 (<https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/optometrist>). The fact that many optometrists choose to practice on a part-time basis well into their retirement speaks highly of the rewards of the profession. Adding to optometrists' satisfaction is the fact that increases in their income have outpaced inflation for the past 10 years. Building on years of professional service as a primary entry point into the vision health care system, optometrists work with consumers and other health care providers, expanding delivery mechanisms to ensure improved general health.



Although optometry has met today's challenges with some measure of success, tomorrow's tests will be even greater. Tomorrow's challenges will require cooperation among health care providers, legislative bodies, public policy makers, and consumers with a firm commitment to modify the health care delivery system to the changing needs of the patient.

Future need for optometric services means that, upon graduation, tomorrow's optometric graduates will be able to choose from a wide range of options in terms of the nature and location of their practices.

However, the greatest importance to those considering a future in optometry is the fact that nationwide the need for optometrists is growing rapidly. Hundreds of shortage areas for optometrists already exist and those shortages will inevitably increase as approximately one quarter of the optometrists practicing today are nearing the age of retirement.

---

## Introduction to UMSL

UMSL is one of four campuses that comprise the University of Missouri system, the ninth largest university in the United States. Established in Columbia, Missouri in 1839 on the ideals of Thomas Jefferson, the University of Missouri became a land-grant institution upon passage of the Morrill Act by Congress in 1862.

The university remained a single-campus institution until 1870, when the Rolla campus was opened. In the 1960s a movement began across the country toward creation of public universities located within metropolitan centers. That movement marked the most significant change in higher education in the twentieth century, and UMSL is a product of that educational development. Two campuses were added in 1963. The private University of Kansas City became the university's Kansas City campus, and an entirely new campus was started in St. Louis.

The notion of a major public institution serving the St. Louis area evolved from a dream to a solid reality, which today exceeds the expectations of those who created it. Since the doors of the old Administration Building opened nearly 50 years ago, UM-St. Louis has become the largest university serving St. Louisans and the third largest university in the state. The university faculty has grown from 30 in 1963 to more than 900 members, committed to the future of the St. Louis area through teaching, research, and service.

One of the keys to this university's development as an outstanding institution has been the careful selection of faculty over the years. UM-St. Louis has attracted some of the top authorities in many fields. More than 90 percent of the full-time faculty hold doctoral degrees, a figure that far exceeds the national average. These professionals develop new theories and new procedures, and in so doing attract millions of dollars each year in research funding.

Student enrollment has grown from 600 in 1963 to more than 16,000. The numbers have changed, but not the spirit. Faculty and students are still most concerned with the education of new talent, which is the basis for the future social, intellectual, and economic health of Missouri's largest metropolitan area.

From its beginning on what was once the site of a country club with a single building, UM-St. Louis has grown to a large modern campus of some 73 buildings on 250 acres, offering a comprehensive university experience.

The curriculum has grown to include 42 undergraduate programs, 26 master's programs, seven preprofessional programs, ten doctoral programs, and one first professional degree program. There are programs which answer the particular needs of older students returning to college; of students pursuing pre-architecture, pre-law, pre-medicine, pre-optometry, pre-pharmacy, pre-engineering, or pre-journalism courses, and of students

interested in urban careers. There are also many opportunities for students to combine their academic course work with internships that often lead to job offers.

## UMSL Mission Statement

The UMSL is the land-grant research institution committed to meeting the diverse needs in the state's largest metropolitan community. It educates traditional and nontraditional students in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs so that they may provide leadership in health professions, liberal and fine arts, science and technology, and metropolitan affairs such as business, education, and public policy. University research advances knowledge in all areas, and through outreach and public service, assists in solving, in particular, problems of the St. Louis region.

Academic programs are enriched through advanced technologies and partnerships that link UM-St. Louis to institutions and businesses locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Its special commitment to partnership provides UM-St. Louis with a leadership responsibility among public educational and cultural institutions in improving the region's quality of life, while its relations with two- and four-year colleges and universities in the St. Louis region promote seamless educational opportunities.

## Academic Structure

UM-St. Louis consists of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, College of Education, Graduate School, College of Nursing, College of Optometry, and UM-St. Louis/Washington University Joint Engineering Program.

### College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences, largest of the divisions, includes 18 academic departments. These departments combine general educational offerings that provide students with opportunities to acquire a breadth of knowledge and a foundation in the basic skills of intellectual inquiry with basic preparation for the student's professional life through learning experiences leading to a career in a specific field.

### College of Business Administration

Through its bachelor's and master's degree programs, the College of Business Administration expands student capability in communication, analysis, and judgment, enabling its graduates to deal effectively with today's complex economic environment. The college maintains a balance between the specialization of professional courses and the diversity of liberal arts.

### **College of Education**

Consistently one of the top three institutions in the state in production of educators, the College of Education provides undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare and sustain educational leaders. Its programs emphasize state-of-the-art technological applications to enhance teaching and learning as well as collaboration among university, college, agency, and corporate partners.

### **Graduate School**

Programs offered in the Graduate School fall into two categories: professional programs designed to develop a special competence in a particular field and academic programs designed to develop the student's command of a range of related subjects within a field. These graduate programs are structured to meet the needs of the metropolitan area and to give students the skills and professional competence to succeed.

### **College of Optometry**

The College of Optometry is one of 24 colleges in the United States. It provides professional optometric education and clinical experience. Facilities are furnished with equipment for teaching and research. The college operates the Patient Care Center on south campus, the Lindell Eye Center in the city's Central West End, and the East St. Louis Eye Center, jointly owned and operated by the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

### **Pierre Laclède Honors College**

The Pierre Laclède Honors College brings together intellectually curious and gifted students who are pursuing various career goals and earning degrees in disciplines offered by the university's other undergraduate schools and colleges. Honors Scholars follow a special curriculum that combines Honors College classes with course work done for honors credit in their major areas. In addition to offering scholarships and stipends, the college's Community Mentorship Program links scholars with model urban citizens who share their interests.

### **College of Nursing**

The College of Nursing offers programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing is available for a student wishing to pursue a program of study leading to eligibility to complete state licensure examinations to become a registered nurse (R.N.). In addition, an upper-level option designed for the associate degree or diploma-educated registered nurse avoids repeating basic nursing course work. The Master of Science in Nursing, a cooperative program with UMKC College of Nursing, offers studies in adult, children's, and women's health. Practitioner options are also available (adult, family, neonatal, pediatric, and women) as part of the MSN program. The Ph.D. in Nursing offers studies focused on health promotion and protection, health restoration and support, and health care systems.

### **UM-St. Louis/Washington University Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program**

The UMSL and Washington University have joined forces to offer Bachelor of Science degrees in mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering. Students who enter the program take about half of their course work--mathematics, physics, chemistry, humanities and social sciences, and some elementary engineering subjects--on the campus of UM-St. Louis. The remaining half consists of upper-level engineering courses and laboratories taken on the campus of Washington University and taught by Washington University engineering faculty members. Students register for all courses at UM-St. Louis, pay tuition at UM-St. Louis rates (plus a small surcharge on engineering courses), and receive their degrees from the University of Missouri.

### **UMSL Global**

UMSL Global assists international students and scholars with undergraduate and graduate admission, credential and transfer credit evaluations, visa and immigration advising, pre-arrival and cultural adaptation assistance, new international student and scholar orientation, prospective student information requests, and personal advising. The office also coordinates activities for integration of students and scholars into the community by facilitating cultural events and activities, coordinating the annual International Student Speaker's Bureau, and working closely with other campus and community organizations.

### **Student Life**

Although UMSL provides opportunities for all students through a demanding curriculum, the life of the university is not all work. There are a great many leisure-time activities, either free or at reduced cost to students. Interesting speakers, concerts, film series, plays, exhibits, recitals, and a host of informal gatherings crowd each week's schedule. The St. Louis area offers still more recreational, sports, and cultural events.

The university offers a wide range of varsity and intramural sports for students, whether as players or spectators. On the varsity level, Tritons compete in most major sports. UMSL men's soccer teams have participated in numerous NCAA Division II tournaments; the team won the national title in 1973. The men's basketball, baseball, swimming, and golf teams frequently play in national tournaments. The expanding women's program includes varsity competition in basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming, and tennis. The women's soccer team ranks annually in the top 20 teams nationwide.

The new, state-of-the-art Recreation and Wellness Center offers a weight room, swimming pool, and basketball, volleyball, handball, and racquetball courts, and climbing wall. Outdoor facilities include tennis and handball courts, a fitness trail, and baseball, soccer, and softball fields. Students will find fitness activities, both organized and individual, to suit their interests and needs. Intramural

sports are available to all students, with schedules designed for maximum participation.

## **Graduates**

The graduates of UM-St. Louis reflect the diversity found in a metropolitan community. The university has more than 100,000 graduates living in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Of these alumni, more than 80 percent continue to live and work in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The university is a major force in providing the region with a highly educated and diverse work force. Alumni can be found in companies and organizations throughout the region and nation.

## **Accreditation**

The UMSL is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) located at 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois, 60602-2504. HLC is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Through its Commissions it accredits, and thereby grants membership to educational institutions in the North Central region: Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming. HLC is recognized by the US Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

# College of Optometry

## History

In 1968 the Missouri Optometric Association first recommended that an optometry college be established in the state. A committee was appointed for the purpose of pursuing this goal. The committee contacted the Missouri Commission on Higher Education, and that body undertook a study of the "optometric manpower needs" in Missouri. A formal report was released in June of 1970 that documented the need for an increase in the number of optometrists in the state.

In 1974 the state legislature approved \$50,000 to be used for "the planning phase for the opening of a College of Optometry." As a consequence, UMSL submitted a plan leading to the establishment of an optometry college. An additional optometric workforce study was completed in 1976 and updated in 1977 as part of the Health Manpower Planning Project. This study also documented the need for additional optometrists in Missouri and recommended the establishment of a regional College of Optometry serving Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska.

In 1977 a House Bill was passed providing for the establishment of an optometry college. A state appropriation of \$200,000 was approved in 1979 and \$1.3 million for capitation and start-up funding was obtained from the federal government for the start of the college. On May 12, 1980 the governor signed the bill authorizing the establishment of the college, and it officially came into existence on June 1, 1980.

## Educational Philosophy

Educating a health-care professional is a formidable undertaking. Due to the multifold consequences of decisions made on behalf of the patient's well-being and the autonomy health professionals enjoy, the educational process must be well-planned and thorough.

As primary eye care providers, optometrists must be competent to provide traditional optometric services, such as the remediation of optical defects of the eye through appropriate diagnosis and prescription of glasses, contact lenses, and specialized visual aids for the partially sighted; optimization of the visual performance of the individual; and evaluation and treatment of eye movement and binocular vision anomalies. They also must be able to evaluate the health status of the eye and visual system, recognize and appreciate the ocular signs and symptoms of systemic diseases, and be able to provide treatment for most eye diseases. All these abilities must be reflected in the educational program. The rapid expansion of the scope of optometric practice has necessitated shifts of the curriculum of the schools and colleges of optometry.

The optometric educational program must encompass not only the specialized knowledge and technical capabilities

necessary for the practice of optometry, but also must offer curricular elements and experiences that will enable graduates to be effective in the delivery of full-scope optometric eye care. The appropriate professional relationship to a patient is one in which the patient is willing to be fully revealing of his or her medical history and symptoms that might be related to eye health. The patient must trust the practitioner to be confidential, to have the wisdom and clinical experience to make effective diagnostic and therapeutic judgments, to be objective and place the patient's best interests foremost in the total doctor/patient interaction. The optometrist must be able to explain existing conditions, treatment options, and outcomes to the patient in a straightforward manner that is clear and understandable to the patient and with the appropriate degree of candor and compassion. Optimizing each of these abilities is the purpose of courses addressing the understanding and appreciation of human behavior, interpersonal communications, public health, and community and societal needs. The "art" of practicing a health profession is in part comprised of these skills, which cannot be taught by classroom work alone. Moreover, the development of these complex attitudes and communication skills depends on having the appropriate role models and learning through closely-guided experience with patients.

In addition to providing students with the fundamental and specialized knowledge base required for the contemporary practice of optometry, a health-professional's educational program must be concerned with the development of the ability to continue the educational process beyond graduation. The knowledge and technological explosion that has occurred in the last 25 years makes this even more imperative. Consequently, the four-year educational program must prepare the student for life-long learning. The faculty, through their educational interactions with students, must be able to transfer a thirst for continued learning and the ability to acquire new knowledge and skills through educational experiences that will be largely self-initiated. This learning process requires the students to obtain an appreciation for the scientific process and how to analyze and evaluate scientific and clinical research as demonstrated by faculty in the laboratory and clinical setting, but ultimately the students must learn to carry out these activities on their own.

Professional college is not just an education system but also a social system. This aspect of the program can be most influential in shaping the budding professional's attitudes and values regarding professionalism and professional practice. Role-model learning, curricular arrangement, student selection, the nature and type of patient experiences, peer, faculty, and institutional influence, and the overall learning climate of the college are all significant factors in this socialization process. The development of professional standards and ethics is important, especially in light of the prerogatives and self-policing of the professions.

The professional education program is complex and must be carefully structured. Each of the considerations above must be reflected in the curriculum and in the overall educational experience of each student.

## Goals

The major goals of the UMSL College of Optometry are:

Attract and educate superior entering students with appropriate academic capabilities, education and motivation, who will become exemplary practitioners through a quality learning experience.

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

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

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

Provide high quality continuing education opportunities for optometrists in Missouri and surrounding states.

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.

Contribute to the social welfare of the community through clinical and related service programs.

## Facilities

Situated in Missouri's largest metropolitan area, the College of Optometry enjoys the region's strong community and professional support. The urban setting offers many opportunities for outreach programs, expanding the scope of optometric education and making possible a highly diverse program of clinical training. Another asset of the College is its proximity to the national headquarters of the American Optometric Association, located just a few miles from campus.

The College of Optometry is located on the South Campus of the UMSL and shares in the use of many university resources. A five-story building houses the College's classrooms, laboratories, research facilities, and administrative offices. The complex also includes a 350-seat amphitheater and the E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center. The University Eye Center is now

located in the new state of the art College of Optometry Patient Care Center.

## University Eye Center

The Patient Care Center, located on the South Campus, is open to the public, as well as to the faculty, staff, and students of the University. The Center serves to provide patients with the highest quality eye and vision care. This purpose is consistent with the overall goal of training highly qualified eye care practitioners.

In addition to the Patient Care Center, the College operates the Lindell Eye Center (Optometric Center of St. Louis), a full scope optometric eye care facility in the Central West End of the city, and the East St. Louis Eye Center. All of the patient care facilities serve patients from the St. Louis metropolitan area.

## Libraries

The University Libraries support the educational objectives of the university and meet the teaching, research, and informational needs of the campus community. Housed in two locations—the Thomas Jefferson Library and the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UMSL (North Campus). The Libraries' collections consist of more than 950,000 volumes, 2,900 periodical subscriptions, one million U.S. government documents, over one million items in microform, and numerous special and manuscript collections.

Materials from the libraries of all campuses of the University of Missouri and Saint Louis University can be identified in the MERLIN online catalog. At the time of the catalog search, users can request that items at other institutions be transferred to UM-St. Louis. A full range of services, including interlibrary loan, reference assistance, library instruction, and access to a large number of databases are also available through the Libraries.

## Accreditation and Professional Association

The College of Optometry is a member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), the official optometric agency recognized by the National Commission on Accrediting. The ACOE is located at 243 North Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri, 63141 (phone 314-991-4100). Optometry students and graduates are eligible to take the annual examinations of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. Graduates of the college are eligible for licensure in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

## **Our Graduates**

Just over 1550 optometry alumni may be found around the world including Cameroon, Australia, and Canada, in addition to countries served by our military. Our alumni reside in 42 states. While primarily clustered in the upper and central Midwest and plains states, many of our graduates may be found in California and Texas. We also have alumni in Alaska and Hawaii.

---

## Patient Care

### Center for Eye Care

The Center for Eye Care provides a patient care environment for upper level optometry students and post-doctoral residents. The Center for Eye Care includes three locations: the new College of Optometry Patient Care Center, located on the UMSL South Campus, the Lindell Eye Center in the Central West End of the city of St. Louis, and the East St. Louis Eye Center on the campus of East St. Louis Community College. The main purpose of these and other neighborhood health clinics in the St. Louis area is to provide an instructional setting where student interns are exposed to a wide variety of patients under the direct supervision of College of Optometry faculty. Equally important is that these Centers provide exemplary, comprehensive and state-of-the-art Optometric care to their patients.

The Centers provide a full range of Optometric services including adult primary eye care, contact lens, pediatrics, binocular vision, low vision, and eye health management. Specialized testing of color vision and electrophysiology are also available. These services are described below in greater detail.

### Third Year Patient Care Service

Most adult patients are initially scheduled into the Third Year Patient Care Service. This service is staffed by third-year clinicians and is an entry level into most of the other services. In this service, comprehensive eye examinations are performed encompassing testing for refractive status, binocular status and the ocular health of each patient. In addition, this service serves to provide emergency care. When patients have been identified as needing additional care, they are referred to other services according to their specific needs.

### Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service

The Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service serves patients who have problems with their eyes working together, such as in amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (crossed eyes), or other eye-muscle coordination difficulties. After the problem is thoroughly evaluated, a treatment program for eye exercises or spectacles, if necessary, may be prescribed.

Children 13 years or under are initially scheduled in the Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service for a comprehensive eye examination.

In addition, a special educator is associated with this service in the role of consultant. College screenings, both elementary and precollege levels, are coordinated through the Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service.

### Pupil Project

The Pupil Project is an innovative program that brings together the resources and expertise of the UMSL College of Optometry and College of Education faculty to manage learning related vision problems. This program incorporates a multidisciplinary team of Optometrists, School Psychologists, Special Educators and Physical & Occupational Therapists. The Pupil Project provides Optometric, Psychological and Educational clinical evaluation, diagnosis and remediation for children with learning related vision problems. (314) 516-6059

### Contact Lens Service

The Contact Lens Service offers patients an alternative to spectacle correction. Many people can obtain better vision with contact lenses than with eyeglasses. Others wear contact lenses so they can participate more fully in athletics or other recreational activities.

With the wide selection of lens types available, many people who previously could not be fitted with contact lenses can now wear them successfully.

Student clinicians are exposed to gas-permeable and soft contact lens materials and gain expertise in fitting spherical, toric, bifocal, scleral, and specialty contact lenses. Many students have the opportunity to participate in contact lens research studies supported by industry, foundation and federal research grants.

### Low Vision Service

The Low Vision and Visual Rehabilitation Service provide comprehensive examinations and rehabilitative follow-up care to patients who are partially sighted. Persons of all ages who suffer from vision losses, that are not correctable by standard optical means, can often benefit greatly from the proper application of optical and non-optical low vision aids. Many of the patients examined in this service are legally blind. Such individuals usually have remaining vision which can be enhanced through the use of appropriate optical devices.



## Eye Health Management Service

The doctors in the Eye Health Management Service serve local patients with ocular disease, and consult in the diagnosis of patients with presumed ocular disease. The fourth year interns rotate through this service which utilizes advanced diagnostic technology to aid in the diagnosis and care of patients with conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, dry eye, infectious eye disease and many others. Interns learn the finer points of advanced differential diagnosis and clinical decision making. Interns also observe the co-management of patients that require surgical consultation of the ophthalmic community as the need arises.

## Dispensary Service

The Center offers patients full spectacle, frame and lens services. Clinicians are responsible for the frame selection of patients they examine. Second year students rotate through this service to get an opportunity to dispense new frame and lens materials, and instruct patients in their proper use, care and handling. Students also learn to fit, adjust and repair frames.

## Fourth Year Externship Program

In addition to the patient care experiences available through the Patient Care Center and its affiliated clinics, the College of Optometry has a diverse Externship Program. Students must receive approval from the faculty and the Director of 4<sup>th</sup> Year Clinical Rotations for assignments to each Externship site. This program allows fourth-year students to spend a portion of their final year of training in a variety of patient care environments (i.e., military bases, Veterans Administration Hospitals, Indian Health Services Hospitals, various specialty practices and private practices).

These eight (8) week Externships are selected and scheduled with consideration given to the individual student's interest, needs and future practice intentions. In this program, students leave the academic environment and begin working with selected eye care professionals while continuing to be monitored by the faculty through bi-weekly reports of patient encounters, therapies, and activities. The Externship rotations are designed to give students exposure in the following areas:

- Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care,
- Contact Lens Patient Care,
- Low Vision Patient Care,
- General (Primary) Patient Care,
- Refractive Management Patient Care,
- Eye Health Management Patient Care,
- Geriatric Patient Care,
- Optometric Rehabilitation Patient Care.

## Research

While the University Eye Center is primarily a patient care training facility, various members of the faculty are nationally and internally recognized for conducting patient care related research. Research in the areas of electrodiagnostic testing, contact lens design, materials and care regimens, orthokeratology, binocular visual anomalies, and treatment of ocular diseases is being investigated in association with the patient care activities of the Centers.

The College of Optometry is part of a university with a land-grant, research-oriented mission. The University is the only public academic institution in the state that has a primary research mission. Research compliments teaching because faculty active in the discovery of new knowledge provide students with the insight to understand and use this knowledge, and they also provide firsthand understanding of how discoveries are made.

There are two basic types of research conducted in any health-professions program: basic laboratory research and clinically-oriented investigations. As you read the descriptions of research, note that some studies are purely one or the other, and some are combined.

## Faculty

**Dr. Carl Bassi** (Curator's Distinguished Teaching Professor) Director of Research. Dr. Bassi's research involves the development of novel approaches to evaluate the visual system during aging as well as in patients with a number of diseases including strabismus, macular degeneration, and Alzheimer's disease. The goals are to improve disease diagnosis, assessment of progression, and treatment. There are currently four major areas of interest in his laboratory:

- development of new patented devices for the assessment of color vision, visual suppression, and photophobia;
- evaluation of the effects of carotenoids on visual and cognitive function;
- evaluation of color vision in clinical and applied settings;
- integration of AI into clinical practice.

Dr. Bassi has also developed low cost optics kits as well as other equipment used in teaching his Optics and Monocular Sensory Processes courses. He was also involved in the development of the Triple Track Technology used on Callaway golf balls.

This work has been funded through a variety of sources including Northrup-Grumman Technologies, Zeavision, JIN Optical, University of Missouri Fast Track Award, Missouri Alzheimer's Association, University of Missouri Research Board, and a Weldon Springs award.

**Dr. Kathleen Boland** (Associate Clinical Professor) earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Benedictine College, and a Doctor of Optometry degree from UMSL College of Optometry in 2002. Dr. Boland provides eye and vision care at a variety of institutions throughout the region in addition to UMSL's Primary Care Center; many of these off-site institutions serve the elderly and those with subnormal/low vision. Dr. Boland is the coordinator for the courses in Low Vision Rehabilitation and Geriatrics at the College. Dr. Boland has worked on research involving how carotenoid supplements affect light sensitivity. She has also worked with the University's Gerontology Department doing research regarding driver's licensing and vision impairment. Dr. Boland has served as the Chair of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry's Low Vision Educators Special Interest Group as well as the Chair of the Lighthouse for the Blind Industries, St. Louis, Board of Directors. She is a former member of the Missouri State Medical Board for issues related to vision and drivers licensing.

**Dr. Erin Brooks** (Associate Clinical Professor) in Primary Care and Community Services, is a new addition to the full-time faculty of the College of Optometry. Dr. Brooks has served as a preceptor and instructor (part-time) in the College, including the Optometric Center and Grace Hill since receiving her O.D. from the UMSL College of Optometry in 2011 and her M.S. in 2013. She has a

diversity of interests including children's vision, ocular disease, community health, and primary eye care. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Brooks is currently involved in research concerning the Pupil Project. Dr. Brooks serves as the course coordinator for the Anatomy, Physiology & Disease Processes I & II course sequence and joint teaches Neurologic Disease of the Eye and Visual System course with Dr. Aaron Franzel. She also lectures in the Binocular Vision and Space Perception & General Ocular & Pharmacology courses.

**Dr. Larry J. Davis** (Founders Professor) joined the University in 1993 as an Assistant Professor after having held a full-time faculty appointment in the Department of Ophthalmology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine where he also served as Director of the Contact Lens Service from 1988-1993. He served as Dean and Associate Professor of the College from 2000-2022.

He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and Diplomate of the Cornea and Contact Lens Section. He has served on the Scientific Program Committee of the academy. Dr. Davis is a past President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), the Saint Louis Optometric Society (SLOS), the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO), and the Heart of America Eye Care Congress. He completed the inaugural yearlong UM-System Leadership Development Program for Department Chairs and was one of three academic leaders selected by ASCO to participate in a yearlong leadership program for administrators of health professions training programs. In 1999 the students at UMSL selected him as Outstanding Optometric Educator of The Year. He was awarded Optometrist of the Year in 1994 and Distinguished Optometrist for 2002 by the membership of the St. Louis Optometric Society.

Dr. Davis's area of academic specialization is cornea, contact lenses and anterior segment ocular disease with special emphasis in refractive management of the diseased and/or injured eye. From 1993 to 2004 he served as the UMSL participating clinic principal investigator for the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) study, a multi-centered observational study of the common corneal disease.

**Dr. Julie DeKinder** (Clinical Professor)

Dr. DeKinder serves as Director of Academic and Residency Programs, Chief of Contact Lens Services, and Coordinator of the Contact Lens Residency. She graduated from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry and completed a Cornea and Contact Residency at the UMSL College of Optometry prior to joining the faculty.

Dr. DeKinder's primary teaching responsibilities include instructing Contact Lens II and co-instructing Clinical Topics in Contact Lenses. Her primary clinical

responsibilities include attending students in contact lens clinics. Dr. DeKinder conducts contact lens research with residents and students. She is both a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies. She is a fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society, and a member of the American Optometric Association and the Missouri Optometric Association. She is currently serving as immediate past chair for the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) and is a council member of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). She serves as a member of the residency committee for the American Academy of Optometry, as Chair of the residency committee for Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), and a consultant to the part I exam development Committee for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

**Dr. Linda Du** (Assistant Clinical Professor) a graduate of The Ohio State College of Optometry, completed a Residency in Primary Care Optometry/Ocular Disease at the Marion Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in southern Illinois. Prior to joining the faculty at the UMSL College of Optometry, Dr. Nguyen completed a Master's Degree in Vision Science investigating the effects of using the home-based computer Perceptual Therapy System II (PTS II) in grade-school children with below-average standardized performance in math and reading. While at The Ohio State College of Optometry, Dr. Nguyen was actively involved in several community organizations and held leadership positions in National Optometric Student Association, Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, and the Optometry Private Practice Club. Dr. Nguyen has traveled to Leon, Nicaragua as well as Llica and Uyuni in Bolivia to deliver free eyeglasses and provide visual and ocular examinations alongside the OSU SVOSH chapter. Dr. Nguyen has given case presentations at several optometry conferences including American Academy of Optometry, Southeastern Congress of Optometry, and East West Eye Conference. At the College of Optometry at the University of Missouri St Louis, Dr. Nguyen teaches in the pediatric and primary care clinics.

**Dr. Keshia S. Elder** (Dean and Clinical Professor) currently serves as Dean of the College. She is originally from Columbia, South Carolina and graduated from Clemson University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Science Teaching: Mathematics. She received her Doctor of Optometry and her Master of Science in Vision Science degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry in 1998 as well as her Master of Science in Instructional Design and Development from the UAB School of Education in 2021.

Dr. Elder specializes in cornea and contact lens and has had teaching responsibilities in many areas including contact lenses, clinical management, public health, and ocular disease. Dr. Elder has lectured nationally in the areas of health disparities; diversity, equity, and inclusion; contact lenses; dry eye; and clinical procedures. She

serves as the Secretary of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) Board of Directors, Chair of the Nominating Committee of the American Academy of Optometry, Editor for the Journal of Optometric Education, and a member of the Board of Directors for the National Optometric Foundation.

**Dr. Aaron Franzel** (Associate Clinical Professor) his clinical research involves the study of sensory and motor aspects of strabismus. In particular, he is interested in the development and progression of esotropia. Currently, he is studying familial esotropia, determining characteristics shared by these families and suggesting potential risk factors for the incidence of binocular dysfunctions in non-strabismic family members. He is also interested in developing more successful therapy regimens for adults with strabismus. Dr. Franzel is also involved in the Pupil Project, a collaborative project between the College of Optometry and the College of Education. The Pupil Project provides optometric, psychological and educational clinical evaluation, diagnosis and remediation for children with learning related vision problems.

**Dr. Emily Gum** (Assistant Clinical Professor) graduated from Truman State University with a major in Exercise Science and a minor in Biology. She received her Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she graduated with honors. She was a member of the Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society as well as the Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society and received the Missouri Optometric Foundation Award for Excellence in Clinical Skills. Dr. Gum completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation at the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Gum's optometric interests include ocular disease, low vision, and medical mission work. She traveled with a group of optometrists and ophthalmologists to Haiti in 2018 to provide eyecare. Dr. Gum has been a member of the American Optometric Association and Missouri Optometric Association as well as the Saint Louis Optometric Society where she currently serves on the membership committee.

**Dr. Vinita Henry** (Clinical Professor) is the Associate Dean of Clinical Operations. She serves as an instructor in the Clinical Topics of Contact Lenses and the Contact Lens I courses. She completed her Doctor of Optometry and Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens at UMSL. Her area of clinical specialization is contact lenses. During her time at UMSL, she has held the roles of Chief of the Contact Lens Service, Cornea and Contact Lens Program Coordinator, and the Director of Residencies. She has conducted numerous contact lens research projects, lectures and publications over the years, most recently the publication of the fifth edition of the Clinical Manual of Contact Lens with Dr. Ed Bennett. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in the Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies Section. She is a member of the American Optometric Association, AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section, the

Missouri Optometric Association, the St. Louis Optometric Society, and the ASCO Clinic Directors SIG.

**Dr. Carl Kramer** (Assistant Clinical Professor) is a native of the St. Louis area and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2010 from the University of Kansas. He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of Houston College of Optometry in 2015. Following graduation from optometry school Dr. Kramer completed a cornea and contact lens residency at UMSL. During his residency training Dr. Kramer focused on fitting patients with irregular corneas for visual rehabilitation with the use of specialty contact lenses. Following completion of his residency Dr. Kramer was in private practice in the Kansas City area before returning to academia. Dr. Kramer is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa international optometric honor society, and a specialty lens education consultant for Valley Contax Inc. Dr. Kramer has clinical experience in primary care, specialty contact lens care, refractive surgery management, pre and postoperative cataract surgical management, and ocular disease diagnosis and treatment.

**Dr. Thomas Landgraf** (Associate Clinical Professor), a graduate of Illinois College of Optometry, completed a Residency in Primary Care Optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Prior to joining the faculty at the UMSL College of Optometry in 2007, Dr. Landgraf served as Chief of the Advanced Care Ocular Disease Service at Southern College of Optometry. While at the Southern College of Optometry, Dr. Landgraf received numerous teaching awards. Dr. Landgraf is a nationally recognized lecturer on Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease and Injections. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Landgraf has served in an administrative capacity on numerous occasions for clinical portion of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. At the College of Optometry at UMSL, Dr. Landgraf teaches in the Ocular Disease clinical and didactic sequences.

**Dr. Linda Marks**, (Associate Clinical Professor) completed her undergraduate and post-graduate education at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, earning her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Michigan College of Optometry in 2002. After graduation, she completed the pediatric/binocular vision residency at the UMSL College of Optometry and joined the clinical faculty at the College in August 2003.

Dr. Marks' instructional responsibilities include didactic and clinical education in diagnosis and management of binocular vision anomalies, in addition to primary and secondary care of pediatric patients. Her primary interests include vision therapy and treatment of patients with amblyopia, strabismus, and learning-related vision disorders. She serves as the Coordinator of Pediatric Vision Screenings in addition to examining children on the college's Mobile Eye Clinic. Dr. Marks is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and serves as the faculty advisor to the UMSL College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) student chapter.

**Dr. Tareq Nabhan** (Assistant Clinical Professor) studied chemistry at Pittsburg State University and focused on chemical education at the graduate level at the University of Kansas. He taught at Kaplan Test Prep before starting optometry school in 2008 at UMSL. He held leadership positions as an optometry student and graduated with distinction. He soon joined the college as a part-time faculty member in 2014 and transitioned to full time in 2019. Dr. Nabhan is lead attending physician of the optometry unit at Affinia Healthcare, developed a novel telehealth course, guided the rollout of UMSL's first-ever teleretina services, and is actively funded for his research to democratize eye care through hardware-software telehealth solutions. Dr. Nabhan is a Special Government Employee (SGE) for the Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (HHS-CMS) MEDCAC, is a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine RReSTORE Consortium in regenerative medicine in glaucoma, and was selected to the 2020 class of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity International (VOSH/I), board member to the St. Louis Optometric Society (SLOS), on the clinical advisory panels of several national and international non-governmental organizations, and has co-led more than 25 humanitarian eye clinics across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, North America and South America. He is research advisor to his students in the optometry scholars program and faculty advisor to the college's SVOSH chapter. Dr. Nabhan is a fellow of the UMSL Global Ambassadors Network and has been awarded the UMSL Optometric Educator of the Year Award in 2017 and in 2023.

**Dr. Angel Novel Simmons** (Assistant Clinical Professor) is Director of Fourth Year Clinical Rotations for the College of Optometry. She completed undergraduate studies with honors at Xavier University of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Dr. Simmons obtained her Doctor of Optometry from UMSL College of Optometry in 2003. During her time at UMSL, Dr. Simmons was involved in various student organizations. Upon graduation, Dr. Simmons pursued specialized training in Ocular Disease Management/Primary Care through an accredited residency program at the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System in Montrose, NY. During her residency, Dr. Simmons was nationally recognized at the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association where she presented several invited posters. Post residency, she worked in a variety of practice modalities and received additional training in refractive management. Currently, Dr. Simmons precepts College of Optometry students at community based clinics in St. Louis and East St. Louis, and is involved in various didactic courses in the curriculum. Additionally, Dr. Simmons has received the ASCO Diversity Grant in order to create and coordinate the *Eyes on Diversity*, which seeks to introduce underrepresented minority students to the profession of optometry. Lastly, Dr. Simmons is an active member of the American Optometric Association,

Missouri Optometric Association (committee member public relations), St. Louis Optometric Society, ASCO Optometry Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee, and Cultural Competency Curriculum Guidelines Subcommittee.

**Dr. Casey Peterson** (Associate Clinical Professor) attended Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. She then went on to attend UMSL College of Optometry, earning membership in the Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society and the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honors Society. Dr. Peterson completed a residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

As a member of the UMSL College of Optometry faculty, Dr. Peterson serves as the Coordinator of Interprofessional Education (IPE) and the Chief of Primary Care Service. Courses taught include Biochemistry with Ocular Emphasis and Interpersonal Communications, with co-instruction in the ocular disease course and lab sequence. Dr. Peterson is a member of both the American Optometric and Missouri Optometric Associations, as well as the St. Louis Optometric Society. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

**Dr. Coral Pucci** (Assistant Clinical Professor) earned her Bachelor of Science in biology and minor in chemistry from Missouri State University, where she graduated summa cum laude. She then attended UMSL College of Optometry where she was honored as Student Marshall of her 2017 graduating class. Following graduation, she completed a Primary Care/Ocular Disease residency at the Marion Veterans Affairs Medical Center in southern Illinois. During her residency, she had the opportunity to work with student externs in a clinical capacity, which bolstered her desire to obtain both a didactic and clinical optometric faculty position.

**Dr. Mary Beth Rhomberg** (Associate Clinical Professor) completed her undergraduate degree at St. Mary's College in Winona, MN and her optometric degree at UMSL College of Optometry. Upon graduation, she completed a Family Practice residency at the same college of optometry. Since graduating, she has served as a clinical preceptor and an instructor in optometric labs including disease, low vision, and ophthalmic optics. Dr. Rhomberg has practiced in the areas of cornea and refractive surgery and primary optometric care. She has also served the profession as an associate director in Clinical Care at the American Optometric Association. Dr. Rhomberg has served as the St. Louis Optometric Society president and is active in the Missouri Optometric Association. She is interested in clinical aspects of optometry and the profession of optometry.

**Dr. Patrick Stark** (Associate Clinical Professor) is a graduate of UMSL College of Optometry. He then completed a residency in family practice and ocular disease at Northeastern State University Oklahoma

College of Optometry. After residency, he moved into a clinical faculty role at NSUOCO. After working at UMSL in a part time capacity, he is joining the faculty full time in the fall of 2016.

**Dr. Sarah Sweeney Dohrman** (Assistant Clinical Professor) grew up in West Virginia, where she graduated summa cum laude from West Virginia University with a BS in Exercise Physiology. She went on to complete her optometric training at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, where she graduated with honors in 2011. During optometry school, she was accepted into Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honor Society, and was active in SVOSH, a volunteer organization that establishes eye clinics in Central and South America to bring eye care to underserved populations. After graduation, Dr. Sweeney completed a residency in Primary Care, Pediatrics, and Vision Therapy in Southborough, Massachusetts. During her time there, she gained experience with treating vision problems related to brain injury, developmental delay, and vision related learning conditions in the general population and special needs children and adults. Dr. Sweeney achieved Board Certification in Vision Therapy in 2014 and became a Fellow of the College of Optometrists for Vision Development. She is a member of the American Optometric Association, Optometric Extension Program Foundation, and is an InfantSee provider.

**Jessica Tu** (Assistant Clinical Professor) currently serves as Chief of Contact Lens Services. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where she was born and raised. She completed her Optometry degree at Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry and her residency in Cornea and Contact Lens at Indiana University School of Optometry. Dr. Tu is involved in multiple didactic contact lens courses. She serves as a clinical instructor in contact lens, primary care and disease clinics, and coordinates the dry eye clinic. She conducts clinical research with residents and students in her professional areas of interest, including specialty contact lens fitting and myopia control. Dr. Tu is a Fellow of the Academy of Optometry, a council member of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, and is a member of the American Optometric Association and St. Louis Optometric Association.

**Dr. Brittany Wright** (Assistant Clinical Professor) originally from the Chicagoland area, attended Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Science and Master of Science degree in Cellular & Molecular Biology. Dr. Wright completed her Doctorate of Optometry at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, graduating with honors. During this time, highlights of her experience include serving as National President of the National Optometric Student Association, Vice President of the Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society, selection as an SCO Student Ambassador and earning membership into the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honors Society. She then went on to compete a

residency in Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation at the Kansas City VA Medical Center.

Dr. Wright joined our faculty with experience in primary care, cornea and refractive surgery co-management, ocular disease management, geriatric care, and community health, with focus on patient access and improving eye health literacy. She oversees patient care with 3rd and 4th year students at the UMSL Patient Care Center as well as community offices in East St. Louis and St. Louis. Dr. Wright is a member of the American Optometric Association, Missouri Optometric Association, St. Louis Optometric Society, and a board member of the National Optometric Association. In 2020, Dr. Wright began as the College of Optometry's first Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Within this capacity, she works with staff, students, and faculty to integrate and support UMSL's inclusive excellence framework throughout the program.

## Curricular Outcomes

### Entry Level Practice Standards

The faculty has approved the following optometric Entry-level Standards:

Doctors of Optometry must have an established knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences in order to provide quality eye and vision care to their patients. The academic foundation must be broad and include the biological, medical, vision and optical sciences, as well as a basic understanding of the health care delivery system. A doctor of Optometry must recognize the dynamic nature of knowledge and possess the commitment and skills needed to responsibly assess and apply new information and treatment strategies throughout their career.

The UMSL College of Optometry shall ensure that before graduation each student will effectively utilize and demonstrate a working knowledge in patient care with each of the following areas:

#### I. PATIENT HISTORY

1. the basic elements of a comprehensive patient history
2. the ability to obtain an efficient patient history necessary for a problem oriented examination
3. the proper standard of recording patient history in EHR
4. the ability to relate patient history to examination findings

#### II. OPTOMETRIC KNOWLEDGE

5. basic body systems, with special emphasis on the ocular and visual system and their interrelationships to the body as a whole;
6. the impact of genes and their interaction with behavior, diet and the environment on human health;
7. the various processes and causes that lead to dysfunction and disease and the effect that these processes can have on the body and its major organ systems, with special emphasis on the ocular and visual systems;
8. the mechanisms of actions of the various classes of pharmaceutical agents, including injectable agents, and their interactions;
9. the structures and processes contributing to the development of refractive error and other optical or perceptual abnormalities of the visual system;
10. the optics of the eye and ophthalmic lens systems - including spectacles, contact lenses, and low vision devices;
11. principles of the effects of radiant energy on the eye, including environmental lighting and ophthalmic lasers

#### III. PATIENT CARE

12. ophthalmic lens systems used to correct refractive, oculomotor and other vision disorders;
13. visual development and vision function with respect to deviation and enhancement of conditions such as, but not limited to, strabismus, amblyopia, ocular motility, accommodation, vergence and visual perception;
14. vision therapy and other rehabilitative methods used for the management of common visual disorders;
15. the detection, diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular disease and ocular manifestations of systemic disease;
16. the safe and effective use of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of disease and conditions affecting the eye and visual system, and recognize adverse reactions;
17. the strategies, interventions, and support system to best meet the unique needs of each patient regardless of age, taking into account co-existing medical conditions, medications, dietary needs, family issues, and social concerns

18. the utilization of injectable agents for the management of ocular and systemic diseases
19. the concepts of refractive surgery and its management;
20. basic life support skills for prevention and response to life-threatening emergencies;
21. the use of ophthalmic lasers in the management of refractive error and other anomalies of the eye;
22. the use of evidence from well designed and conducted research in healthcare decision-making

#### IV. CLINICAL SKILLS

23. the importance of performing necessary examination techniques competently and efficiently
24. the capacity to adapt the administration of clinical tests to meet the needs of the patient
25. the obligation to maintain clinical skills through practice and repetition

#### V. RECORD KEEPING

26. the significance of proper documentation in the electronic health record
27. the proper use of abbreviations
28. the appropriate notation of clinical observations

#### VI. INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

29. the critical elements of verbal and written communications with patients and other health care professionals;
30. the psychosocial dynamics of the doctor/patient relationship;
31. the need for clear, accurate and appropriate documentation of patient encounters;
32. the manner in which people of diverse cultures and belief systems perceive human health and illness and respond to various symptoms, diseases and treatments;

#### VII. INTRA/INTER PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION/PRACTICE

33. when there is a requirement for intra/inter professional consultation
34. the process of coordination among professionals involved in a patient's care

#### VIII. PROFESSIONALISM

35. the need for a commitment to uphold the ethical obligations of the Optometric Oath;
36. the specific duties and responsibilities toward the individuals they serve and toward society as a whole;
37. the provisions to guarantee patient privacy and medical record security as expressed by HIPAA regulations;
38. inter-professional values, related ethics and relationships among the professions;

#### IX. SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

39. the practice management structure and strategies as they pertain to different practice settings;
40. the broad-based, multidisciplinary nature of the health care delivery system;
41. the role of the optometrist as a primary health care provider;

#### X. PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

42. the conscientious use of current best practices in patient care decision making;
43. the necessity for a commitment to lifelong learning;
44. the information management systems and technology used in the delivery of eye and health care.

2001 College of Optometry; Revised 2001, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016

## Curriculum

### Academic Program

The curriculum leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree is a four-year, full-time program of study. The first year of the professional program emphasizes optical principles, the biomedical sciences and an introduction to the optics of the visual system. The second year pertains to vision science and instruction in clinical examination techniques. The third year emphasizes patient care and introduces the student to specialty areas within optometry, such as ocular disease treatment and management, contact lenses, pediatrics and geriatric vision care, binocular vision and vision therapy, and low vision rehabilitation. The second and third years also include course work and clinical instruction in ocular disease and pharmacology. The fourth year requires the completion of rotations in the following areas: institutional, ocular disease, community service, University Eye Center, specialty, and elective. Successful completion of professional years one through four with a degree audit will allow professional students to be granted a Doctor of Optometry degree.

### Four-Year Professional Degree (O.D.)<sup>‡</sup>

#### Curriculum

First Year Fall Semester	Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8010 Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes I	5	4	2	-
8020 Basic and Clinical Optics I	4	3	2	-
8030 Introduction to Optometry	1	1	-	-
8040 Neuroanatomy	4	3	2	-
8060 Biochemistry	2	2	-	-
8090 Case Based Discovery for the Developing Clinician	1	1	-	-
8080 Clinical Optometry	2	1	2	-

First Year Spring Semester	Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8110 Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes II	4	3	2	-
8120 Basic and Clinical Optics II	5	4	2	-
8050 Basic and Applied Immunology	2	2	-	-
8160 Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye	5	4	2	-
8180 Clinical Optometry II	5	3	4	-
8190 Introduction to Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning	1	1	-	-
8230 Interpersonal Communication	1	1	-	-

Second Year Fall Semester	Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8220 Ophthalmic Optics	4	3	2	-
8240 Ocular Motility	2	2	-	-
8250 Monocular Sensory Processes	4	3	2	-
8260 General and Ocular Pharmacology	4	3	2	-
8280 Clinical Optometry III	4	2	4	-

Second Year Spring Semester	Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8320 Ophthalmic Dispensing	1	-	2	-
8340 Binocular Vision and Space Perception	4	3	2	-
8370 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management I	5	4	2	-
8380 Clinical Optometry IV	2	1	2	-
8390 Specialty Clinic Laboratory	1	-	2	-
8391 Clinical Topics in Contact Lens	1	1	-	-
8392 Clinical Topics in Binocular Vision and Pediatric Optics	1	1	-	-
8393 Clinical Topics in Low Vision	1	1	-	-
8560 Public Health and Epidemiology	3	3	-	-

Third Year Summer Semester	Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8450 Introduction to Primary Care Clinic	4	-	-	8
8460 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management II	3	2	1	-
8640 Pediatric Optometry	2	2	0	-
8650 Geriatric Optometry	2	2	0	-

Third Year Fall Semester	Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8480 Pharmaceutical Management in Patient Care	2	2	-	-
8500 Primary Care Clinic I	6	-	-	12
8520 Contact Lenses I	3	2	2	-
8540 Binocular Vision Anomalies	4	3	2	-
8550 Low Vision	2	1	2	-
8570 Advanced Topics in Ocular and Systemic Disease & Management	6	5	2	-
8640 Pediatric Optometry	2	2	-	-

<sup>‡</sup> Due to advances in the optometric profession, sequencing of courses may change. The courses listed above are subject to change through normal academic procedures. Refer to the addendum at the end of this bulletin for curriculum changes that may affect your program sequencing.

<sup>†</sup> Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.



## Elective Courses in the College of Optometry

<b>Third Year Spring Semester</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
8600	Primary Care Clinic II	6	-	-	12
8615	Applied Basic Science Review	1	1	-	-
8620	Contact Lenses II	2	2	-	-
8630	Practice Management I	3	3	-	-
8645	Neurologic Diseases	2	2	-	-
8660	Contact Lens Specialty Clinic	1	-	-	2
8670	Comprehensive Case Review and Analysis	1	1	-	-
8680	Ophthalmic Lasers	2	2	-	-
8690	Pediatric /Binocular Vision Specialty Clinic I	1	-	-	2

8400 Directed Readings  
8410 Directed Research

<b>Fourth Year Category 1 UM-St. Louis</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
--	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

*Note: Must enroll in 8700, 8710, and 8720 concurrently.*

8700	UMSL Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care	3	-	-	6
8710	UMSL Contact Lens Patient Care	3	-	-	6
8720	UMSL Eye Health Management Patient Care	1	-	-	2

<b>Fourth Year Category 2 VA/Hospital</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
---	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

8780	External Rotation in Institutional Patient Care	7	-	-	14
------	---	---	---	---	----

<b>Fourth Year Category 3 Ocular Disease</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
--	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

8790	External Rotation in Ocular Disease Patient Care	7	-	-	14
------	--	---	---	---	----

<b>Fourth Year Category 4 Community</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
---	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

8770	External Rotation in Clinical Care III	7	-	-	14
------	--	---	---	---	----

<b>Fourth Year Category 5 Specialty</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
---	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

8814	External Rotation in Clinical Care I	7	-	-	14
------	--------------------------------------	---	---	---	----

<b>Fourth Year Category 6 Elective</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
--	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

8830	External Rotation in Clinical Care II	7	-	-	14
------	---------------------------------------	---	---	---	----

<b>Fourth Year Required Courses</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
---	--	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

8870	Practice Management II	2	2	-	-
8880	Practice Management III	1	1	-	-

## Course Descriptions\*

The following 8000 level courses are taken in the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program. The numbers in parenthesis indicate the credit hours.

### **OPTOM 8010 Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes I (5)**

First in a two-semester course sequence that will detail the general anatomy of the human body along with the histology (microanatomy), physiology and disease processes of major organ systems. Course content will be presented in a modular format. Areas of discussion will include cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, digestive, reproductive, integumentary, and peripheral and autonomic nervous systems. The laboratories will emphasize and augment important concepts introduced in the classroom environment.

### **OPTOM 8020 Basic and Clinical Optics I (4)**

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. The principles of geometrical optics as applied to refracting and reflecting surfaces, thin lenses, thick lenses, and lens systems. The optics of various ophthalmic instruments and techniques will be examined.

### **OPTOM 8030 Introduction to Optometry (1)**

An introduction to the profession of optometry, including a consideration of the characteristics of a profession, the behaviors and attitudes of a professional, the history of optometry, the profession's legal basis, the major optometric organizations and sources and types of information available to optometrists. One hour of lecture per week.

### **OPTOM 8040 Neuroanatomy (4)**

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Detailed gross and microscopic anatomy of human central nervous system with a special emphasis on the cranial nerves, nuclei, and the visual system.

### **OPTOM 8050 Basic and Applied Immunology (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8010. This course will address the basic concepts of immunology including innate and adaptive immune responses. Mechanisms of hypersensitivity reactions and applications of immunology to ocular and systemic disease, transplantation, and treatment or prevention of cancer are included.

### **OPTOM 8060 Biochemistry (2)**

Basic concepts of general and cellular biochemistry. Study of nomenclature, structure, and reactions of organic molecules. Some emphasis on visual system - tears, intraocular fluids, lens, and photochemistry.

### **OPTOM 8080 Clinical Optometry I (2)**

Introduction to ocular assessment including case history and entrance examination procedures and theory.

### **OPTOM 8090 Case Based Discovery for the Developing Clinician (1)**

Students acquire curricular competencies appropriate for the professional year in which they are enrolled via in depth individual and group discovery via case based presentations. The experience will provide students the opportunity to assimilate and recognize the relationships among diverse

topics emphasized within the optometric curriculum. Participants work in groups of no more than 10.

### **OPTOM 8110 Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes II (4)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8010 and OPTOM 8060. Continuation of Human Anatomy and Physiology and Disease Processes I.

### **OPTOM 8120 Basic and Clinical Optics II (5)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8020. Radiometry and photometry, polarization, scattering, emmetropia, myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, models of experimental myopia, accommodation, diffraction, retinal image size, entoptic phenomena, aberrations, lasers and the eye, apertures, and optical instruments.

### **OPTOM 8160 Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye (5)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8040, OPTOM 8010 or consent of instructor. Vegetative anatomy and physiology of the eye, optic nerve, orbit, and adnexa will be discussed. This includes discussion of embryology and the dynamics of ocular fluids. Four lecture hours and a two-hour laboratory per week.

### **OPTOM 8180 Clinical Optometry II (5)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8080. Continuation of Clinical Optometry I. Patient care instruction including entrance examination procedures, refraction, ophthalmoscopy and biomicroscopy.

### **OPTOM 8190 Introduction to Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning (1)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8090. Introduction to clinical diagnostic reasoning by individual and group case-based learning. Scenarios give students an understanding of the relationship between basic and clinical sciences and provide an introduction to established best practices.

### **OPTOM 8220 Ophthalmic Optics (4)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8120. Ophthalmic materials, physical characteristics of lenses and frames, paraxial optics of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic prisms, lens specifications, special lenses, multifocal lenses, unique designs, aniseikonic lenses, aberration theory and its application to lens design, lenses for low vision, protective eyewear.

### **OPTOM 8240 Ocular Motility (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8040 or consent of instructor. The anatomy, physiology, neurology, measurement, characteristic, and control of the intra- and extraocular system.

### **OPTOM 8250 Monocular Sensory Processes (4)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8160 or consent of instructor. Monocular sensory processes of vision: phototransduction, visual neurophysiology, spatial and temporal vision, acuity, light adaptation and discrimination, color, motion, objects and attention. Sensory processes are considered from both the psychophysical aspects and neurophysiological bases, including the changes during development, adulthood and aging. Four hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory per week.

**OPTOM 8260 General and Ocular Pharmacology (4)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8110, OPTOM 8160, OPTOM 8080, OPTOM 8180. This course establishes an understanding of both systemic and ocular pharmacology focusing on mechanisms of action, drug interactions within the body, and drug interactions with other medications. Attention is given to clinical cases relevant to optometric practice and a broad overview of general and ocular pharmacology as a whole.

**OPTOM 8280 Clinical Optometry III (4)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8180. Continuation of clinical optometry. Patient care in the areas of refraction, binocular integration, perimetry, and biomicroscopy.

**OPTOM 8320 Ophthalmic Dispensing (1)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8220. Clinical experience in verification and dispensing of ophthalmic materials.

**OPTOM 8340 Binocular Vision and Space Perception (4)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8240, OPTOM 8280 and OPTOM 8250 or consent of instructor. Binocular vision and space perception. Visual direction, theory of correspondence, fusion, rivalry, ocular dominance, and stereopsis. Developmental aspects and neurophysiological mechanisms.

**OPTOM 8370 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management I (5)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8260. The first in the series of courses that address diseases of the eye, clinical diagnoses, and optometric and medical management of ocular and systemic disease. The laboratories emphasize diagnostic techniques and treatment skills, preparation for the initial clinic privileging examination and augment important concepts introduced in the classroom environment.

**OPTOM 8380 Clinical Optometry IV (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8280. Continuation of Clinical Optometry II. Diagnosis, prognosis and management of visual problems. Emphasis on conducting comprehensive eye exams in preparation for the initial clinical privileging examination.

**OPTOM 8390 Specialty Clinic Laboratory (1)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8280. Student's attire and practice skills for pediatric, binocular vision, low vision, and contact lens examinations. The course format is one 2-hour laboratory per week.

**OPTOM 8391 Clinical Topics in Contact Lenses (1)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8280. This is the first in a series of 3 courses addressing contact lenses. The focus is on contact lens care and evaluation. The course format is one 50-minute lecture per week.

**OPTOM 8392 Clinical Topics in Binocular Vision and Pediatric Optometry (1)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8240 and OPTOM 8280. This course presents clinical diagnostic and management skills for both pediatric patients and those with binocular vision anomalies. The course format is lecture.

**OPTOM 8393 Clinical Topics in Low Vision (1)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8280. This course presents clinical diagnostic and management skills for patients with low vision. The course format is one 50-minute lecture per week.

**OPTOM 8400 Directed Readings (1-3)**

Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor. Credit is given for independent literature review of a specific topic in any area of basic or clinical vision science guided by a full time faculty member with appropriate interests. Credit is awarded upon approval of a written paper regarding the selected topic. This elective may be repeated up to a total of 3 credit hours.

**OPTOM 8410 Directed Research (1-3)**

Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor. Credit is given for independent research. Projects may be laboratory, library, or clinically based research in any area of vision science. Projects will be supervised by one or more full time faculty members. This elective may be repeated up to a total of 6 credit hours.

**OPTOM 8450 Introduction to Primary Care Clinic (4)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8230, OPTOM 8320, OPTOM 8340, OPTOM 8370, OPTOM 8380, OPTOM 8390, OPTOM 8391, OPTOM 8392, OPTOM 8393, OPTOM 8560, and successful completion of the Clinical Proficiency Examination. The first in a series of adult primary care courses. Students perform comprehensive examinations, make diagnoses, and develop management plans with patient education under supervision of a faculty attending. Students participate in accompanying clinic seminar discussion groups.

**OPTOM 8460 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management II (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8370. The third course in the foundation series that addresses ocular and systemic diseases and their management.

**OPTOM 8480 Pharmaceutical Management in Patient Care (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8260; OPTOM 8370; OPTOM 8460. This course will discuss the clinician's responsibility in the treatment and management of ocular conditions and systemic complications of pharmaceutical use. Principles of ocular pharmacology in regards to specific management and treatment of ocular disease, trauma, and surgery by systemic, local, and topical therapy. In addition, simulated case studies are used to illustrate the basic and subtle clinical aspects of treating patients using pharmaceutical agents.

**OPTOM 8500 Primary Care Clinic I (6)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8450. Continuation of Introduction to Primary Care Clinic. Weekly clinic seminar will supplement clinical experience with discussion of medical billing and coding, pharmacology, and patient case discussion and review.

**OPTOM 8520 Contact Lenses I (3)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8380 and OPTOM 8391. Historical development of the contact lens and its use. Basic lens terminology, specifications, physiochemical characteristics, optics, fabrication, and verification. Preliminary patient evaluation, indications and contraindications for contact lenses. Basic fitting philosophies for all lens types. Lens care and patient education. Patient and practice management considerations.

**OPTOM 8540 Binocular Vision Anomalies (4)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8340, OPTOM 8380 and OPTOM 8392 or consent of instructor. The etiology, epidemiology, symptoms, signs, and course sequelae of the

obstacles to binocular vision-sensory, integrative, and motor. The detection, diagnosis, prognosis, and orthoptic treatment of such anomalies. Clinical care of aniseikonias.

#### **OPTOM 8550 Low Vision (2)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8380 and OPTOM 8393. The etiology, epidemiology, symptoms, signs, course, and sequelae of low vision problems. Methods of testing, prognosis, selection of therapy, design of environmental and optical aids, problems of rehabilitation. Agencies, laws, public and social assistance for the partially sighted and blind. The course format is lecture and 1 two-hour laboratory per week.

#### **OPTOM 8560 Epidemiology and Public Health (3)**

The essentials of epidemiological study procedures and a discussion of the epidemiology of vision disorders will be discussed. The course will review descriptive statistics, probability sampling, correlation, and prediction. The public health component will include a review of local, state, and federal organizations involved in health care, comprehensive health planning, new trends in health care delivery, and the assessment of the quality of health care delivery.

#### **OPTOM 8570 Advanced Topics in Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management (6)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8370. The third semester of a comprehensive, systems based course sequence. Advanced topics in diagnoses as well as optometric and medical management of ocular and systemic disease will be discussed. The laboratories will emphasize and augment important concepts introduced in the classroom environment.

#### **OPTOM 8600 Primary Care Clinic II (6)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8500, OPTOM 8520, OPTOM 8540, OPTOM 8550, OPTOM 8570, and OPTOM 8650. The final course in the adult primary care sequence. Students examine and care for patients under supervision of a faculty attending. Students are expected to function nearly independently in final preparation for the Externship Program.

#### **OPTOM 8615 Applied Basic Science Review (1)**

One credit hour course, given during the first half of the semester for two hours of class each week, focused on a review of important basic science concepts presented during the first two and one-half years of the curriculum. Technology will be used to gauge student knowledge and adjust depth of curriculum review presented.

#### **OPTOM 8620 Contact Lenses II (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8520. Advanced contact lens fitting, theories, and clinical methods for astigmatic, presbyopic, keratoconic, and aphakic designs. Special considerations include the use of corneal topography, orthokeratology, disposable lenses, lenses for extended wear and lenses for color deficiencies. The course format is one lecture per week.

#### **OPTOM 8630 Practice Management I (3)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8030 and OPTOM 8230. The development and management of an optometric practice from a patient and community service point of view - office design, office routine, patient care administration, personnel management, recall systems and the establishment, development and management of an optometric practice from a business point of view - legal developments, governmental regulations, legislation and the legislative process,

malpractice, professional ethics, taxes, fee structures, insurance and accounting methods.

#### **OPTOM 8640 Pediatric Optometry (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8380 and OPTOM 8540. Special examination and management considerations of the pediatric patient. Psychological, physiological, social, and demographic aspects of early visual development. Discussion of the optometric considerations of children with learning and reading disabilities. The course format is two lecture/discussions per week.

#### **OPTOM 8645 Neurologic Disorders of the Eye and Visual System (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8570. Diagnosis, management and treatment of selected neurologic disorders of the eye and visual system. Emphasis is on diagnostic imaging of the visual system, diagnosis of central and peripheral disorders of eye movements, space occupying lesions, acquired brain injury, and optic nerve disease.

#### **OPTOM 8650 Geriatric Optometry (2)**

Prerequisite: OPTOM 8380. Special examination and management considerations of the geriatric patient will be discussed. Psychological, physiological, social, and demographic aspects of aging, as well as ocular changes associated with the aging process will be taught.

#### **OPTOM 8660 Contact Lens Specialty Clinic (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8391. The clinical examination and care of patients in the optometric specialty area of contact lenses.

#### **OPTOM 8670 Comprehensive Case Review and analysis (1)**

Prerequisites: Enrollment in OPTOM 8500 or OPTOM 8600. Discussion of the diagnosis and management of common clinic patient encounters via Socratic teaching techniques. Interns are encouraged to present actual cases which have been particularly challenging for them. The course format is a weekly seminar.

#### **OPTOM 8680 Ophthalmic Lasers (2)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8570. This course will review the principles and applications of lasers for the anterior segment. Topics will include the principles, physics, laser tissue interactions and safety concerns for ophthalmic lasers. The indications, contraindications and potential complications of lasers used for open angle glaucoma, closed angle glaucoma and posterior capsulotomy will be reviewed. In addition, the course will review epiluminescence microscopy, minor surgical procedures, suture techniques, office emergencies including anaphylaxis, chalazion management and radiofrequency surgery. An overview of the anatomy of eyelids, post-operative wound care, complications of surgical procedures, surgical instruments, asepsis and OSHA will be provided. The medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures will be discussed. Co-Management of patients who have corneal refractive surgery will also be covered.

#### **OPTOM 8690 Pediatric/Binocular Vision Specialty Clinic (1)**

Prerequisites: OPTOM 8392. The clinical examination and care of patients in the optometric specialty areas of binocular vision and pediatric vision.

**OPTOM 8700 UMSL Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of patients in pediatric/binocular vision clinic at the UMSL Center for Eyecare. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation. This course must be taken in conjunction with OPTOM 8710 and OPTOM 8720.

**OPTOM 8710 UMSL Contact Lens Patient Care (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second and third year coursework required Comprehensive clinical care in the contact lens clinic at the UMSL Center for Eyecare. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation. This course must be taken in conjunction with OPTOM 8700 and OPTOM 8720.

**OPTOM 8720 UMSL Eye Health Management Patient Care (1)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care in the eye health management clinic with ophthalmologists at the UMSL University Eye Center. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation. This course must be taken in conjunction with OPTOM 8700 and OPTOM 8710.

**OPTOM 8770 External Rotation in Clinical Care III (7)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of patients at St. Louis area community health centers. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

**OPTOM 8780 External Rotation in VA/Hospital (7)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of primary care patients at external sites approved by the School of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

**OPTOM 8790 External Rotation in Ocular Disease Patient Care (7)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of patients with ocular disease at external sites approved by the School of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

**OPTOM 8814 External Rotation in Clinical Care I (7)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of Primary Care Patients at an external site approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

**OPTOM 8830 External Rotation in Clinical Care III (7)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of a general population of optometric patients at external sites approved by the School of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

**OPTOM 8870 Practice Management II (2)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second and third year coursework. Further in-depth discussion in practice management.

**OPTOM 8880 Practice Management III (1)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of all first, second and third year coursework. Presentation and discussion of interesting clinical patients. Additional clinical testing techniques and concepts. Further discussion of patient data analysis-the process of determining diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy. Further discussions in the optometric specialties.

**OPTOM 8970 Geriatric Patient Care Delivery (3-6)**

Prerequisite: Consent of Geriatric Residency Instructors. Direct optometric patient care to a population that is largely geriatric. Emphasis will be on integrating specialty care available for these patients to provide comprehensive vision care. Two hours of direct patient care per week are required per hour of credit. In addition, the student will attend weekly supervisory meetings. May be repeated with consent of instructor for a total of 18 credits. Patient care will become more independent of direct supervision and the type of patients seen will be more varied with each repeat.

\*If a student desires to waive a prerequisite for a given course, this request must be approved by both the instructor of this course and the Student Committee.

## Admission, Application, Selection, Acceptance

### Admission Requirements

	Semester	or	Quarter
English <sup>1</sup>	2	or	3
Biology (including laboratory) <sup>1</sup>	3	or	4
Physics (including laboratory)	2	or	3
Chemistry <sup>**</sup>			
General (including laboratory)	2	or	3
Organic (including laboratory)	1	or	2
Mathematics			
Calculus	1	or	1
Statistics	1	or	1
Psychology	1	or	1
Liberal Arts	2	or	2

<sup>1</sup>One semester (or one quarter) of Microbiology with laboratory is a requirement. One semester of Anatomy or Physiology is recommended.

<sup>\*\*</sup> One semester of Biochemistry, Cell Biology or Human/Comparative Physiology is recommended.

### Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and/or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Credit : (Effective June 29, 2023)

The College of Optometry has adopted the following Advanced Placement (AP) credit policy:

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and/or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Credit is acceptable if the credits were accepted by your undergraduate institution and appear on your undergraduate transcript. We will accept prerequisite courses taken online provided they were offered by an accredited college or university. In-person laboratories are strongly preferred.

The College of Optometry uses a rolling admissions process. All courses used to satisfy the admission requirements must have been taken at an institution fully accredited by one of the Department of Education regional accreditation bodies. Specific prerequisite courses must be taken for a letter grade; they cannot be taken as an Audit or on a Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. Applicants must have completed 90 semester or 135 quarter hours (the equivalent of three years of college education) prior to the start of classes. In order to process financial aid awards, it is strongly recommended that students complete all prerequisite courses the spring prior to admission. The applicant cannot apply more than 60 semester-hours or 90 quarter-hours, that were earned at a two-year institution, toward the credit-hour requirement.

Applicants holding a bachelor's degree will be given preference over applicants with similar academic credentials who do not have a degree. There is no requirement that a student major in a specific area. Applicants to the college come from a variety of undergraduate backgrounds, such as biological sciences, chemistry, psychology, education, and business.

### Admission Test

Students should work with their undergraduate advisors as well as their academic advisor in optometry, to insure that all pre-requisite courses are taken prior to taking the Optometry Admission Test (OAT).

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is the preferred qualifying exam that determines an applicant's eligibility for an interview. Beginning with applicants applying July 1, 2019 the college will also consider test scores from the Dental Admissions Test (DAT), Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), the Pharmacy College Admissions test (PCAT) and the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). Please contact the College of Optometry's office of admissions for more information regarding the acceptance of these exams. Official test scores from qualifying exams are valid for up to three years from the testing date. Typically, students should plan to take the exam during the summer between the third and fourth year of their undergraduate program.

Applicants are encouraged to take the examination by June of the year of application to the College of Optometry. If applicants wish to enhance their scores, the examination may be repeated. For OAT information, contact:

Optometry Admission Testing Program  
<https://oat.ada.org/>  
 (800) 232-2159

### Application Procedures

The Admissions Committee begins to process applications on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the class entering the following year. An applicant's file will be considered complete and ready for consideration by the Admissions Committee when the following material has been received (Asterisked (\*) items are processed by Centralized Application Service):

- \*1. Application and appropriate fee through Centralized Application Service that has been verified;
2. Supplemental application through UMSL with a \$50.00 (U.S. dollars) non-refundable application fee submitted online (accepts credit card or check);
- \*3. Official College transcripts followed by updated transcripts as they become available (Exception: graduates of international programs see deadline requirements for all transcripts);
- \*4. Official Official OAT, GRE, MCAT, DAT, or PCAT scores are received. OAT and GRE are submitted automatically through OptomCAS.

MCAT, DAT, and PCAT scores should be sent to [optometry@umsystem.edu](mailto:optometry@umsystem.edu);

- \*5. Three letters of recommendation which includes one letter of recommendation from an optometrist who is not related to you. Up to four letters may be sent to OptomCAS;
6. Students who are offered admission into the College of Optometry are required to complete a criminal background through Certiphi. Students must satisfactorily complete this background check for admission.

Students will complete an additional background check prior to starting their clinical experience in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. A satisfactory criminal background check is required for clinical privileges. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student.

The Centralized Application Service may be entered through [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org).

Official transcripts must be mailed from every college attended, regardless of whether or not credit was earned, once an applicant has been offered admission and that applicant has accepted our offer of admission. (International students: transcripts must be submitted by the early application deadline of January 15.)

Letters of recommendation must be emailed or mailed directly to the Centralized Application Service center by the originator.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all application materials are received by the Centralized Application Service center by March 1 (International students: transcripts must be submitted by the early application deadline of January 15.) to be considered for admission to the class entering in August of the same year. Facsimile (faxed) application material will be not accepted or acknowledged. Application material received after March 1 may not be evaluated for the class entering in August of the same year. To be considered for merit scholarships, there is an early enrollment deadline. **All materials must be received by January 15, in order to be considered for the early application deadline.** Applications received after that time will still be considered for admission but not additional awards e.g. merit scholarships, state seat contracts.

## Application Deadlines

### Early

To be considered for merit scholarship your application must be received by January 15th.

### Final

Deadline: March 1.

## International Students

International students whose native language is not English and who have spent less than two of the last three years in an English-speaking country are required to submit scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.

To complete their credential file, applicants are required to furnish original and official transcripts by the early application deadline of January 15, from each school and college attended both in this country and abroad. The Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc. or the World Education Services must evaluate **all international school and college transcripts** and their evaluation submitted as part of the application requirement. For information contact:

Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc.  
101 W. Pleasant St., Suite 200  
Milwaukee, WI 53212-3963  
(414) 289-3400  
Fax: (414) 289-3411  
Email: [eval@ece.org](mailto:eval@ece.org)  
Web site: <https://www.ece.org>

World Education Services  
PO BOX 2008 STN MAIN  
NEWMARKET ON, L3Y 0G5  
(800) 361-3106  
Fax: (212) 739-6100  
Email: [info@wes.org](mailto:info@wes.org)  
Web site: <https://www.wes.org/>

UMSL maintains UMSL Global to assist applicants who have been offered admission. All new international students are required to attend a formal orientation program before matriculation. For more information, contact:

UMSL Global  
1 University Blvd. 362 Social Sciences Building  
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400  
Phone: 1 (314) 516-5753  
Fax: 1-314-516-5636  
Email: [iss@umsl.edu](mailto:iss@umsl.edu)  
Web site: <https://www.umsl.edu/global/index.html>

## Selection Procedures

Applications are reviewed beginning after July 1 with interviews scheduled in August. The College uses a rolling admissions process which allows qualified applicants to be admitted on an ongoing basis until the class is filled. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible to ensure full consideration for admission.

The Admissions Committee has the responsibility to review and evaluate all applicants and select the best-qualified candidates for consideration of interview. The committee considers: cumulative GPA, science GPA, and OAT scores (The College also accepts the MCAT, PACT, DAT, and GRE scores). Candidates are also evaluated on less quantitative measures such as extracurricular activities and interests, related or unrelated work experience, essay, and letters of recommendation.

Those applicants whom the committee finds to be most competitive will be invited for an interview (on-campus or virtual). The interview facilitates an assessment of the applicant's communication skills, interests, motivation, and personal characteristics. In addition, the interview allows the applicant to tour the facilities, meet with currently enrolled students, and learn more about the UMSL and the College of Optometry. From this group of interviewed applicants, the entering class of 48-50 students, plus any alternate positions, will be selected.

## Admission Process

Notices of acceptance may be received as late as July of the year in which the students enter the program. If acceptance to the class is conditional, the terms of the condition must be completed prior to matriculation. Applicants who have indicated that degree requirements will be completed prior to matriculation, and who have been selected for admission, may receive a conditional offer of acceptance contingent upon completion of the degree.

Once an offer of admission is made to an applicant, the applicant will be contacted by OptomCAS to complete a criminal background check. We encourage applicants to review the criteria for background check on the OptomCAS website: [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org). The policies of the UMSL and the College of Optometry comply with the provisions under those laws that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or veteran status. Applicants are required to pay a \$50 supplemental application fee. Applicants who are admitted will pay a \$500 deposit to reserve their spot in the admitted class. Neither the supplemental application fee nor the deposit is refundable. The \$500 deposit will be credited toward tuition when the student matriculates.

A certain number of applicants are placed on an alternate list. If an applicant who has been offered admission declines the offer, their position will be allocated to the next individual on the alternate list.

Notification of denial is sent by mail. If an applicant is interested in reapplying, they will need to reapply through the Centralized Application Service.

## Immunization

The University requires that students born after 1956 to provide documented proof of immunity for measles and rubella, through current immunization records or disease documentation by a physician. Optometry students are required to show evidence of having the Hepatitis B immunization prior to matriculation.

The University also requires students living on campus to provide proof of a meningitis vaccine.

A TB screening is required the 3rd year of school before the student begins seeing patients in the clinic and again in the 4th year before the student begins the externship rotations.

While optometry students are not required to receive a varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, some externship sites may require either proof of the disease or proof of a varicella vaccination.

## Faculty Vaccination and Credentialing Statement

In order to meet the college entry-level practice guidelines and clinical competencies set forth within the curriculum plan required for a professional (O.D.) degree, professional degree seeking students must maintain eligibility for credentialing as a clinician in training at any assigned required clinic site, externship site, and other clinical community partners. The necessary steps for credentialing at partner locations are separate from those established by UMSL Eye Care/College of Optometry and determined by the respective site. Examples of credentialing requirements include vaccination status, testing for communicable disease, evidence for personal health insurance, liability coverage, successful completion of criminal background checks and drug screenings.

Clinical experiences for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students are required to meet expectations for graduation. The faculty have determined that current program curriculum requirements for graduation cannot be met by students who decline vaccination requirements and are subsequently denied a vaccination exemption from any assigned externship or clinical site. Most externship sites and other clinical community partners have mandated COVID vaccinations for all individuals participating in patient care.

Students are expected to meet credentialing requirements for all clinic sites in order to meet graduation requirements. Students unable to meet those requirements may need to postpone their clinical training and expected graduation date, understanding that the college graduation requirements must be completed within 6 years of initial matriculation. The faculty recognize that the healthcare system is a rapidly changing and evolving environment, and the list of expectations for credentialing is likely to change at some point in the future.

*Adopted by the faculty, September 23, 2021*



## Residency

Optometry students who do not meet the residency requirements must pay the nonresident educational fee according to the schedule outlined in the “Fees and Estimated Cost of Education” section of this Bulletin. Students are responsible for registering under the proper residency and paying the proper educational fees. All optometry students will be required to pay the non-resident educational fee if they do not meet the University of Missouri residency requirements at that time of enrollment.

Questions related to residency requirements should be directed to:

UMSL Optometry Student Services  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63121  
(314) 516-6263

## Pre-Optometry Programs

The UMSL offers a four-year program of study leading to the doctor of optometry degree; this professional degree is administered by the College of Optometry. It is one of only 23 currently accredited schools of optometry in the United States and the only one in the state of Missouri. This program, as a result, makes UMSL an ideal institution for pre-optometry education. Various programs are available for pre-optometry as noted below.

Students may pursue a traditional 4+4 program, which is a bachelor's degree followed by the four-year graduate optometry program. In this case, students may pursue any bachelor's degree, as long as the pre-optometry requirements are met in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, psychology and English.

### 3 + 4 Program

Students may apply for the 3 + 4 program through Arts and Sciences advising department. For more information, please contact the Pre-Health Advisor in the Marcus Allen Advising Center in the College of Arts and Sciences via email: [artscience@umsl.edu](mailto:artscience@umsl.edu) or by phone: 314-516-5501 for specific requirements.

### Requirements of the 3 + 4 Program:

**Waiver Forms:** Please fill out and sign all waivers. Failure to do so may exclude you from receiving an interview and letter. These forms can be obtained from the Office of Advising with the College of Arts and Sciences.

**GPA Requirement:** Students are required to maintain a 3.2 GPA, and receive a grade of “B” in all required classes. All additional science courses must be at least a “C.”

**OAT:** Students are required to have an overall score of 300.

**Official Admission to College of Optometry:** Students should apply to the College of Optometry through OptomCAS.

**Receiving Bachelor's Degree:** Once admitted into the College of Optometry, students will receive their BS in Biology after the completion of their first semester. Students must apply for undergraduate graduation prior to matriculation into the College of Optometry.

## Fees & Estimated Cost of Education

### Education Fees

All students enrolled in the University must pay educational fees based on either the schedule for Missouri residents or the schedule for non-residents. All optometry students will be required to pay the non-resident educational fee if they do not meet the University of Missouri residency requirements at the time of enrollment.

For current fees and costs\*, please check [http://www.umsl.edu/services/cashiers/fee\\_sch.htm](http://www.umsl.edu/services/cashiers/fee_sch.htm) and be certain to select appropriately optometry resident/nonresident.

### Other Required Fees

Other required fees and parking fees are now part of general tuition.

### Student Health Insurance (optional)

An Accident and Sickness Insurance plan is available to students and their dependents. Information concerning premiums and coverage is available upon request from University Health Services. Visit their web site at [www.umsl.edu/services/health](http://www.umsl.edu/services/health) or call (314) 516-5671.

### Late Registration Fee

Students registering after the close of the regular registration period must pay a \$50.00 late registration fee.

---

The University reserves the right to modify by increase or decrease the fees charged for attendance and other services at the University, including but not limited to educational fees, at any time when in the discretion of the governing board the same is in the best interest of the University, provided that no increases can or will be effective unless approved by the governing board not less than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the academic term (semester, etc.) to which the fees are applicable and such increase does not exceed ten (10) percent over the fee level existing immediately prior to the increase, with all modification of fees to be effective irrespective as to whether fees have or have not been paid by or on behalf of a student prior to the effective date of the modification.

---

### Personal Checks

Personal checks in payment of fees or other obligations to the University will be accepted only when the amount of the check does not exceed the amount due from the student. Any checks payable to the University which are returned unpaid will be assessed a \$20 return check charge.

### Delinquent Indebtedness

All delinquent indebtedness to the University must be cleared before transcripts or diplomas will be released or before the next registration period, if enrolled.

### State Reciprocal Agreement

The College of Optometry currently has a State Reciprocal Agreement for residents of Kansas. This agreement permits the College of Optometry to admit up to three eligible Kansas residents in each entering class to receive the award (12 total in the College). The recipients of this award are charged the equivalent of Missouri educational fees. If more than the allowable number (typically two or three) Kansas residents are admitted to the entering class, the College of Optometry will select the recipients for this award based on a combination of grade point average, admission test scores, and the interview evaluations. The recipient(s) of the award will not be determined until all Kansas applicants have been reviewed. (Applications must be completed by March 1 to be considered.)

To apply for this award, applicants must be certified as a bona fide Kansas resident and meet financial need (FAFSA). Seats will not be offered until after FAFSA data is available. For Kansas residency certification, contact:

Kansas Board of Regents  
 Kansas Optometry Service Scholarship  
 1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 520  
 Topeka, KS 66612-1368

(785) 460-4233

[https://kansasregents.org/scholarships\\_and\\_grants](https://kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants)

Additionally, Kansas residents accepting a seat are required to return to Kansas to practice following graduation or completion of a residency program.

### Estimated Cost of Education

There are numerous factors that must be considered when determining how much it will cost for a four-year optometric education. These include required fees, textbooks, equipment, and cost of living. Additionally, financial aid in the form of scholarships and assistantships should be considered.

**Textbooks, Equipment and Additional Costs\***

Equipment	\$7600.00
Books	\$700.00 per year
Boards Review	
KMK	\$3200.00
OptiPrep	\$1000.00
NBEO Test	\$2000.00
Background Check	\$200.00
Cost of Living per Semester	\$13,000.00
Incidental	\$1500.00
Health Insurance	Varies by plan

\*The additional costs are estimates and used for budgeting purposes only.

## Financial Aid

The UMSL maintains an Office of Student Financial Aid to assist students with the cost of their education.

Financial assistance is available in the form of grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study. Funds for these programs are available from federal, private, state, and institutional resources. To apply for financial aid, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Preference will be given to those students who have completed the [FAFSA by April 1](#). Preference means that the Student Financial Aid Office will begin awarding FWS (Federal College Work-Study), and Federal SEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant). A completed financial aid application means that the Financial Aid Office has received an official Student Aid Report from the Federal Processing Center. Information about Federal loan programs and FAFSA are available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Students must complete a FAFSA form online to receive Federal Financial aid and to receive some scholarships.

To be considered for all university scholarships offered through the Financial Aid Office, a student must be accepted for admission.

Many state optometric associations and their auxiliaries offer scholarships and grants. Application is generally made directly to the state association or auxiliary and selection is generally made on the basis of state residence and other criteria. Information may be obtained by writing to the various state optometric associations and/or auxiliaries.

The College of Optometry will provide additional information about scholarships and the college's Handbook of Loans, Scholarships, Grants, and Awards to applicants after being admitted. Many of the College's scholarships are listed on the College Web site at <http://optometry.umsl.edu/about/scholar.html>.

### Eligibility for Federal Aid

All recipients must meet the following general eligibility requirements:

- be enrolled at least half-time or accepted for enrollment;
- be working toward a degree or certificate;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- be making satisfactory academic progress;
- not owe a refund on a Pell Grant or be in default on a Federal Education Loan;
- be registered for Selective Service (if required);
- have financial need (except for William D. Ford Direct Loan, formerly called Unsubsidized Stafford Loan).

Note: Eligible Non-citizen is a U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151 or I-1551 (Alien Registration Receipt

Card). Students on an F1 or F2 student visa only, or on a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa only, cannot receive federal student aid.

### Application Process

To apply for federal aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The UMSL code is 002519.

At the present time, the following financial assistance programs are available:

### Federal Work-Study (FWS)

The FWS program provides jobs for those students who are enrolled at least half-time and has demonstrated need for financial assistance in meeting their education expenses.

The FWS program provides jobs on campus at a wage per hour at least equal to the current minimum wage. Eligible students may be employed for 28 hours per week during the summer and no more than 20 hours per week during the academic year.

### Veterans Benefits

Veterans eligible to receive monthly benefits or widows and children of deceased veterans who are interested in applying for benefits should contact the University's Veterans Office, 211 Clark Hall or call (314)516-5707, for information.

Veterans enrolled at the University must achieve special academic standing. All veterans should read the current Handbook of Educational Benefits, published by the Office of Veteran Affairs. This booklet explains the regulations and procedures that apply to them. Veterans are responsible for abiding by these special regulations.

### Financial Aid Appeal

The UMSL has an established financial aid appeals procedure. An aid applicant can raise questions or appeal the offer, or lack of an offer, of financial aid if not satisfied. Refer to Financial Aid Appeals in the Appendix.

### Loans

#### Health Professions Student Loan (HPSL)

The HPSL program is for students to pursue a course of study in specified health professions by providing long-term low interest loans (5 percent). The maximum loan amount cannot exceed the cost of attendance. HPSL award levels are subject to availability of funds.

### **Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate and Professional Degree Students**

Graduate and professional degree students can borrow a Direct PLUS Loan to help cover education expenses.

The terms and conditions applicable to PLUS Loans for parents also apply to PLUS Loans for graduate and professional students. These terms and conditions include: 1) determination that you (the applicant) do not have an adverse credit history; and 2) a fixed interest rate for Direct PLUS Loans.

### **William D. Ford Federal Direct Student Loan Program**

The aggregate amount for undergraduate and professional unsubsidized loans is \$225,000. The interest rate is variable and may change each July 1. There is a period of 10-30 years to repay.

### **Unsubsidized**

Award is not need based; the maximum award per year is \$40,500. The borrower is responsible for the interest during in-college, grace, and deferment periods.

## **Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants**

Many scholarships and awards are available from many sources. The College of Optometry cannot assume responsibility for listing a scholarship or award which is no longer available. As of the publication of this document, these were known to exist. Not all scholarships and awards are administered by the College of Optometry or UMSL. Students must contact the outside entity for those scholarships and awards administered outside the university or college.

### **Air Force Scholarship**

Sponsored by U.S. Armed Forces (Air Force)  
Award: 100% tuition and fees, expenses, and monthly stipend.

Eligibility: Be a U.S. citizen and physically qualified for an Air Force commission; be currently enrolled in or accepted for the next enrolled class of a College of Optometry; and have completed the Optometry Admission Test (OAT).

### **Alumni Scholarship**

Sponsored by the College of Optometry Alumni  
Award: Variable, as available.  
Eligibility: Any enrolled student.

### **Army Scholarship**

Sponsored by U.S. Armed Forces (Army)  
Award: 100% tuition, fees, expenses, and monthly stipend.  
Eligibility: Be a citizen of the U.S.; be enrolled in or have a letter of acceptance from an accredited college or college of optometry located in the U.S. or Puerto Rico; and meet the prescribed eligibility criteria for appointment as a commissioned officer.

### **Bellingrath Scholarship in Optometry**

Sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bellingrath  
Scholarship Fund administered through UMSL College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Demonstrated student leadership and civic responsibility; must be nominated by a faculty member, a staff member or an alumnus/a.

### **(Helen L.) Gadell Scholarship in Optometry**

Sponsored by the Helen L. Gadell Scholarship Fund  
administered through UMSL College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Full-time optometry student beginning the third or fourth year of the program; must have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0; demonstrate financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

### **(Mary M.) Gilbert Scholarship in Optometry**

Sponsored by the Mrs. Mary M. Gilbert Scholarship Fund  
administered through UMSL College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Minimum grade point average of 3.0 and a member of the American Academy of Optometry and/or the American Optometric Association.

### **The William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. Memorial Scholarship**

Sponsored by Dr. William R. Jackson Jr. Estate  
Administered through the College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Currently enrolled; resident of Missouri at time of matriculation.

### **The William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. Memorial Scholarship**

Sponsored by Dr. William R. Jackson Jr. Estate  
Administered through the Missouri Optometric Foundation  
in cooperation with the UMSL College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Currently enrolled fourth year student; resident of Missouri; based on external rotation site selected by the Missouri Optometric Foundation.

### **Dr. Robert A. Koetting Scholarship**

Sponsored by Dr. Robert A. Koetting and friends of  
Dr. Robert A. Koetting Scholarship Fund administered  
through UMSL College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Beginning fourth- year optometry student; minimum grade-point average of 3.5; member of the American Academy of Optometry and/or the American Optometric Student Association.

### **Merit Scholarship**

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Entering first year students are offered a merit scholarship based on his or her OAT section scores and undergraduate cumulative GPA. In order to keep this scholarship, the student must maintain a GPA above 2.5 in the optometry program.

**Merit Minority Scholarship**

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Entering first year students are offered a merit scholarship based on his or her OAT section scores and undergraduate cumulative GPA. In order to keep this scholarship, the student must maintain a GPA above 2.5 in the optometry program.

**Navy Scholarship**

Sponsored by U.S. Armed Forces (Navy)

Award: 100% tuition, fees, expenses, and monthly stipend.

Eligibility: Student must be fully accepted for the next entering class; be a citizen of the United States; be of good moral character; and must meet the physical requirements for a Navy commission.

**(Dr. A.M.) Skeffington Memorial Scholarship**

Sponsored by friends of Dr. A.M. Skeffington and Dr. Robert L. Mobley Scholarship Fund administered through UMSL College of Optometry

Award: Variable

Eligibility: Fourth year optometry student with demonstrated interest in pursuing the specialty of binocular vision, vision perception, and vision therapy.

**Vision Service Plan Scholarship**

Sponsored by Vision Service Plan administered through UMSL College of Optometry

Award: (2) \$2,000

Eligibility: Awarded to fourth year students who have demonstrated excellence in primary eye care, are in the top half of their class and have a commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry.

**Women in Optometry (WinO) Scholarship**

Sponsored by the WinO Scholarship Fund administered through UMSL College of Optometry Award:

approximately \$500 annually

Eligibility: Preference is given to a female, but it is awarded to the entering student demonstrating the most financial need. It is awarded in the second semester of the student's first year.

\*Additional Scholarships may be available. Check with the College of Optometry office of Student Service for details.\*

---

## Graduation Awards

Graduating students receive a number of awards at Commencement that honor their academic and clinical achievements. Among these are:

### **Alcon Fourth Year Case Study Award**

Sponsored by Alcon Laboratories, Inc.

Award: \$1,000 and plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has written the best case study determined to be the most qualified entry that used an Alcon product.

### **A. M. Skeffington Memorial Scholarship Award**

Sponsored by the A. M. Skeffington and friends of Dr. Robert Mobley Scholarship Fund

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate for excellence in binocular vision anomalies, pediatric optometry, binocular vision and space perception, as well as an interest in the principals of Dr. Skeffington and the Optometric Extension Program.

### **Clinical Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy Award**

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate in recognition of clinical performance in the area of binocular vision/vision therapy.

### **Clinical Excellence Award**

Sponsored by the GP Lens Institute

Award: Plaque and GP Diagnostic Lens Set

Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate in recognition of clinical performance in the area of contact lens care.

### **Clinical Excellence Award**

Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation

Award: \$1,000 and plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to the student who has demonstrated highest level of all aspects of clinical patient care.

### **Contact Lens Clinical Award**

Sponsored by Paragon Vision Sciences, Inc.

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated clinical excellence in the field of contact lenses.

### **Dean's and the Dr. M. Earl McClellan Memorial Awards**

Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation and the College of Optometry

Award: \$1,000 and plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate for outstanding scholarship.

### **(William) Feinbloom Low Vision Award**

Sponsored by Designs for Vision, Inc.

Award: Certificate for magnifiers

Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated excellence in both the didactic and the clinical aspects of low vision care.

### **(Dr. William R.) Jackson Jr. Memorial Award**

Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation

Award: One (1) \$1,000

Eligibility: Awarded to a graduating student who best exemplifies independent professional optometry. Three students are selected by peer vote by the members of the graduating class. They are personally interviewed and the recipient is chosen by the Missouri Optometric Foundation Board of Directors.

### **(Charles C.) Matlock Memorial Award**

Sponsored by the Charles C. Matlock Family

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has achieved distinction in the area of pediatric optometry.

### **Ocular Instruments Award of Excellence**

Sponsored by Ocular Instruments

Award: Certificate of Achievement and a certificate that may be redeemed for any diagnostic lens in the Ocular Instruments Catalog (up to a \$600 value).

Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated academic and technical excellence in the field of ophthalmic optics and ophthalmic dispensing.

### **Silver Medal Award**

Sponsored by Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Fraternity

Award: Silver Medal

Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate for outstanding scholarship.

\*Several other awards are given out at graduation and very in award type\*

---

## Office of Student Services

The primary function of the College of Optometry Office of Student Services is to administer all student services and address student needs. More specifically, the office staff:

- administers the College's student recruitment and admissions programs;
- prepares and distributes the "Schedule of Courses;"
- coordinates registration;
- provides academic advising;
- maintains all student records and the college's academic records;
- provides students with housing information;
- coordinates placement activities;
- processes applications to state boards;
- administers the tutorial service;
- provides debt management activities;
- assists with activities such as Commencement;
- advises student organizations;
- acts as an information source for the student body;
- provides other services as specific needs arise.

In addition, the Office of Student Services will assist undergraduate advisors in the selection of appropriate pre-optometry courses at their institution and coordinates "Optometric Showcases" during the year for prospective students.



## Student Services

The University and the College offer numerous services to assure the students' physical and emotional well-being while pursuing the professional program. All services are included in the UMSL Student Academic Planner. All students receive a new student binder at orientation. Some of the services offered by the University and the College include:

### Millennium Student Center

The Millennium Student Center is the location of the Women's Center, University Bookstore, Food Service, Student Activities offices, Student Government offices, *The Current* student newspaper, and various meeting rooms and study lounges. The Center is also the location of Financial Aid, Health Services, and the Cashier. Banking services are also available.

### Emergency Phones

Emergency phones on campus provide a direct line to the campus police. They may be utilized to report such problems as injury and car trouble, and are located at various sites on campus and near most major parking areas.

### Parking

All students can obtain a parking pass which is included in student tuition.

Failure to comply with traffic regulations may subject students to disciplinary action, payment of an additional fee, and the denial of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle on campus. Copies of Traffic Regulations for the UMSL are available at UMSL Institutional Safety and the Cashier's Office. The College of Optometry cannot take responsibility for the payment of penalties in the event that students violate these policies.

### MetroLink Pass Program

The UMSL has purchased for its students a prepaid pass program with Bi-State Development Agency. All students enrolled in a course will be eligible to receive one (1) Metro pass regardless of credit hours taken. No additional charge will be assessed to the student when picking up the pass from the Cashier's Office. The pass can be used on all MetroLink and Bi-State buses in metropolitan St. Louis (St. Louis County, the City of St. Louis, and the Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair) when classes are in session.

To participate in the program, students must have an official UMSL student photo ID with a current semester decal and a valid MetroLink pass. Decals are available at the Cashier's Office, 284B Millennium Student Center,

upon payment of tuition and fees. Replacement for lost or stolen Metro passes is limited to one per term at a cost of \$25.00.

### Campus Shuttles

UMSL operates a campus shuttle for students when classes are in session. Students may use this service free of charge. The shuttles stop at numerous locations on the North and South Campuses. Schedules and routes are posted at various locations across campus. The shuttle schedule can be viewed at

<http://www.umsi.edu/%7etransportation/campus-shuttle/index.html>

### Bookstore

The Bookstore is located in the Millennium Student Center and is headquarters for ordering textbooks and supplementary reading materials. In addition to textbooks, popular hardback and paperback offerings and other books for enjoyment and learning are available; the Bookstore can order any book in print. The Bookstore also has gift items, cards, insignia items, and college supplies. 516-5763 or

<http://www.umsitritonstore.com/default.aspx>

### Information Technology Services

The Office of Information Technology Services provides microcomputer and mainframe support for your academic needs. There is no additional charge for use of these facilities. Non-credit short courses are offered in the fall and spring semesters that provide hands-on experience. 516-6034 or <http://www.umsi.edu/technology>

### Student Computing Services

UMSL provides a wide array of computing services. Student computing services are funded through the Instructional Computing Fees. These fees support eight open access computing laboratories.

There are Windows 10, Mac, and UNIX workstations available. All of the labs provide laser printing and all are staffed with student lab assistants who can provide assistance in usage of the machines and with selected software applications.

In addition, a Student Resource Center has special hardware and software to meet additional needs of students. The resources in this room include a color scanner, a color printer, special multi-media software, and a portable projection unit. The equipment in this room can be reserved by contacting the supervisor of the Student Computing Labs.

## Health and Fitness Facilities

The state-of-the-art Recreation and Wellness Center. The center has approximately 100,000 square feet of space for open recreation, intramural sports and wellness education. All currently enrolled students are able to utilize the facility by showing their Triton Card.

The indoor swimming pool is available to all members of the University community for daily open recreation. Other areas of interest include an indoor climbing wall, a running track, new fully equipped weight room/fitness center, an aerobics fitness center, saunas and whirlpool, courts available for handball and racquetball on a reservation basis, and a training room and locker rooms for both men and women. Lockers in both the men's and women's areas may be checked out to students, faculty, staff, and alumni on a semester basis. In order to obtain additional information regarding locker room services, check with the attendant on duty.

Prior to the opening of the Recreation and Wellness Center, all Campus Recreation facilities, programs and services were administered under the Department of Athletics at the Mark Twain Building. This space is now fully dedicated to the Department of Athletics, its teams, players and special rentals and program.

In addition to the indoor facilities, the UMSL athletic complex contains approximately six acres of outdoor space including soccer, baseball, and softball fields, six tennis and two outdoor handball courts, and an intramural/recreational playfield. Also available is a 1.5 mile "Fit" Trail which winds through campus and a new "Fit" Court located west of the building.

## University Health Services

University Health Services offers first-aid, general health consultations, and referral services. Blood pressure checks and screening tests for vision and hearing are done routinely. Free pamphlets on various health matters are also available. University Health Services also offers health education and screening programs throughout the year.

Handicapped Parking Permits are issued by University Health Services upon presentation of a Medical Certificate verifying a disability. In addition, a regular parking sticker and car license number are necessary in order to process an application for Handicapped Parking.

Brochures, applications, and claim forms for the Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan are available at University Health Services.

University Health Services is located in the Millennium Student Center and is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. 516-5671 or [www.umsel.edu/services/health/](http://www.umsel.edu/services/health/)

## Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program

Pursuant to the Drug-Free Colleges and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, the UMSL is required to establish a drug and alcohol prevention program for its students and employees. A biennial review of this program will be done to determine its effectiveness, to implement changes to the program if they are needed, and to ensure the University's disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

(<http://www.umsel.edu/~studentplanner/Policies%20and%20Procedures/drugsalcohol.html>)

## Standards of Conduct

University of Missouri regulations prohibit the unlawful possession, use, distribution and sale of alcohol and illicit drugs by University students and employees on University-owned or controlled property and at University-sponsored or supervised activities.

## Legal Sanctions

Local, state, and federal laws also prohibit the unlawful possession, use, distribution, and sale of alcohol and illicit drugs. Criminal penalties for violation of such laws range from fines up to \$20,000 to imprisonment for terms up to and including life.

## University Discipline

Violation of these University of Missouri regulations can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students and discharge for employees.

## Health Risks

Specific serious health risks are associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Some of the major risks are listed below.

Alcohol and Other Depressants (barbiturates, sedatives, and tranquilizers): Addiction, accidents as a result of impaired ability and judgment, overdose when used with other depressants, damage to a developing fetus, heart and liver damage.

Marijuana: Addiction, panic reaction, impaired short-term memory, increased risk of lung cancer and emphysema (particularly in cigarette smokers), impairment of driving ability.

Cocaine: Addiction, heart attack, seizures, lung damage, severe depression, paranoia, psychosis. Similar risks are associated with other stimulants, such as speed and uppers.

Hallucinogens (acid, LSD, PCP, MDMA, etc.): Unpredictable behavior, emotional instability, violent

behavior, organic brain damage in heavy users, convulsions, and coma.

Narcotics (heroin, Demerol, Morphine, Codeine, etc.): Addiction, accidental overdose, risk of hepatitis and AIDS from contaminated needles.

Inhalants (gas, aerosols, glue, nitrites, etc.): Loss of consciousness, suffocation, damage to brain and central nervous system, sudden death, nausea and vomiting, nosebleeds, impaired judgment.

## Resources

A variety of resources exist for drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs. For detailed information concerning these resources available from the University and/or community agencies, students, employees, and faculty may contact the offices below. Such referrals will respect individual confidentiality. The UMSL Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program is described in a brochure. To obtain the brochure and more information, contact counseling Service, 427 Social Sciences and Business Building, 516-5711; University Health Services, 125 Millennium Student Center, 516-5671; Office of Human Resources, 211 General Services Building, 516-5804; or Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, 407 Woods Hall, 516-5361.

## Non-Smoking Policy

At the University Assembly meeting on November 9, 2010, the following non-smoking policy was approved for the UMSL campus.

<http://umsl.edu/smokefree/Policy/index.html>

**Policy:** Effective **July 1, 2012**, the UMSL became completely smoke-free on all campus property, both indoors and outdoors. Campus property includes all owned or leased buildings, parking garages and parking lots; owned or leased vehicles; and owned or leased outdoor grounds and sidewalks. This policy applies to faculty, staff, students, contractor and consultant employees, performers, visitors and general public.

**Exceptions:** The policy does not apply to individuals in privately owned or privately leased vehicles with the windows and sunroofs or similar devices in the fully closed position, or to individuals participating in academic research on tobacco-related topics or other such accommodations approved by the Campus Institutional Review Board, provided that the activity is conducted in an appropriately ventilated area. The Chancellor may approve other exceptions to the policy based upon a written request from a senior level administrator.

**Smoking Cessation:** University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services will work to provide smoking cessation programs for all students, faculty and staff.

**Respect and Responsibility:** The success of this policy relies on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers for its success. All members of the University community share the responsibility of adhering to the nonsmoking policy. They should also bring it to the attention of visitors. Any complaints should be brought to the attention of the appropriate University authorities. If conflicts or problems should arise, environmental health and safety considerations shall prevail.

## Housing

The UMSL offers on-campus housing for students at the University Meadows. Housing is available during the academic year and summer session. On-campus housing provides on-site laundry facilities, mail delivery, and shuttle service. A variety of educational and social programming is offered, and students are encouraged to be active members of the residential and campus community.

The College, through the Office of Student Services, also assists students in locating off-campus housing consistent with their needs and desires.

Since housing is such an important issue, time is taken during the applicant's visit to the college for the personal interview to discuss the individual needs of the applicant related to housing. After an applicant has been accepted for admission, the necessary information is obtained to assist the student in locating and securing appropriate housing.

## Placement

The University, through Career Services, helps students to develop, implement, and evaluate job search strategies. In addition, the College of Optometry coordinates Placement Service such as assistance with writing a CV or resume and assistance in networking skills and managing a job board.

## Upper-class Student Advisory Program

The program was instituted in 1981 as a voluntary program for incoming students to help alleviate problems and stresses related to transition into the professional college program and in most cases, the stresses of moving to a new city.

The entering student is matched with a senior student who is available to answer questions and give general assistance. This program also provides an opportunity for the entering student to become acquainted with students in the program prior to the first day of classes.

## **New Student Orientation Program**

An orientation program is held during the week prior to the beginning of classes for the Fall Semester to introduce students to the administration and faculty and to acquaint them with college policies, procedures, and services offered by the University and College. All entering students are required to attend this three-day program.

## **Tutorial Service**

The College administers the Tutorial Service through the Office of Student Services. Tutorial sessions can be individual or in a group; tutors are faculty-approved and there is no charge to the student for the service.

## **Counseling**

The University's Counseling Service offers non-academic professional assistance to students and their families. Counseling can be done individually, with a spouse, or in a group.

## **Services to Students with Disabilities**

The University of Missouri is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students without regard to a disabling condition. The University, therefore, will take necessary action to ensure that no otherwise qualified student with a disability is denied access to any particular course or educational program. Such action includes an assessment of the student's abilities and an evaluation of the particular course or program.

## **International Student Services**

The Office of International Student Services provides and coordinates services for international students, including visa and immigration matters, information requests, non-academic advising, initial campus arrival, and social activities.

## **Veteran Affairs**

The Veteran Affairs Office serves as liaison between students and various government offices to provide information on educational benefits, privileges and responsibilities relating to Veteran Administration benefits.

A certifying official is available to answer questions and process official paperwork.

Veterans are certified to the Veteran Affairs Regional Office (VA) beginning with the date of initial registration, and regularly until the expected completion date of the VA approved program or degree. Veteran students must promptly inform the certifying official of any changes in status which might affect benefits. Failure to report such changes can result in overpayments and other complications in receipt of benefits.

Veteran students are expected to attend classes, perform academic duties as assigned by instructors and adhere to academic policies. Failure to do so will result in reports to the VA of unsatisfactory progress, which may result in discontinuance of benefits. Veteran students who cease attending, but do not officially withdraw from class or from the University, will be reported as not making satisfactory progress. If enrollment status is altered in any way, the VA will be notified and an overpayment may be charged against the veteran.

## **Minority Affairs**

The College is active in the recruitment and retention of individuals coming from underrepresented ethnic minority groups.

The College has a number of characteristics that makes it an ideal place for minority students to attend. One is the number of minority faculty who has been an important source of support for current and former minority students. Another ideal characteristic is the small class size which allows for more individualized interaction between the students and faculty.

---

## Student Activities/Organizations

### Campus Wide Student Government

Students are involved in most levels of decision making on the campus, including the Student Association, Senate, and special committees and boards within the individual colleges and departments. All students are members of the campus wide Student Association, which is designed to work toward full student participation in all aspects of university life, university affairs, and policy-making. It represents the student body in all facets of university governance and provides services to the campus community.

### Student Organizations

There are more than 100 recognized student organizations offering UMSL students opportunities to enrich their college education through extra-curricular activities. They include social fraternities and sororities, honor societies, religious and fine art groups, those serving special constituencies (i.e., minority students, international students) the student newspaper, curriculum-oriented and recreational groups, and athletic support organizations (i.e., cheerleading). All of the recognized student organizations follow the principles and procedures established by the University to prevent discrimination and to assure maximum freedom to students.

Optometry students, through professional and honor societies, have many opportunities to participate in social activities, serve the profession and College, and promote professional attitudes and behavior.

#### **American Academy of Optometry (AAO), American Optometric Association (AOA), and the Missouri Optometric Association (MOA)**

Students enrolled in the professional program are eligible for student membership in the American Optometric Association (AOA), the Missouri Optometric Association (MOA), and other state optometric associations in states where the student anticipates to practice. Student membership usually provides the student with an opportunity to receive the organization's publications and to attend meetings.

#### **American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)**

The AOSA is the only official student organization of the American Optometric Association. The purpose of the AOSA is to enhance the visual welfare of the public, to contribute to the education and welfare of optometry students and to improve the student societies of each optometry college.

The national structure of AOSA consists of an executive council made up of four elected national officers and a board of trustees composed of one student from each of

the 23 schools and colleges of optometry in the United States.

AOSA communities, functioning at national, regional, and local levels, provide opportunities for participation in such areas as education, professional liaisons, public health, minority recruitment, national affairs, and financial aid.

Every year the AOSA holds a National Congress. These congresses provide educational classes and an opportunity to meet students from other schools and colleges of optometry.

AOSA also publishes the Foresight, a national student newspaper that reports on activities at all colleges and individual and collective student opinions on current optometric issues.

#### **American Optometric Student Association—St. Louis (AOSA—St. Louis)**

All optometry students enrolled in the UMSL College of Optometry are eligible for membership in the student optometric association, which is affiliated with the American Optometric Student Association; the college chapter is referred to as AOSA-St. Louis. Through this organization, students become involved in local and national optometric activities. AOSA provides an environment for the cultivation of professional leadership skills, and members have organized and participated in a variety of community service activities, including community health screenings and vision care to residents of nursing homes, convalescent hospitals, and mental institutions.

#### **Beta Sigma Kappa-St. Louis (BSK-St. Louis)**

BSK is the only international honor society for optometry students. It is designed to further optometric education by recognizing achievements and providing grants for student research.

#### **College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)**

Students enrolled in the professional program are eligible for student membership in COVD. Student membership provides the student with the organization's publication and the opportunity to attend the annual meeting. COVD is an international organization dedicated to the study and promotion of the developmental aspects of patient care.

**Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO)**

The purpose of FCO is to encourage Christian optometry students to become involved in mission work, which combines eye care and the furtherance of the Gospel of the Lord. This may be achieved by bearing witness to the Lord in one's usual environment such as the work place or an educational institution.

**Gold Key Honor Society**

The purpose of the Gold Key Honor Society is to recognize upper-class students who have demonstrated an outstanding professional and ethical attitude through leadership and service.

**Missouri Optometric Student Association (MOSA)**

MOSA is the student chapter of the Missouri Optometric Association. The mission of the MOSA is to provide ongoing information concerning the importance of individual support of the Missouri Optometric Association's activities and the advancement of the optometric profession to optometry students. In addition, the MOSA will establish a student political body that will provide legislative support for the optometric profession in Missouri, assist the MOA when needed at conference and vision screenings, and acquaint Missouri residents and non-residents with Missouri optometrists.

**National Optometric Student Association-St. Louis (NOSA-St. Louis)**

NOSA is the student chapter of the National Optometric Association whose membership is predominantly minority optometrists. NOSA-St. Louis strives to uphold the goals of the NOA through vision screenings, recruiting minority students into optometry, and encouraging retention of minority students in optometry. Membership is open to all optometry students.

**Society for Advancement of Independent Optometry (SAIO)**

SAIO advanced the idea of independent optometry and private practice through externally funded speakers of interest to students on the topics around owning and maintaining a private practice.

**Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH)**

SVOSH is a student chapter of the Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, an international organization of optometrists providing free vision care to people in impoverished nations. Used eyeglasses are collected, cleaned, straightened, and catalogued. Students participate in missions with various state VOSH chapters which include practicing optometrists, opticians, and other volunteers.

**United Optometry Association (UOA)**

An organization founded at UMSL optometry in 2017 by Students to advocate for equality and equity across the profession. The organization is now recognized nationally.

## Academic Policy

### Positive Work and Learning Environment

The University of Missouri is committed to providing a positive work and learning environment where all individuals are treated fairly and with respect, regardless of their status. Intimidation and harassment have no place in a university community. To honor the dignity and inherent worth of every individual—student, employee, or applicant for employment or admission—is a goal to which every member of the university community should aspire and to which officials of the university should direct attention and resources.

With respect to students, it is the university's special responsibility to provide a positive climate in which students can learn. Chancellors are expected to provide educational programs and otherwise direct resources to creative and serious measures designed to improve interpersonal relationships, to help develop healthy attitudes toward different kinds of people, and to foster a climate in which students are treated as individuals rather than as members of a particular category of people.

### College of Optometry Code of Conduct

The College of Optometry faculty and administration are committed to the enforcement of policies necessary to discourage academic dishonesty by students. A lack of integrity toward the educational process lowers the morale of other students, deceives the student and instructor and may have a profound effect upon one's ability to become licensed.

While the faculty and administration believe that the vast majority of our students have the integrity necessary to maintain good ethical conduct, it is also understood that some may be driven to improve their performance through extreme measures. Therefore, in order to decrease the tendency toward deceptive academic performance, the faculty and administration will implement and enforce policies to discourage academic dishonesty by students.

Students enrolled in the College of Optometry assume an obligation to conduct their behavior in a professional manner, compatible with the University function as an educational institution.

Refer to the UMSL Code of Student Conduct published in the Appendix.

### Credit Hours

The University credit unit is the semester hour, which represents a subject pursued one period weekly for one semester of approximately 16 weeks or for a total of approximately 16 periods for one term. Generally, a course valued at three semester hours meets for three periods weekly for one semester; a two-credit course meets for two periods a week for a semester, and so on. Normally, the lecture or recitation period is fifty minutes long and the laboratory period one hour and fifty minutes. The number of credit hours is in parentheses after each course title. If the credit is variable, to be fixed in consultation with the instructor, it is shown as (1-15).

### Non-Clinical Grading Criteria

The following grading criteria are used by the faculty and will be followed by the faculty Student Committee in recommending management of students in academic difficulty.

A	=	4.0
A-	=	3.7
B+	=	3.3
B	=	3.0
B-	=	2.7
C+	=	2.3
C	=	2.0
C-	=	1.7
F	=	0.
DL	=	Delayed
EX	=	Excused
NR	=	Not Reported

Faculty have full discretion in using full-letter grades, plus/minus grades, or any combination of full-letter and plus/minus grades. The student's grade point average is computed by dividing the total quality points (number of credit hours for a course, multiplied by the grade value received) by the number of hours taken (excluding grade-modified hours).

The College of Optometry does not recognize a "D" grade for courses taken for degree credit; and for a student enrolled in a patient care course. Therefore, any grade lower than a "C-" will be recorded as an "F" and have "0" grade points.

The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and Pass/Fail (P/F) grade options are not available to students taking core courses at the College of Optometry level. Only elective courses used to satisfy the three (3) credit hours approved elective course, may be taken as "S/U" or "P/F."

## Delayed Grade

Delayed grades indicate that a student has already completed a substantial portion of the coursework with a passing grade but a portion of the required course work remains incomplete, most likely due to illness or a family emergency. Students enrolled in the College of Optometry have two semesters to complete the necessary work or the grade automatically becomes "F." (Summer Session is not counted as a semester.) The arrangements for completing a delayed grade must be documented via a signed written agreement between the instructor of record and the student. Documentation shall be submitted to the Office of Student Services on or before the grade reporting deadline. An instructor may require work to be completed earlier than the maximum time allowed by college policy.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

All courses taken at UMSL figure into the calculation of the transcript GPA, including courses that may not be part of the professional program. However, only those courses required for the professional program figure into the calculation of the professional degree GPA. Students must maintain a cumulative professional degree GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in order to remain in good academic standing. All attempts of a given course will factor into the calculation of the GPA and remain on the transcript with the grade(s) earned.

## Time Limitations

All of the required courses during the first six (6) semesters of first course enrollment and all required courses for the O.D. degree must be completed within six (6) years after the first course enrollment.

## Clinical (Patient Care) Grading Criteria

A grade of "A" reflects performance that is consistently above expected levels. A grade of "B" reflects performance judged to meet expected levels for a student's clinical experience. A grade of "C" is considered below expected performance. Students receiving a "C" grade will have their continued clinical privileges reviewed by a committee of the faculty. The College of Optometry does not recognize a "D" grade for a student enrolled in a patient care course; and for courses taken for degree credit. Therefore, any grade lower than a "C-" will be recorded as an "F" and have "0" grade points. Students who receive an "F" grade will have their clinical privileges revoked. If a patient care course must be repeated, it must be taken when it is next offered. All attempts of a given patient care course will factor into the calculation of GPA and appear on the transcript with the grade(s) earned.

## Clinical Privileges

Full clinical privileges will be granted to those students in good academic standing after completing the first and second year professional curriculum and who have passed the appropriate clinical proficiency examinations. Thereafter, continuing clinical privileges will be assessed after each succeeding semester. Reinstatement of lost clinical privileges will be determined after evaluation by a committee of the faculty. The College of Optometry does not recognize a "D" grade for a student enrolled in a patient care course; and for courses taken for degree credit. Therefore, any grade lower than a "C-" will be recorded as an "F" and have "0" grade points. If a grade of "F" or a "DL" (delayed) grade is received in any third or fourth year course, clinical privileges will be revoked. Reinstatement of privileges will be determined after evaluation by a committee of the faculty.

## Academic Promotion and Management of Students in Academic Difficulty

Academic promotion and management of students in academic difficulty is the responsibility of the Dean, based on recommendations from the faculty Student Committee.

The faculty Student Committee will make recommendations on the management of students in academic difficulty based upon established guidelines. However, each management decision will be considered individually and prevailing circumstances may justify a recommendation that deviates from these guidelines.

### Guidelines

#### 1. Probation

Any student who receives a failing grade, or whose professional GPA (semester or cumulative) falls below a 2.5 will be placed on academic probation. The student will remain on probation for one academic semester. Any failing grades received during the probationary period would constitute grounds for dismissal from the professional program. The cumulative GPA must be above 2.5 by the end of the probationary semester in order for the student to maintain normal progress through the curriculum. Continued academic performance below 2.5 would be grounds for further disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the professional program.

#### 2. Failed Course

If a student fails a course in any semester of the program, and is not dismissed from the program, the student will, unless there are special circumstances, restart the semester the following year and retake all courses in the semester where the failing grade occurred, except the courses in which the student earned a grade of B- or better.



### 3. Dismissal

A student is dismissed from the College of Optometry on the recommendation of the faculty Student Committee and concurrence of the Dean. Students subject to dismissal are invited to meet with the Student Committee before a recommendation is made to the Dean. Dismissal letters will be sent from the office of the Dean with a copy sent to the Office of Student Services. Grounds for dismissal from the College of Optometry include – but are not limited to – one or more failing grades, a failing grade while on academic probation, or a cumulative GPA below 2.50 at the end of a one semester probationary period. Academic dishonesty of any form may be considered grounds for dismissal. Issues of academic dishonesty are subject to the UM-Collected rules 200.010 and 200.020. ([https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected\\_rules](https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules)).

## Grades/Graduation Requirement

All courses taken for credit in the professional program must be passed with a "C-" or better in order for a student to qualify for graduation. The College of Optometry does not recognize a "D" grade for courses taken for degree credit; and for a student enrolled in a patient care course. Therefore, any grade lower than a "C-" will be recorded as an "F" and have "0" grade points. Furthermore, in order to qualify for graduation, a student must be in good academic standing and the cumulative professional Grade Point Average (GPA) must be 2.50 or higher. Also, students must submit evidence to the Office of Student Services that they have taken the 3 part NBEO examinations prior to graduation. Such evidence shall include a copy of the score report received from NBEO.

To assure graduating at the end of a specific semester, all work for that semester and any delayed grades from previous semesters must be completed with the grades sent to the Office of Student Services no later than the official date for submission of final semester grades.

## Course Waivers

All optometry courses listed in the college's Bulletin must be taken for credit unless written authorization of a course waiver is received from the Chairperson of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Educational Policy Committee. Students requesting a course waiver must complete and submit a Course Waiver Request form to the Office of Student Services. The written request should include a detailed justification for the course waiver. Waiver requests must be received by the end of the first week of classes.

The committee will then collect and review all information pertinent to the waiver request and conveys this information to faculty members responsible for the course in question. Based upon the recommendation of the faculty members involved, the Curriculum, Instruction, and

Educational Policy Committee, together with these faculty members, will decide as to the appropriateness of the waiver request, and the committee chairperson will communicate that decision to the student who submitted the request.

Guidelines used in considering a waiver request are as follows:

1. The student must have completed a course of reasonably similar content.
2. The course used in substitution for the course the student is attempting to waive must have been passed with a letter grade of A or B from an accredited institution.
3. The substitute course must have been completed within the last three years.
4. Any student who is requesting a course waiver and has been found to qualify on the basis of the above three criteria will be required to pass a proficiency examination covering the subject matter.

## Curriculum Changes

Periodic curriculum changes within the College of Optometry may occur, in which case the Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Policy Committee recommends whether or not the academic program of currently enrolled Students requires alteration.

Prerequisite courses within the optometric curriculum may be altered and/or waived upon consent of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Educational Policy Committee.

## Dean's List/Dean's List with Honor

### First-, Second-, and Third-Year Students

At the end of the fall and spring semesters, the College of Optometry will send a letter of commendation to students who were enrolled full-time with a grade point average (GPA) for the semester as follows:

3.500-3.799 Dean's List  
3.800-4.000 Dean's List with Honor

### Fourth-Year Students

At the end of the spring semester, the College of Optometry will send a letter of commendation to students who were enrolled full-time with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) as follows:

3.500-3.799 Dean's List  
3.800-4.000 Dean's List with Honor

## Leave of Absence

A student, in good academic standing, who is unable to continue their studies due to uncontrollable circumstances, must request a leave of absence from the College of

Optometry. In consultation with both Student Services and Academic affairs, students should define the program modifications the leave of absence requires. Requests should be made in writing and include the reason for leaving and the expected date of return to the University. A leave of absence cannot be longer than one (1) year in length and only one leave of absence during the student's optometric education is allowed. Failure to resume studies at the terminal dated of a leave of absence will be regarded as a voluntary withdrawal from the program.

A student who returns to the College after a leave of absence may be required to take additional course work due to curriculum changes. A student taking a leave of absence does so with the understanding that course sequencing may change during the leave of absence. A student who returns to the College after a conditional leave will be required to pass a clinical proficiency examination prior to assignment to clinical patient care.

A leave of absence does not defer any cost or fees owed to the university, nor does it defer financial aid repayment and potential return of disbursed funds based on the date of the leave of absence. A student account must be at a zero balance at the time of the leave. This situation must be addressed to the office of student services to determine, what, if any financial responsibility is required.

### **Withdrawal from the University**

Withdrawal from the University is arranged through Student Services. Students leaving before completion of the semester or session without formally withdrawing are given grades of "F" in all courses.

### **Transcripts**

UMSL will furnish transcripts of credits to a student upon written request. Transcripts are furnished to students' parents, guardians, or other parties or institutions only if students have filed written consent with the University.

Requests for transcripts by organizations either financially supporting a student or with fee compensation programs are not honored unless the student has filed a consent form with the University, authorizing the release of such information.

Transcripts are not issued to or for students who have financial obligations to the University until those obligations are paid in full.

Requests are made on-line at:  
<http://www.umsl.edu/~registration/student/transcripts.htm>.

### **Commencement Exercises**

A student who satisfactorily completes all four years of the professional curriculum will be eligible to receive the Doctor of Optometry degree. Doctor of Optometry degrees are conferred at the University's spring (May) Commencement Exercises.

### **Retention**

The attrition rate for students enrolled in the College of Optometry averaged 7% over the last five years. This figure represents total attrition, not only attrition resulting from academic difficulty. Most of those students who do not complete the professional program do so for various personal reasons rather than for academic difficulty. However, if a student does get into academic difficulty, a variety of institutional resources are available to that student, including tutorial assistance paid for by the institution or special assistance from the faculty, and a modified (five year) program of instruction can be designed for the student if necessary.

### **Transfer Students**

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) discourages transfers from one Optometry college to another. However, it can be done, but only under unusual circumstances.

In order for an optometry student from another school or College of Optometry to be considered for transfer, the following conditions must be met\*:

The satisfactory completion of at least one year of course work from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Association.

Students should have at minimum a cumulative 2.5 GPA at your current institution before being considered

Submission of all official undergraduate and post-baccalaureate transcripts to UMSL.

Release OAT scores to UMSL College of Optometry.

Statement detailing reason for transfer and any other information regarding you and your academic performance.

Completion of the UMSL application with appropriate application fees. Potential applicants should not complete this step until directed to do so by the Office of Student Services.

All students interested in applying for transfer are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Services. Due to limited class size and the differences in curricula between institutions, transfers are generally discouraged. However, transfers are considered on an individual basis and depend on current class size, compatibility between the curricula of the two colleges and the reason for the transfer request. Generally, due to differences in course sequences between optometric programs, transfers result in an extension of the professional educational program beyond the minimum of four years.

\*Additional requirements may be required by the admissions committee.

For additional information contact:

Office of Student Services  
Email: [optometry@umsl.edu](mailto:optometry@umsl.edu)  
Phone: 314-516-6263

## **Confidentiality Policy**

The College of Optometry abides by all guidelines and procedures to implement the University of Missouri policy on student records developed from The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Refer to the UMSL Confidentiality Policy  
**The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 (Reviewed August 13, 2013)**  
(<http://bulletin.umsl.edu/confidentiality/>).

## Residency Programs and Clinical Fellowships

Residency programs prepare graduates for careers in clinical practice and teaching in specialty areas. Each program begins in July, pays a monthly stipend, and awards a Certificate of Completion.

### Hospital Based Optometric Residency Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center

**Description of Program:** This one year residency at the Eye/VICTORS Clinic Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides a wealth of clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with ocular disease. The low vision program provides the resident with advanced low vision experience. The resident will become proficient in such special procedures as anterior and posterior segment photography, ultrasonography, computerized visual fields, contrast sensitivity evaluation, and fluorescein angiography.

### Hospital Based Optometric Residency Robert J. Dole Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wichita, KS

**Description of Program:** This one year residency program will provide extensive clinical experience in ocular disease and low vision. The resident will be involved in primary eye care, pre and post-surgical care, ocular disease and low vision evaluation and management. The resident will attend the Low Vision Rehabilitation team meetings to develop plans for patients' visual goals. The resident will participate in grand rounds, lectures and journal club. The resident will serve in a supervisory role to third and fourth year optometry interns.

### Hospital Based Optometric Residency St. Louis Veterans Affairs Medical Center

**Description of Program:** This one year residency provides advanced clinical training in primary care optometry with an emphasis on geriatric patients and diseases of the elderly. Extensive clinical experience is gained by providing care to the St. Louis VA Medical Center's patient population of adult and elderly patients. A strong point of the program is the one-on-one interaction with the program's experienced faculty. The residency is associated with the medical center's Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center. The St. Louis and 24 other GRECC centers across the nation are recognized as leaders in advancing geriatric care.

### Hospital Based Pediatric Optometry Residency Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics in Kansas City, MO

**Description of Program:** This one year residency provides advanced clinical education in the diagnosis and management of eye and vision problems encountered in pediatric eye care. These include, but are not limited to: amblyopia, strabismus, ocular pathology, refractive errors, developmental delays and premature birth. This program will strengthen the resident's expertise in refractive disorders of infants, examination skills with pediatric patients, and management of accommodative esotropia. The resident will also develop skills in presenting to other professionals and critical assessment skills for reviewing journal articles.

### Residency in Pediatrics and Vision Therapy Rehabilitation

**Description of Program:** This 54 week program provides advanced clinical experience in all aspects of pediatric optometry and binocular vision patient care. The resident will have the opportunity to interact with a significant number of College of Optometry regular and adjunct faculty members. The resident will have the opportunity for interaction and case co-management with other health care and education professionals. The program is flexible and can be adapted to meet the particular interests of the resident.

### Residency Program in Cornea/Contact Lenses

**Description of Program:** This 54 week program will provide extensive experience in the theory and clinical application of contact lenses. Participation in advanced contact lenses and corneal physiology instruction, research and rotation through private practice and refractive surgery clinics will be included in this program. Contact lens practice management will be emphasized with the assistance of experienced adjunct faculty. The resident will assist with direct patient care and the teaching of student interns. Advanced contact lens instruction, fitting challenging cases, co-management of refractive surgery patients, contact lens and clinical research, contact lens practice management instruction, and informative and clinically beneficial elective courses are included in this program.

## **Residency in Pediatric Optometry at Children's Wisconsin**

**Description of Program:** The focus of this residency is primary care pediatric optometry. The resident will practice alongside three pediatric optometrists and four pediatric ophthalmologists in the outpatient Eye Clinic at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. The resident will visit three site locations: Wauwatosa, Mequon, and New Berlin. The resident will be exposed to patients from birth to 18 years, and will learn to manage refractive error, strabismus, amblyopia, and various ocular disease conditions.

## **Residency Program in Refractive Surgery at Kugler Vision**

**Description of Program:** The resident will work closely with ophthalmologists who have subspecialty training in anterior segment, cataract, cornea, dry eye and refractive surgery in a private clinic/Referral center setting. There will be a strong emphasis on pre- and post-operative management of ocular surgery patients. The resident will attend semiannual Kugler Vision continuing education events and have the opportunity to participate in clinical research, observe surgery, and work with ophthalmic technician.

## **Washington University Ocular Disease and Contact Lens**

**Description of Program:** Washington University in St. Louis is a private university in St. Louis, Missouri. The Medical campus rests on property owned by BJC Healthcare. It consists of several large adult and children's hospitals, clinics, outpatient clinics, and affiliated community practices across St. Louis County and St. Louis City.

The primary site for this residency is the Center for Outpatient Health, which is a large outpatient center on the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine Campus. Specialty practices within this location include dermatology, women's health (obstetrics and gynecology), psychiatry, lab and radiology services, primary care, and neurology. In terms of ophthalmology, specialties at this location include: comprehensive ophthalmology (medical optometry), glaucoma, cornea, neuro-ophthalmology, and retina.

There are 5 other multi-specialty eye clinics on the School of Medicine campuses that house a similar mixture of specialties similar to the Center for Outpatient Health.

---

## Continuing Education

The College of Optometry offers continuing education programs for optometrists throughout the Midwest region as well as nationwide. Courses on nutrition, management of ocular diseases, ocular anomalies and visual skills are held on a frequent basis. In addition to our faculty, optometric specialists, medical educators, and researchers have input through participation in the course presentations.

All continuing education courses are COPE approved and offered by the College are accepted by those states requiring continuing education credit for re-licensure. Continuing education course information may be obtained by contacting:

University of Missouri-St. Louis  
College of Optometry  
Office of Continuing Education  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400  
(314) 516-5645  
OptometryCE@umsl.edu

Or by visiting our web page located at: <http://optometry.umsl.edu>, and selecting the Continuing Education link.

---

## Licensure

Optometry is an independent doctoral-level health profession regulated by the state licensure. This means that optometrists must be licensed by the state in which they wish to practice. Each state establishes its own optometric licensing requirements, enforced by its respective State Board of Examiners. While the requirements for optometric licensure vary from state to state, all state licensing boards require applicants to have graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry. As such, graduates of the UMSL College of Optometry are qualified to apply for state licensure in any state in the United States and the District of Columbia.

---

## Faculty

### Faculty (on-campus)

**Carl J. Bassi**

Director of Research; Curator's Distinguished Teaching Professor

Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California, Doheny Eye Institute

**Kathleen Boland**

Associate Clinical Professor

O.D., University of Missouri—St. Louis

**Erin M. Brooks**

Associate Clinical Professor

O.D., M.S. In Vision Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Larry J. Davis**

Associate Professor

O.D., Indiana University; Residency, Contact Lenses, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Julie Ott DeKinder**

Clinical Professor; Director of Academic Programs; Director of Residency Programs; Chief of Contact Lens Service

O.D., Northeastern State University  
Residency, Cornea and Contact Lens, University of Missouri—St. Louis

**Linda Du**

Assistant Clinical Professor

O.D., M.S., The Ohio State University College of Optometry; Residency, Primary Care and Ocular Disease, Marion Veterans' Affairs Medical Center

**Kishia S. Elder**

Dean, Clinical Professor

O.D., M.S. Instructional Design and Development, M.S. Vision Science, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Aaron S. Franzel**

Associate Clinical Professor; Program Coordinator of Pediatric Residency Program; Coordinator of Pupil Project  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Vinita A. Henry**

Clinical Professor; Director of Clinical Operations

O.D., Residency, Contact Lenses, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Carl Kramer**

Assistant Clinical Professor

O.D., University of Houston Collage of Optometry; Residency, Cornea and Contact Lens, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Thomas Landgraf**

Associate Clinical Professor

O.D., Illinois College of Optometry; Residency, Primary Care, Pennsylvania College of Optometry

**Linda Marks**

Associate Clinical Professor; Chief of Pediatrics; Coordinator of Screenings; Chief of Binocular Vision Service; O.D., Ferris State University; Residency, Pediatric Optometry, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Tareq I. Nabhan**

Assistant Clinical Professor

O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis,

**Casey Peterson**

Associate Clinical Professor; Coordinator of IPE

O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

**Coral Pucci**

Assistant Clinical Professor

O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Ocular Disease and Primary Care, Marion VA Medical Center, Marion, IL

**Mary Beth Rhomberg**

Assistant Clinical Professor

O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Family Practice

**Angel Novel Simmons**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Director of 4<sup>th</sup> Year Clinical Rotations

O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Ocular Disease and Primary Care, Hudson Valley VA Health Care System, Montrose, NY

**Patrick Stark**

Associate Clinical Professor

O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Family Practice and Ocular Disease, Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry

**Sarah Sweeney Dohrman**

*Assistant Clinical Professor  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry; Residency, Primary  
Eye Care and Vision Therapy*

**Jessica Tu**

*Assistant Clinical Professor  
O.D., Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of  
Optometry; Residency, Cornea and Contact Lenses,  
Indiana University School of Optometry*

**Brittany Wright**

*Assistant Clinical Professor  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry; Residency, Ocular  
Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation, Kansas City VA  
Medical Center*

---

**On-Campus Part-Time Faculty**

**Brian Brunig**

*On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Jamal J. Fox**

*On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., Pennsylvania College of Optometry*

**Beth A. Henderson**

*On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., The Ohio State University*

**Paul Luong**

*On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Emily Pike**

*On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

---

**Emeritus Faculty**

**William G. Bachman**

*Associate Professor Emeritus  
M.S., University of Alabama-Birmingham; O.D., Southern  
College of Optometry*

**Edward S. Bennett**

*Professor Emeritus  
M.S.Ed., O.D., Indiana University, Bloomington*

**Jerry L. Christensen**

*Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus  
O.D., Ph.D., The Ohio State University*

**Ralph P. Garzia**

*Associate Professor Emeritus  
O.D., Residency, Pennsylvania College of Optometry;  
Residency, Pediatric Optometry, Pennsylvania College of  
Optometry*

**William F. Long**

*Associate Professor Emeritus  
Ph.D., Michigan State University; O.D., Indiana University*

**W. Howard McAlister**

*Associate Professor Emeritus  
M.A., Webster College; M.P.H., University of Illinois at  
Health Sciences Center-Chicago; O.D., The Ohio State  
University*

**Raymond I. Myers**

*Clinical Professor Emeritus  
O.D. Indiana University*

**Carol K. Peck**

*Professor Emeritus  
Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California Los  
Angeles*

**Timothy A. Wingert**

*Professor Emeritus  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*



---

## Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty

**Paul Ajamian**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., New England College of Optometry*

**Ryan Ames**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Amjad Badwan**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University*

**David Bellware**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Steven Branstetter**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Kristen Buskirk**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Carmen Castellano**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Mary Chivetta**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Walter Choat**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Candis Clark**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Brent Davidson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
M.D., Saint Louis University*

**Cheryl Davidson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Michelle Dent**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Northeastern State University*

**Brian Fisher**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Midwestern University of Arizona College of  
Optometry*

**John Galanis**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
M.D., Saint Louis University School of Medicine*

**Angella Gentry**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry*

**Robert Goerss**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Melinda Gruszka**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Jessica Hanson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry*

**Timothy Harkins**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern California College of Optometry*

**Deborah Kerber**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Kamey Kapp**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Pacific University College of Optometry*

**Sean Knaak**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry*

**Bryce Krehbiel**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Candice Law**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., New England College of Optometry*

**Jeffrey Leipholtz**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Katie Loock**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Sarah Maxey**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Dusty McIver**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Northeastern State University*

**Christian Meyer**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University*

**Kristen Moyer**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., State University of New York*

**Ramya Natarajan**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Paula Newsome**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham School of  
Optometry*

**My-Chau Nguyen**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Kendra Null**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Jon Pederson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Pacific University College of Optometry*

**Nathaniel Pelsor**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry*

**Emily Peterson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., New England College of Optometry*

**Morgan Poore**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Thomas Porter**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Julia Pulliam**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry*

**James Rieger**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Andrew Rixon**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Pennsylvania College of Optometry*

**Katherine Sanford**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Mollie Saxon**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Allison Schafers**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Kelli Shaon**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Matthew Simpson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry*

**Megan Slate**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Northeastern State University*

**Amy Sullivan**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Jennifer Sutter**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Sara Taylor**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**Scott Tomasino**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Christine Tran**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Christina Twardowski**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Jennifer Vickers**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham School of  
Optometry*

**John Volosin**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Northeastern State University*

**Danielle Waller**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University*

**Amy Waters**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Jeffrey L. Weaver**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Professor  
M.S., The Ohio State University; M.B.A., Drury College;  
O.D., Pennsylvania College of Optometry; Residency,  
Family Practice, The Ohio State University*

**Michael White**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern College of Optometry*

**Jim Williamson**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Southern college of Optometry*

**Bruce Wojciechowski**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry*

**Julia Wolfe**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., Northeastern State University*

**Ryne Wood**

*Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty  
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis*

---

## Collected Rules and Regulations

The complete list of policies may be found at [https://www.umssystem.edu/ums/rules/collected\\_rules](https://www.umssystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules) and are updated periodically. The web site will have the most up-to-date information. Specific items of note include the Code of Student Conduct (200.010), Maintaining a Positive Work and Learning Environment (330.080), Student Disciplinary Matters (200.020) University of Missouri Plan for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (320.010), Sexual Harassment (330.060), Auxiliary Aids for Students with Disabilities (240.040), AIDS Policy Statement (280.030), Affirmative Action on Committee Appointment (330.070), Discrimination Grievance Procedures for Students (390.010), etc.

Other important information is located in the University Bulletin located at <http://bulletin.umsl.edu>. Specific items of note include the Confidentiality Policy, Financial Aid Appeals, Student Organization Policies, Hazing Policy, etc.

### Grade Appeal Process

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/policy/grade-appeal.html>.

---

## Profile

Name:	University of Optometry College of Optometry
Address:	One University Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4400
Location:	South Campus Complex of the University of Missouri-St. Louis
History:	UM-St. Louis, the fourth campus of the University of Missouri was established in 1963.  The College of Optometry was established in 1980; graduated its first class in May 1984.
Programs:	Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) Hospital Based Optometric Residency Residency Program in Contact Lenses Residency in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation Residency Program in Ocular Disease and Eye Health-Management at Eye Health Care
Class Size:	44-48
Faculty/ Student Ratio:	1:8
Clinical Facilities:	UMSL University Eye Centers Patient Care Center South Campus Complex Lindell Eye Center East St. Louis Optometric Center
Specialty Clinics:	Low Vision Rehabilitation Pediatric/Binocular Vision Contact Lens Eye Health Management Specialized Visual Analysis (which includes electroretinography, visual evoked potential, contrast sensitivity, dark adaptation and glare recovery, color vision and temporal resolution, and special tests of retinal and optic nerve function tailored for the particular patient's needs)
Accreditation:	Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association (ACOE) 243 North Lindbergh St. Louis, MO 63141 Next site visit is scheduled for October 2025

## College of Optometry Academic Calendar for 2023-2024

### 2023 Fall Semester

\*Indicates date not yet set

#### August

21 Monday, classes begin 8:00 a.m.

#### September

4 Monday, no classes, Labor Day Holiday

5 Tuesday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.

#### October

17 Residency Day (all 2nd, 3rd, and UEC 4th required)

18 - 20 Practice Management II (4th year)

19 MOA Industry Alliance Day

20 Fechner Day

23 Clinics Resume 4th Years

#### November

20 Thanksgiving/Fall break  
4th year external clinics continue

27 Monday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.

#### December

5 OR 7 NBEO Part II PAM 4th year only

9 1st-3rd Classes/lab and 3rd year clinic ends

11 - 15 Final Examinations

15 Last day of 4th year externship and internal clinic

16 Saturday, Fall Semester closes, end of day

### 2024 Winter Intersession

#### January

2 3rd and 4th year clinic begins all sites

3 3rd year classes/labs begin

8 Optometry legislative Conference and CE, Jefferson City

10 Classes/labs begin for 1st and 2nd Year

15 Martin Luther King Holiday

#### March

2 External Spring Recess Begins

11 External Rotations Resume

11 Monday, 3rd year NBEO study break begins (all clinic responsibilities continue)

18 - 21 NBEO Part I Exam (3rd year targeted exam dates)

23 Saturday, Internal Spring recess begins 5:00 p.m.

#### April

1 Monday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.

19 Clinic privileging exam all day

30 Classes End, 3rd year clinic ends

#### May

2 - 8

Final Exams

6 - 8

Clinic Seminar 4th year students

8

EyeBall

10

Optometry, Spring Commencement

11

Saturday, Spring Semester closes

14

4th Year Clinic Begins

17

White Coat (tentative)

27

Memorial Day Holiday

#### June

19

Juneteenth National Independence Day Holiday

#### July

1

4th Year External Rotations Continue

4

Independence Day Holiday

#### May to August

May 13 to Aug 9 3rd Year Summer Term Clinic Begins

May 20 to July 28 3rd Year Summer Term Classes/Labs

Note: Students will not be allowed to enter courses (undergraduate and/or graduate) following the first week of a regular semester without the written consent of the instructor.

[http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/publications/academic\\_calendar.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/publications/academic_calendar.html)

# Campus Map

<http://www.umsl.edu/files/pdfs/campus-map.pdf>



Building	
Anheuser - Busch Ecology and Conservation Complex (ABE)	18
Arts Administration Building (AAB)	8
Bellerive Hall (BRH)	36
Benton Hall (BH)	17
Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center (PAC)	55
Boiler Gargage / Surplus Property(BG)	80
Business Administration Building (BAB)	BAB
Campus Police Building (CPB)	7
Gallery 210	
Clark Hall (CH)	5
E. Desmond Lee Technology & Learning Center AND Math & Science Education Central (TLC)	27
Education Administration Building (EAB)	28
Express Scripts Hall (ESH)	10
Fine Arts Building (FAB)	44
J. C. Penney Building / Conference Center (JCP)	2
Kathy J. Weinman Children's Advocacy Centre and Center for Trauma Recovery (KWC)	34
Lucas Hall (LH)	6
Mansion Hill Condos (MHC)	72
Mark Twain Athletic Center (MT)	9
Marillac Hall / Optometry Clinic (MH)	26
Music Building (MB)	25
Millennium Student Center (MSC) Student Services	4
Millennium Student Center Garage North (MGN)	54
Millennium Student Center Garage South (MGS)	15
Nursing Administration Building (NAB)	40
Oak Hall (OAK)	59
Optometry Patient Care Center (OPCC)	OPCC
Provincial House (PH)	41
Pierre Laclede Honors College (HC)	
Recreation & Wellness Center (RWC)	3
Regional Center for Education & Work (RCEW)	43
Research Building (RB)	19
Richard D. Schwartz Observatory (RSO)	35
Sassin Building (SAS) ELS Language Centers - St. Louis	67
Sculpture and Ceramics Annex (SCA)	65
Seton Center Hall (SC)	39
Science Learning Building (SLB)	SLB
Social Sciences & Business Building / Tower (SSB)	11
South Campus Classroom Building (SCCB) Child Development Center	30
South Campus Computer Building (SCB)	31
South Campus Garage (SCG)	75
Stadler Hall (SH)	20
St. Louis Mercantile Library (SLML)	12
Thomas Jefferson Library (TJL)	14
UMSL Postal Service (PS)	57
University Meadows Apartments (UMA)	37
Villa Building (VB)	48
Ward E. Barnes Building (WEB)	29
Wellness and Recreation Center (RWC)	3
West Drive Garage South (WDGS)	52
William L. Clay Center for Nanoscience (CNS)	16
Woods Hall (WH)	1

**Parking Facilities**

A permit is required on all vehicles parked on campus. Obtain permits at the Cashier's Office in the Millennium Student Center, or at the Parking and Transportation Office in the Campus Police Building.

Students: E I K M N U 15 52 54  
 JJ KK MM NN RR SS TT UU VV WW XX YY 75

Faculty / Staff: All parking lots and garages except restricted areas

Handicapped: A B C F K L M N R P T 15 52 54  
 JJ KK NN RR SS VV XX 75

Guest / Visitors: Parking Meters on lot VV  
 Two Hour Maximum on lot C

Revised July 28, 2015

# Index

## A

**Academic Policy**, 47  
 Academic Program, 24  
 Academic Promotion and Management of Students in  
   Academic Difficulty, 48  
 Accreditation, 12, 14  
 Addendum, 66  
 Admission Requirements, 30  
 Admission Test, 30  
**Admission, Application, Selection, Acceptance**, 30  
 Application Deadlines, 31  
 Application Procedures, 30

## B

Bookstore, 41

## C

**Campus Map**, 63  
 Campus Shuttles, 41  
 Campuswide Student Government, 45  
 Center for Eye Care, 16  
 Clinical (Patient Care) Grading Criteria, 48  
 Clinical Privileges, 48  
**Collected Rules and Regulations**, 60  
 Commencement Exercises, 50  
 Confidentiality Policy, 51  
 Contact Lens Service, 16  
**Continuing Education**, 54  
 Counseling, 44  
 Course Descriptions, 25  
 Course Waivers, 49  
 Credit Hours, 47  
**Curricular Outcomes**, 23  
 Curriculum Changes, 49  
**Curriculum**, 24  
**Curriculum Addendum**, 66

## D

Dean's List/Dean's List with Honor, 49  
 Delayed Grade, 48  
 Delinquent Indebtedness, 34  
 Dispensary Service, 17  
 Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program, 42

## E

Education Fees, 34  
 Educational Philosophy, 13  
 Elective Courses in the College of Optometry, 25  
 Eligibility for Federal Aid, 36  
 Emergency Phones, 41  
 Entry Level Practice Standards, 23  
 Estimated Cost of Education, 34  
 Eye Health Management Service, 17

## F

Facilities, 14  
**Faculty**, 18, 55  
**Faculty Vaccination and Credentialing Statement**, 32  
 Failed Course, 48  
 Federal Work-Study (FWS), 36  
**Fees & Estimated Cost of Education**, 34  
**Financial Aid**, 36  
 Financial Aid Appeal(s), 36  
 Financial Aid Application Process, 36  
 Fourth Year Externship Program, 17  
 Four-Year Professional Degree (O.D.) Curriculum, 24

## G

Goals, 14  
 Grade Point Average (GPA), 48  
 Grades/Graduation Requirement, 49  
**Graduation Awards**, 39

## H

Health and Fitness Facilities, 42  
 Health Risks, 42  
 History, 13  
 Hospital Based Optometric Residency Kansas City Veterans  
   Affairs Medical Center, 52  
 Hospital Based Optometric Residency St. Louis Veterans  
   Affairs Medical Center, 52  
 Hospital Based Optometric Robert J. Dole Veterans Affairs  
   Medical Center, 52  
 Hospital Based Pediatric Optometry Residency, Children's  
   Mercy Hospital and Clinic Kansas City, MO, 52  
 Housing, 43

## I

Immunization, 32  
**Index**, 64  
 Information Technology Services, 41  
 International Students, 31  
 International Student Services, 44  
**Introduction to UMSL**, 10

## L

Late Registration Fee, 34  
 Leave of Absence, 49  
 Legal Sanctions, 42  
 Libraries, 14  
**Licensure**, 54  
**Loans**, 36  
 Low Vision Service, 16

## M

MetroLink Pass Program, 41  
 Millennium Student Center, 41  
 Minority Affairs, 44  
 Mission Statement, 3  
 Mission Statement—UMSL, 10



**N**

New Student Orientation Program, 44  
Non-Clinical Grading Criteria, 47  
Non-Smoking Policy, 43

**O**

**Office of Student Services**, 40  
**Optometric Oath**, 7  
**Optometry Academic Calendar for 2023-2024**, 62  
**Optometry: The Profession**, 8  
Our Graduates, 15

**P**

Parking, 41  
**Patient Care**, 16  
Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service, 16  
Personal Checks, 34  
Placement, 43  
Positive Work and Learning Environment, 47  
Pre-Optometry Programs, 33  
**Profile**, 61  
Pupil Project, 16

**R**

Research, 17  
Residency at Washington University in Ocular Disease and  
Contact Lens, 53  
Residency in Pediatric Optometry at Children's Wisconsin, 53  
Residency in Pediatrics and Vision Therapy Rehabilitation, 52  
Residency Program in Cornea/Contact Lens, 52  
**Residency Programs and Clinical Fellowships**, 52  
Residency Program in Refractive Surgery at Kugler Vision, 53  
Residency, 33  
Resources, 43  
Retention, 50

**S**

**Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants**, 37  
College of Optometry Code of Conduct, 47  
**College of Optometry**, 3, 13  
Selection Procedures, 31  
Service to Students with Disabilities, 44  
Smoking Policy, 43  
Standards of Conduct, 42  
State Reciprocal Agreement, 34  
**Student Activities/Organizations**, 45  
Student Computing Services, 41  
**Student Organizations**, 45  
**Student Services**, 40, 41

**T**

**Table of Contents**, 4  
The University: Academic Structure, 10  
The University: Accreditation, 12  
The University: It's Graduates, 12  
The University: Student Life, 11  
Third Year Patient Care Service, 16  
"3+4" Scholars Program, 33  
Time Limitations, 48

Transcripts, 50  
Transfer Students, 50  
Tutorial Service, 44

**U**

University Discipline, 42  
University Eye Center, 14  
University Health Services, 42  
Upperclass Student Advisory Program, 43

**V**

Values Statement, 3  
Veteran Affairs, 44  
Veterans Benefits, 36  
**Vision, Mission, and Values Statement**, 3  
Visions Statement, 3

**W**

Withdrawal from the University, 50

# Curriculum Addendum

## Class of 2024<sup>†</sup>

First Year Fall Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8010	Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes I	5	4	2	-
8020	Basic and Clinical Optics I	4	3	2	-
8030	Introduction to Optometry	1	1	-	-
8040	Neuroanatomy	4	3	2	-
8050	Basic and Applied Immunology	2	2	-	-
8060	Biochemistry	2	2	-	-
8090	Case Based Discovery for the Developing Clinician	1	1	-	-
8080	Clinical Optometry	2	1	2	-

First Year Spring Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8110	Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes II	4	3	2	-
8120	Basic and Clinical Optics II	5	4	2	-
8160	Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye	5	4	2	-
8180	Clinical Optometry II	5	3	4	-
8190	Introduction to Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning	1	1	-	-
8230	Interpersonal Communication	1	1	-	-

Second Year Fall Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8220	Ophthalmic Optics	4	3	2	-
8240	Ocular Motility	2	2	-	-
8250	Monocular Sensory Processes	4	3	2	-
8260	General and Ocular Pharmacology	4	3	2	-
8280	Clinical Optometry III	4	2	4	-

Second Year Spring Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8320	Ophthalmic Dispensing	1	-	2	-
8340	Binocular Vision and Space Perception	4	3	2	-
8370	Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management I	5	4	2	-
8380	Clinical Optometry IV	2	1	2	-
8390	Specialty Clinic Laboratory	1	-	2	-
8391	Clinical Topics in Contact Lenses	1	1	-	-
8392	Clinical Topics in Binocular Vision and Pediatric Optics	1	1	-	-
8393	Clinical Topics in Low Vision	1	1	-	-
8560	Public Health and Epidemiology	3	3	-	-

Third Year Summer Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8450	Introduction to Primary Care Clinic	4	-	-	8
8460	Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management II	3	2	1	-
8650	Geriatric Optometry	2	2	0	-
8540	Binocular Vision Anomalies	4	3	2	-

Third Year Fall Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8470	Pharmaceutical Management in Patient Care	2	2	-	-
8500	Primary Care Clinic I	6	-	-	12
8520	Contact Lenses I	3	2	2	-
8550	Low Vision	2	1	2	-
8570	Advanced Topics in Ocular and Systemic Disease & Management	6	5	2	-
8640	Pediatric Optometry	2	2	-	-

Third Year Spring Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8600	Primary Care Clinic II	6	-	-	12
8620	Contact Lenses II	2	2	-	-
8630	Practice Management I	3	3	-	-
8645	Neurologic Disorders of the Eye and Visual System	2	2	-	-
8660	Contact Lens Specialty Clinic	1	-	-	2
8670	Comprehensive Case Review and Analysis	1	1	-	-
8680	Ophthalmic Lasers	2	2	-	-
8690	Pediatric/Binocular Vision Specialty Clinic I	1	-	-	2

Fourth Year Category 1 UM-St. Louis		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
<i>Note: Must enroll in 8700, 8710, and 8720 concurrently.</i>					
8700	UMSL Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care	3	-	-	6
8710	UMSL Contact Lens Patient Care	3	-	-	6
8720	UMSL Eye Health Management Patient Care	1	-	-	2

Fourth Year Category 2 Institutional		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8780	External Rotation in Institutional Patient Care	7	-	-	14

Fourth Year Category 3 Ocular Disease		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8790	External Rotation in Ocular Disease Patient Care	7	-	-	14

Fourth Year Category 4 Community		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours <sup>†</sup>	Clinic Hours <sup>†</sup>
8730	Community Service Patient Care Rotation A	7	-	-	14
8770	Community Service Patient Care Rotation C	7	-	-	14

<b>Fourth Year Category 5 Specialty</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
8800	External Rotation in Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care	7	-	-	14
8810	External Rotation in Contact Lens Patient Care	7	-	-	14
8811	External Rotation in Ophthalmic Surgical Care	7	-	-	14
8812	External Rotation in Geriatric Patient Care	7	-	-	14
8813	External Rotation in Ophthalmic Sports Vision	7	-	-	14
8814	External Rotation in Primary Care	7	-	-	14
8815	External Rotation in Pathology and Treatment	7	-	-	14
8816	External Rotation in Ophthalmic Laser Treatment	7	-	-	14
8817	External Rotation in Rehabilitative Patient Care	7	-	-	14
8820	External Rotation in Low Vision Patient Care	7	-	-	14

<b>Fourth Year Category 6 Elective</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
8830	External Rotation in General Patient Care	7	-	-	14
8840	External Supplementary Rotation in General Patient Care	7	-	-	14
8850	Supplementary Rotation in General Patient Care	7	-	-	14

<b>Fourth Year Required Courses</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Lecture Hours</b>	<b>Lab Hours<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Clinic Hours<sup>†</sup></b>
8870	Practice Management II	2	2	-	-
8880	Practice Management III	1	1	-	-

## Elective Courses in the College of Optometry

8400	Directed Readings
8410	Directed Research

<sup>†</sup> Due to advances in the optometric profession, sequencing of courses may change. The courses listed above are subject to change through normal academic procedures. Refer to the addendum at the end of this bulletin for curriculum changes that may affect your program sequencing. <sup>†</sup> Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.