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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
STUDENT HANDBOOK

[HTTPS://OPTOMETRY.UMSL.EDU](https://optometry.umsl.edu)



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College of Optometry
At the University of Missouri—St. Louis
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.

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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 the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion, and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I will work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.

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 Doctor of Optometry 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 a Doctor of Optometry.

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.

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, the University of Missouri St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 University Eye Center is now located in the state of the art College of Optometry Patient Care Center. The second floor of the Patient Care Center houses all the pre-clinical laboratories, boards study exam lane and study space.

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 at 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 UMSL. 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 1622 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.

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 [Tuition and Fees | UMSL](#) 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 [Health Services | UMSL](#) 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, May 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) 430-4255

Additionally, Kansas residents accepting a seat are required to return to Kansas to practice following graduation or completion of a residency program.
https://www.kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants?highlight=WyJzY2hvbGFyc2hpcCJd

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.

Merit scholarships range from \$3000-\$8,000 for residents and \$6000-\$17,000 for nonresidents. If the student missed the (January 15th) deadline, it is possible that no monies were awarded.

Textbooks and Equipment

	Required Textbooks*	Required Equipment*
1 st Year	\$700.00	\$3,800.00
2 nd Year	\$700.00	\$5,600.00
Summer		\$250.00
3 rd Year	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
4 th Year	\$0.0	\$0.00

*Textbook and equipment figures are approximated.

Additional Fees

Patient Care Center Fees: \$1800.00 per professional year.

Students are required to complete a background check in their third year. The cost of this background check is \$250.

KMK Review occurs in preparation of Part I of Boards during a student's third year with a cost of approximately \$2000.00 for Part I and \$1100.00 for Part II.

Other fees include travel for Part III of Boards, Externship travel and housing.

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 Handbook. Students are responsible for registering under the proper residency and paying the proper educational fees. All optometry students will be required to pay the nonresident educational fee if they do not meet the University of Missouri residency requirements at the time of enrollment.

Questions related to residency requirements should be directed to:

UMSL Optometry Student Services
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121 (314) 516-626

Financial Aid

The University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 [Home | Federal Student Aid](#). 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 [Optometry Scholarships | UMSL](#).

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 [Home | Federal Student Aid](#). The University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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. For assistance with which form to submit, you can review communication you have received from the Student Financial Service Office or call them directly. There are several forms to select from based on your exact need. The appeal forms are located at: [Financial Services Forms | UMSL](#) on the university website.

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.

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.

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. Identify, record, and analyze pertinent history and problems presented by the patient (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. Use evidence-based practices to examine and evaluate the patient, arrive at an appropriate diagnosis, and formulate a rational treatment and management plan (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. Provide patient care which includes detection, diagnosis, treatment, and management for each unique patient encounter (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. Perform necessary examination techniques competently and efficiently and have capacity to adapt the administration of clinical tests to meet the needs of the patient. with an obligation to maintain clinical skills through practice and repetition (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. Demonstrate proper documentation in the electronic health record, including proper use of abbreviations and appropriate notation of clinical observations (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. Provide relevant patient education and counseling, including culturally sensitive communications, both oral and written, with other professionals and patients (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. Apply knowledge of interprofessional collaborative care, ethics, medico-legal aspects, and culturally sensitive communication in the delivery of optometric care (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. Articulate the need for a commitment to uphold the ethical obligations of the Optometric Oath including provisions to guarantee patient privacy, medical record security, and inter-professional values (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. Describe the practice management, broad-based, multidisciplinary nature of the health care delivery system and the role of the optometrist as a primary health care provider (SYSTEMSBASED 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. Describe current best practices in patient care decision making, a commitment to lifelong learning and knowledge of information management system and technology used in the delivery of eye and health care (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, 2016, and 2024

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.)[‡]

Curriculum

First Year Fall Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours ^{††}	Clinic Hours [†]
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 [†]	Clinic Hours [†]
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 [†]	Clinic Hours [†]
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 [†]	Clinic Hours [†]
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	-	-

Second Year Summer Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours [†]	Clinic Hours [†]
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 [†]	Clinic Hours [†]
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	-

[‡] Due to advances in the optometric profession, sequencing of courses may change. The courses listed above are subject to change through normal academic procedures.

[†] Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.

Third Year Spring Semester		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
8600	Primary Care Clinic II	6	-	-	12
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
8615	Applied Basic Sciences Review	1	1	-	-

Fourth Year Category 1 UM-St. Louis		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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Note: Must enroll in 8700, 8710, and 8720 concurrently.

8700	UM-St. Louis Pediatric/ Binocular Vision Patient Care	3	-	-	6
8710	UM-St. Louis Contact Lens Patient Care	3	-	-	6
8720	UM-St. Louis Eye Health Management Patient Care	1	-	-	2

Fourth Year Category 2 Institutional		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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8780	External Rotation in Institutional Patient Care	7	-	-	14
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Fourth Year Category 3 Ocular Disease		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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8790	External Rotation in Ocular Disease Patient Care	7	-	-	14
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Fourth Year Category 4 Community		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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8770	Community Service Patient Care Rotation C	7	-	-	14
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Fourth Year Category 5 Specialty		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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8814	External Rotation in Clinical Care I	7	-	-	14
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Fourth Year Category 6 Elective		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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8830	External Rotation in Clinical Care II	7	-	-	14
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Fourth Year Required Courses		Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours[†]	Clinic Hours[†]
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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

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. One or more full time faculty members will supervise projects. 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 regard 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)

The course focuses on a review of important basic science concepts presented during the first two and one half years of the program curriculum. Technology will be used to gauge student knowledge and adjust topics of curricular review. This

course is given during the first half of the semester for two hours each week.

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 University of Missouri St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 Community Service Patient Care Rotation C (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 Institutional Patient Care (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 II (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.

Academic Policy

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The University of Missouri-St. Louis conforms to federal regulations known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA. The purpose of FERPA is to provide rights to the students and their families with regard to access and privacy of academic records. FERPA guarantees students at the post-secondary level the right to inspect and view their academic records. It also prohibits UMSL from releasing information from a student's record to any third party unless the student authorizes the release. ([FERPA | UMSL, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#))

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 on the University website: [Code of Conduct.pdf \(UMSL.edu\)](#). The UMSL Optometry Academic Honesty Statement, the UMSL Optometry Dishonesty Statement, and the UMSL Optometry Ethics Statement are included in:

Appendix 1

Appendix 2

Appendix 3

The University of Missouri System Code of Conduct can be found at: [Chapter 200: Student Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#) this includes: the Standard of Conduct (200.010), the Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion and Privacy (200.015), the Rules of Procedures in Student or Student Organization Conduct Matters (200.010), the Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Harassment (200.025), Forms for Use in Student Disciplinary Matters (200.030) and Student Participation in Intercollegiate Athletics (200.040).

Examination Policy

Students will take course examination on their own computer equipment/devices, which must be compatible with ExamSoft/Exemplify software. Please see the ExamSoft website for information on device minimum system requirements: <https://support.examsoft.com/hc/enus/articles/1114576739047-7-Exemplify-Verify-devicemeets-MSRs>.

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 (See Appendix 4). 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. The Clinical Competencies are located in Appendix 6.

Criminal Background Check

I understand that at the end of my second year of professional school, I will be required to submit to a Certiphi ([Certiphi](#)) Criminal Background Check prior to being granted clinical privileges.

Additional background checks may be required at some rotations sites. These background checks can be extensive and require fingerprints.

In addition, any student who is charged with a crime during the program must notify student services within 24 hours of the charge/incident.

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.

Attendance Policy

The College of Optometry has an attendance policy for clinic, which can be found in the Clinic Manual and Externship Manual. There is a minimum number of clinic sessions required to pass (earn credit for) each respective clinic course; therefore, attendance is mandatory. For didactic courses, the attendance policy is set by the course coordinator and included in the course syllabus. Students are expected to attend class unless otherwise noted by the instructor/syllabus. For all laboratories, attendance is mandatory unless explicitly noted by the course coordinator.

The above policy applies to remote learning unless otherwise stated by the course coordinator. Students should always log in with their own UMSL credentials when completing coursework online. The College of Optometry Academic Honesty Policy (**Appendix 1**) applies to all coursework regardless of mode of delivery.

Any questions or concerns regarding attendance should be addressed by the course coordinator (didactic courses and laboratories), or Associate Dean of Clinical Operations (clinic.)

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 ([Collected Rules and Regulations | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#)).

Grade Appeal Process

Directions and information regarding the grad appeal process is located: [Grade Appeal Process | UMSL](#).

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 Academic Programs that they have taken the 3 part NBEO examinations prior to graduation. Such evidence shall include sending the examination scores to the school directly from the NBEO for each attempted examination. If a student neglects to send the scores to the school, the student must provide a copy of the score report received from NBEO to the Associate Dean of Academic Programs upon request and prior to graduation.

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.

NBEO Information

General Information and specific registration information regarding the NBEO Licensure Examination is located at: <http://www.optometry.org>.

To register to set up an account on the NBEO website, please follow these steps:

1. <http://www.optometry.org>
2. Click on the Registration tab
 - a. Create User Account
 - i. Input Information
 - ii. Be sure to review the Ethics Policy
3. Click Submit

Course Waivers

All optometry courses listed in the College of Optometry section of the university 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

The University of Missouri-St. Louis 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: [UMSL Transcript Request | UMSL](#).

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 6% 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 postbaccalaureate 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

Phone: 314-516-6263 or 888-Eye-UMSL (888-393-8674)

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)

[\(http://bulletin.umsl.edu/confidentiality/\)](http://bulletin.umsl.edu/confidentiality/).

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.

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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 use 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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 [Shuttle Services](#).

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 [UMSL Triton Store](#).

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 [Information Technology Services | UMSL](#).

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 [Health Services | UMSL](#).

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program

Pursuant to the Drug-Free Colleges and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, the University of Missouri-St. Louis 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. ([Annual Notice of Compliance | UMSL](#))

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, 5165671; 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.

Policy: Effective **July 1, 2012**, the University of Missouri St. Louis 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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. (Students are provided a list of suitable housing during Spring Orientation currently Student Services/the college doesn't have any agreement with any outside entities for housing. A Private Management Company manage the university.

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 two 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. (The college is currently working on new approaches.)

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, nonacademic 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.

Patient Care

Center for Eye Care

The Center for Eye Care provides a patient care environment for upper level optometry students and postdoctoral residents. The Center for Eye Care includes three locations: the 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.

School screenings, both elementary and secondary levels, are coordinated through the Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service.

Pupil Project

The Pupil Project is an innovative program at the UMSL College of Optometry to manage learning related vision problems. The Pupil Project provides Optometric 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, orthokeratology and specialty contact lenses. 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, which 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, 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.

Dry Eye Service

The Dry Eye Service provides examinations, special testing and advanced treatment to patients suffering from dry eye disease. New technology is being developed to assist patients with the complications of dry eyes that were not available in the past. This service is training student clinicians about the treatment measures and providing patients with state-of-the-art care.

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 4th 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 biweekly 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.

As you approach your 4th year externships it may be necessary to release information to the externship site. The form found in Appendix 5 is an Information Release form for this purpose.

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.

Immunization

The University requires that students born after 1956 to provide documented proof of immunity for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), 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. All documents are to be uploaded using this form: [Immunization Policy and Upload Form](#). This form is directed to a secure, encrypted data collection and storage site that is FERPA and HIPAA compliant. This must be provided in a PDF or Word format. **Photographs are not accepted.** Documents should be named including your first and last name, and the immunizations being uploaded.

A tuberculosis (TB) screening is required in 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.

Understanding of TB Screening

- I understand that I must have a two-tier TB screening completed prior to entering clinic at the end of my second year of optometry school. The results for the two-tier screening using the following link: [Immunization Policy and Upload Form](#). *This must be provided in a PDF or Word format. **Photographs are not accepted.** Documents should be named including your first and last name, and the immunizations being uploaded.*

- I understand that I will be required to have another one-step TB screening completed prior to my fourth year of optometry school and prior to starting my externship rotations. The results for the one-step screening using the following link: [Immunization Policy and Upload Form](#). *This must be provided in a PDF or Word format.*
Photographs are not accepted. *Documents should be named including your first and last name, and the immunizations being uploaded.*

Students should also be aware that additional immunization records may be required in order to attend certain external rotations. These include, but are not limited to the seasonal influenza shot, COVID-19, varicella (chicken pox) vaccination, and others. While optometry students are not required to receive a varicella vaccine to attend school, some externship sites may require either proof of the disease or proof of a varicella vaccination, as well as proof of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) or other vaccinations.

NOTE: *Students who fail to meet immunization requirements may not be able to complete pediatric patient care and externships that are necessary to meet graduation requirements. While UMSL in coordination with the University of Missouri System understand your personal rights regarding immunization and can waive said requirements, external locations are not governed by the university.*

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.

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

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 the University of Missouri-St. Louis. 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.

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.

Pediatric and Binocular Vision Faculty award for Clinical Excellence

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to up to four graduates in recognition of clinical performance in the area of binocular vision/vision therapy.

GP 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 Faculty Award for Clinical Excellence

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to up to four graduates who have demonstrated clinical excellence in the field of contact lenses.

Low Vision Faculty Award for Clinical Excellence

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to up to four graduates who have demonstrated clinical excellence in the field of low vision rehabilitation.

Ocular Disease Faculty Award for Clinical Excellence

Sponsored by the College of Optometry

Award: Plaque

Eligibility: Awarded to up to four graduates who have demonstrated clinical excellence in the field of ocular disease.

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.

William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. 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.

Student Activities/Organizations

Leadership Roles and Descriptions

Class Representative

The class representative for each class serves as the liaison between the student and the professor. As the class representative you will be the "voice" of the class. The class representative is elected electronically each year and will be a member of the Optometry Student Government, Student Services, and Dean's council executive board. Each year the class will either elect a new class representative or re-elect the current class via a paper ballot. The election will occur in August.

Some of the duties of the class representative include:

- Help resolve scheduling conflicts (i.e., test dates, lab, and tutorial times, etc.), if needed.
- Be an approachable point of contact regarding issues or concerns.
- To efficiently relay information from Professors and/or Organizations.
- o Ensure that students are informed about developments and decisions that concern them.

Assistant Class Representative

The assistant class representative works with the class representative to assist in effective representation of his/her class and serves as class representative in his/her absence. In addition, the assistant class representative is responsible for providing the Office of Student Services of weekly happenings concerning class news. The assistant chair will also serve on the Wellness Committee. In the absence of the class representative, the assistant class representative will serve as class representative. The assistant class representative will be elected by paper ballot each academic year.

Intramural Chairs (2)

The intramural chair is responsible for getting class members signed up for intramural sports on campus.

Equipment Chair

The equipment chair is responsible for working with the equipment companies to determine times and dates for the equipment fairs on campus.

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 policymaking. 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., underrepresented minority y 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 224 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 magazine 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 University of Missouri-St. Louis 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.

Optometric Vision Development and Rehabilitation Association (OVDRA)--Students enrolled in the professional program are eligible for student membership in OVDRA. Student membership provides the student with the organization's publication and the opportunity to attend the annual meeting. OVDRA is an international organization dedicated to the study and promotion of the developmental aspects of patient care.

Christian Medical and Dental Association CMDA (formerly Fellowship of Christian Optometrists FCO)--The purpose of CMDA is to educate, encourage and equip Christian healthcare professionals to glorify God. The organization encourages interaction and collaboration among Christian healthcare professionals and students.

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 underrepresented 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 underrepresented minority students in optometry. Membership is open to all optometry students.

Private Practice Club--Private Practice club 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.

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 Saint 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, neuroophthalmology, 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.

Collected Rules and Regulations

The complete list of university policies may be found at [Collected Rules and Regulations | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu) 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 ([Chapter 200: Student Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu)), located in this section of the Collected Rules and Regulations is: the Standard of Conduct (200.010), the Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion and Privacy (200.015), Rules of Procedures in Student or Student Organization Conduct Matters (200.020), Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Harassment (200.025), Forms for Use in Student Disciplinary Matters (200.030) and the Student Participation in Intercollegiate Athletics (200.040). Also of interest are the University of Missouri Plan for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action ([320.010 Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Policy | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu)), Auxiliary Aids for Students with Disabilities ([240.040 Policy Related to Students with Disabilities | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu)), AIDS Policy Statement ([280.030 AIDS Policy Statement | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu)), Affirmative Action on Committee Appointment ([330.070 Affirmative Action on Committee Appointments | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu)), Discrimination Grievance Procedures for Students ([390.010 Discrimination Grievance Procedure for Students | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](https://umsystem.edu)), etc..

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

Profile

Name:	University of Missouri-Saint Louis, College of Optometry
Address:	One University Boulevard Saint Louis, Missouri 63121-4400
Location:	South Campus Complex of the University of Missouri-Saint Louis Marillac Hall, and the Patient Care Center
History:	UMSL, 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:	44-50
Faculty/ Student Ratio:	1:8
Clinical Facilities:	UMSL University Eye Centers Patient Care Center, South Campus Complex Lindel Eye Center East Saint 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 of Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association (ACOE) 243 North Lindbergh Saint Louis, Missouri 63141 Next site visit is scheduled for October 2025

Academic Calendar for 2024-2025

2024 Fall Semester

*Indicates date not yet set

August

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

September

2 Monday, no classes, Labor Day Holiday

October

15 Residency Day
16 Fall Break begins 11:30pm
16 – 18 4th Year Practice Management II
17 MOA Industry Alliance Day Symposium
18 Fechner Day
21 Classes resume 8:00am

November

23 Saturday, Thanksgiving break begins 5:00 p.m.

December

2 Monday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.
3 or 5 NBEO Part II 4th Year Students
7 Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.
9 Monday, final examinations begin
13-16 KMK NBEO Review 3rd Year Students
14 Saturday, Fall Semester closes, end of Day
14 Fall Commencement

2025 Winter Intersession

January

6 Monday, classes begin 8:00 a.m.
18 Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.

2025 Spring Semester

January

6 Monday, 4th year clinic begins at all sites
6 Monday, 3rd year classes, clinics, laboratories begin 8:00 a.m.
20 Monday, Martin Luther King Holiday
21 Tuesday, classes begin 8:00 a.m.
27 MOA Legislative Conference Jefferson City

March

3-7 Monday, 3rd year NBEO study break begins (all clinic responsibilities continue)
10 - 14 NBEO Part I Exam (3rd year targeted dates)
22 Saturday, Internal Spring recess begins 5:00 p.m.
31 Monday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.

April

18 Clinic Privileging Exam, all day

May

10 Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.
12 Monday, final examinations begin
8 – 14 Clinic Seminar 4th year students
12 – 14 Clinical Seminar 4th Year Students
17 Saturday, Spring Semester closes
17 - 18 Sat/Sun, Spring Commencement
30 White Coat (tentative)

2025 Summer Semester

Session I (4 weeks)

May

19 Monday, classes begin, 8:00 a.m.
26 Monday, Memorial Day holiday

June

14 Saturday, session closes, end of day

Session 2 (4 weeks)

June

16 Monday, classes begin, 8:00 a.m.
19 Monday, no classes, Juneteenth Holiday

July

4 Monday, no classes, Independence Day holiday
12 Saturday, session closes, end of day

Session 3 (4 weeks)

July

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

August

9 Saturday, session closes, end of day

Final examinations are held during the last class meeting of Summer Sessions 1, 2 & 3

Session 4 (8 weeks)

May 19 – July 12 (Summer Sessions 1 & 2, above)

July 9 – 12 Final Examinations

Session 5 (8 weeks)

June 16 – August 9 (Summer Sessions 2 & 3, above)

August 6 – 9 Final Examinations

Session 6 (12 weeks)

May 19 – August 9 (Summer Sessions, 1, 2, & 3,
above)
August 6 – 9 Final Examinations

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.

[Academic Calendar | UMSL](#)

Academic Calendar for 2025-2026

2025 Fall Semester

*Indicates date not yet set

August

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

September

1 Monday, no classes, Labor Day Holiday

October

22 Fall Break begins 11:30pm

27 Classes resume 8:00am

November

22 Saturday, Thanksgiving break begins 5:00 p.m.

December

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

2 or 4 NBEO Part II 4th Year Students

13 Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.

15 Monday, final examinations begin

20 Saturday, Fall Semester closes, end of Day

20 Fall Commencement

2026 Winter Intersession

January

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

17 Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.

2026 Spring Semester

January

3 Tuesday, 4th year clinic begins at all sites

9 Monday, 3rd year classes, clinics, laboratories begin 8:00 a.m.

19 Monday, Martin Luther King Holiday

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

March

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

TBD NBEO Part I Exam (3rd year targeted exam dates)

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

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

April

17 Clinic privileging exam all day

May

9 Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.

11 Monday, final examinations begin

8 – 11 Clinic Seminar 4th year students

16 Saturday, Spring Semester closes

16 – 17 Sat/Sun, Spring Commencement

19 White Coat (tentative)

2026 Summer Semester

Session I (4 weeks)

May

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

25 Monday, Memorial Day holiday

June

13 Saturday, session closes, end of day

Session 2 (4 weeks)

June

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

19 Monday, no classes, Juneteenth Holiday

July

3 Monday, no classes, Independence Day holiday

11 Saturday, session closes, end of day

Session 3 (4 weeks)

July

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

August

8 Saturday, session closes, end of day

Final examinations are held during the last class meeting of Summer Sessions 1, 2 & 3

Session 4 (8 weeks)

May 18 – July 11 (Summer Sessions 1 & 2, above)

May

25 Monday, Memorial Day

June

19 Friday, Juneteenth Holiday

July

3 Friday, Independence Day holiday

8 – 11 Final Examinations

Session 5 (8 weeks)

June 15 – August 8 (Summer Sessions 2 & 3, above)

June

19 Friday, Juneteenth Holiday

July

3 Friday, Independence Day holiday

August 5 – 8 Final Examinations

Session 6 (12 weeks)

May 18 – August 8 (Summer Sessions, 1, 2, & 3, above)

May

25 Monday, Memorial Day

June

19 Friday, Juneteenth Holiday

July

3 Friday, Independence Day holiday

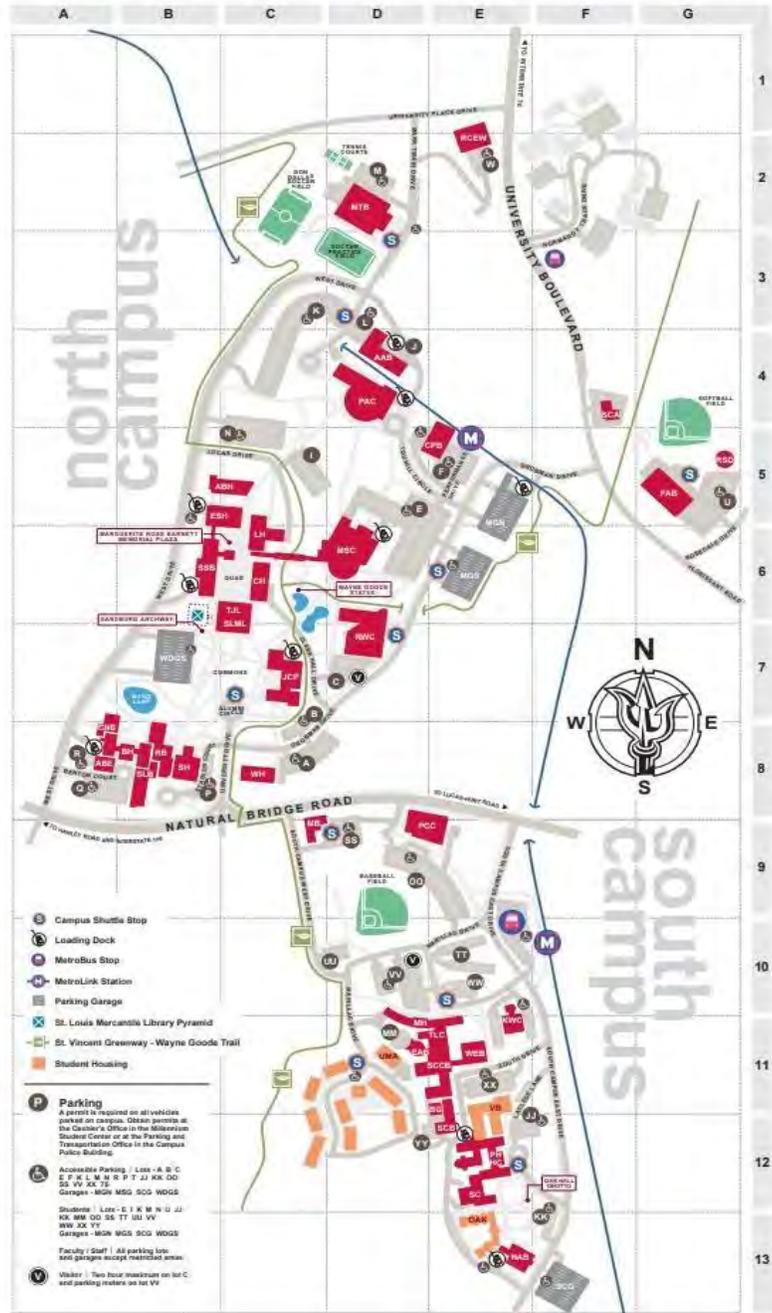
August 5 – 8 Final Examinations

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.

[Academic Calendar | UMSL](#)

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- Anheuser-Busch Ecology and Conservation Complex [ABE] A-8
- Anheuser-Busch Hall [ABH] C-5
- Arts Administration Building [AAB] D-4
- Benton Hall [BH] B-8
- Bianche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center [PAC] D-4
- Boiler Garage / Surplus Property [BG] E-11
- Clark Hall [CH] C-6
- E. Desmond Lee Technology Centre and Learning Center [TLC] E-11
- Education Administration Building [EAB] D-11
- Express Scripts Hall [ESH] C-5
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- Music Building [MB] C-9
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- West Drive Garage South [WDGS] B-7
- William L. Clay Center for Nanoscience [CNS] A-8
- Woods Hall [WH] C-6



Campus Map

University of Missouri–St. Louis



North Campus Accessibility and Construction Map



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Appendix 1

Academic Honesty Statement

UMSL College of Optometry

(Original 2002, Revised October 2007, October 2024)

All students, as future optometrists, committed to the rule and spirit of the Optometric Oath of Practice, are expected to conduct themselves ethically in every clinical situation and every didactic course. The administration, faculty, staff and fellow students at the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry expect that all work you submit is your own.

Dishonesty is a broad category defined in the [\(200.010 Standard of Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)\)](#), which includes, **but is not limited to:**

1. Plagiarism: taking credit for anything that is not your own original work, including copying another person or using artificial intelligence.
2. Cheating: copying answers from another person, soliciting answers, both written and verbal, from another student (or from any unauthorized information source), accepting and/or utilizing questions or answers from an unauthorized source (not sanctioned by the instructor), or knowingly permitting another student to copy your work.
3. Stealing: unethical use or distribution of secured exam questions (with or without answers) or any other protected course information to others outside one's class (such as "passing along" assignments or exam questions via written or verbal methods), unauthorized use and/or distribution of copyrighted materials such as textbooks (print or digital) and the like.
4. Unauthorized Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Tools: use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) for completion of course assignments, assessments, or other work, without explicit permission from the instructor. Any permitted use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on [academic honesty](#). Spelling and grammar check of a student's original work are generally permitted. When in doubt about permitted usage, students should seek clarification from the instructor.
5. Violation of Clinical Ethics: fabrication or alteration of clinical records, forgery of preceptor, patient or intern signatures, violation of patient confidentiality (with or without intent) or removing any clinic properties from the clinic floor without expressed permission from a faculty member.

Students must diligently adhere to the strict principles while completing all assignments, quizzes, projects or patient records. Regardless of performance in other portions of the

affiliated course, anyone who engages in academic dishonesty will normally be given a score of zero for that assignment and be referred to Academic Affairs for a sanction. As described in the Collected Rules [\(200.020 Rules of Procedures in Student or Student Organization Conduct Matters | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)\)](#), sanctions for academic dishonesty may range from probation to expulsion from the university.

After the university determination, because professionalism and integrity are academic requirements for the O.D. degree, the Student Committee and when appropriate the Clinic Committee will review the case and rule on its academic impact on the student's ability to complete the program. Students can appeal decisions of the Committee to the dean.

Appendix 2

Academic Dishonesty

UMSL College of Optometry

(Updated 6/5/2017)

Students at UMSL are expected to exhibit the highest standards of academic integrity. Therefore, an act of academic dishonesty is an offense against the university. For that reason, university rules prescribe disciplinary consequences for academic dishonesty administered by the Office of Academic Integrity (Academic Affairs), as well as academic consequences assessed by the faculty member.

An academic unit such as a program, department, division, school, or college may also make an academic assessment in cases of academic dishonesty provided that there is a standing review procedure which describes the process and is approved by the appropriate dean and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Students must be notified of additional unit expectations and procedures through advising and in written program materials, including class syllabi. When making a unit-level decision, the head of the unit is expected to communicate with the Office of Academic Affairs so that the decision can be considered in disciplinary hearings. The Triton manual provides guidelines for appropriate academic conduct.

Faculty members at UMSL are required to take an active role in creating a climate of academic honesty. Should academic dishonesty be suspected, faculty members must follow the steps below. At any time, a faculty member may contact the Office of Academic Affairs for advice on how to proceed on a specific case.

The following procedures guide the campus in upholding the University of Missouri Collected Rules for Student Academic Conduct. [200.010 Standard of Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#) includes cheating, plagiarism, and/or sabotage.

Procedural Guidelines for Faculty Identifying Cases of Academic Dishonesty

Step 1. A faculty member who suspects academic dishonesty has two obligations:

1. Making an academic assessment of the work in question and assigning an appropriate grade for the exercise in question. Examples include a failing grade for the exercise, remedial instruction, or a parallel exercise.
2. Submitting relevant information to the Office of Academic Affairs which is charged with determining the disciplinary action to be sanctioned for the infraction. The faculty member

should send to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) a written statement of the incident with supporting evidence. A report of the faculty member's academic assessment of the exercise must also be included in the statement. If necessary, the chair and dean of the academic department may be notified of the incident.

Step 2. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) shall conduct an **informal disciplinary hearing**. Discipline for academic dishonesty [200.020 Rules of Procedures in Student or Student Organization Conduct Matters | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#)The Vice Chancellor (or designee) will contact the student by mail and/or email, asking him or her to make an appointment with the Vice Chancellor (or designee) within five days. At the appointment, the student is informed of his or her rights and options and is informed of the charge and evidence from the faculty member. The Vice Chancellor (or designee) shall encourage the student to provide a full explanation of the situation to assure his or her due process.

The Vice Chancellor (or designee) has the authority to make a determination and impose appropriate sanctions. After reviewing the faculty member's materials and the student's explanation, the Vice Chancellor (or designee) considers the seriousness of the case. Some factors that may be considered are the academic exercise and experiences of the student (e.g., freshman quiz v. doctoral dissertation), previous charges of academic dishonesty, and individual or programmatic characteristics.

The Vice Chancellor (or designee) notifies the student of the disciplinary action using the [200.030 Forms for Use in Student Disciplinary Matters | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#)

This form explains the charge and findings. It also gives the student two options:

1. Accept the discipline, or
2. Ask for a hearing before the Student Conduct Committee.

The letter also has a required timeframe within which the student may accept or reject a proposed informal disposition. If the student fails to either accept or reject within the required timeframe, then the University may deem such silence to be an acceptance of the determination.

If the student accepts the discipline, then the Vice Chancellor (or designee) informs the faculty member of the outcome of the case. Others who may learn of the outcome are the chairperson/coordinator/director, the dean of the college in which the incident occurred, and those

determined by the Registrar as having an Academic Need to Know, as governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Step 3. If the student seeks to ***appeal the result of the informal disciplinary hearing***, then the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) shall convene a hearing before the Student Conduct Committee upon receipt of the student's request for such a hearing. The hearing will be conducted according to procedures established in Section F: Subsections 1-6 of the above listed ums system Standard of Conduct (200.020) and Procedures of Student and Student Organization Conduct Matters (200.020).

The Vice Chancellor (or designee) will provide all appropriate materials to the committee at the time of the hearing. No member of the committee may have been involved in the investigation of or filing of charges in the case. The report of the committee's findings and determination of discipline (Section F 3.a-b) shall be sent to the student, the faculty member, the department chair/coordinator/director, and the dean of the college in which the incident occurred, and others with an Academic Need to Know (per FERPA), and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. If the disposition involves probation, suspension, or expulsion, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs must advise the Director of Admissions and the Registrar in writing to place a hold on the student's reenrollment.

Step 4. Should the student or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) wish to appeal the Student Conduct Committee's decision, the Chancellor shall serve as the appeals officer. The appeal follows different procedures, depending on the severity of the sanction.

1. **Right to Petition for Review.** In cases where the sanction is other than University expulsion, dismissal, or suspension, the student, or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) shall follow Collected Rules, Section F: Subsection 4 of Rules of Procedure in Student Conduct Matters.

Within five calendar days of receiving notification of the Committee's decision, the student, or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) may submit a written request to the Chancellor for a review of the case. A copy of the Petition for Review must also be sent to the nonappealing party within such time. The Petition for Review states the grounds for review, and the nonappealing party may answer the petition within five calendar days.

The Chancellor (or designee) may grant or refuse the right of review. Should the Chancellor refuse the Petition for Review, the action of the Student Conduct Committee shall be final. If the Chancellor reviews the decision, then the action of the Chancellor is final unless it requires further proceedings.

1. **Right of Appeal.** For cases in which the discipline involves university expulsion, dismissal, or suspension, the student, or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) may file an Appeal. Collected Rules, Section F: Subsections 5, 6, and

7 of Rules of Procedure in Student Conduct Matters above (200.020) govern the conduct of the appeal.

To appeal expulsion, dismissal, or suspension from the University, the student, or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee) may file a written notice of appeal with the Chancellor within 10 calendar days after notification of the Student Conduct Committee's decision. The person making the appeal will send a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the non-appealing party. The appealing party may file a written memorandum for consideration by the Chancellor with the Notice of Appeal, and the Chancellor may request a reply to such memorandum by the appropriate party.

When a student files a valid Notice of Appeal that meets all deadlines, he or she may also petition the Chancellor in writing for permission to attend classes pending final determination of the appeal. The Chancellor may permit a student to continue in school under such conditions as may be designated pending completion of appellate procedures. In such cases, however, any final sanctions imposed will be effective from the date of the Student Conduct Committee's action.

After reviewing the case and appeal documents, the Chancellor (or designee) may affirm, reverse, or remand the case for further proceedings and will notify each party in writing of the decision on the appeal. The action of the Chancellor is final unless it is to remand the matter for further proceedings.

Copies of all correspondence and decisions regarding the case shall be directed to the student, the faculty member, the chair/coordinator/director, and the dean of the college in which the infraction occurred, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Director of Admissions, the Registrar, and other with an Academic Need to Know.

Appendix 3

Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior

UMSL College of Optometry
(February 2017; rev June 2020)

Fundamental Assumptions

The Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior is based upon the following assumptions about the nature of education and the atmosphere we believe is most conducive to learning.

1. The Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior is designed to help students at the University of Missouri College of Optometry achieve their educational goals by creating a culture of intellectual vibrancy and fairness.
2. Successful implementation of this statement will be fully realized if a) it is part of a College wide effort to improve the culture of learning at the College; b) it is embraced with goodwill by the members of our College community.
3. Students at the University of Missouri College of Optometry were admitted on the basis of their academic record, experience in the profession, and a broad range of personal attributes. The application of this whole-person concept gave the faculty and administration good hope that each student could make substantive and constructive contributions to the culture of learning at the College and, ultimately, to the profession. Every student thus enters with a unique matrix of talents and experiences that enriches the culture of learning at the College.
4. The faculty and students share the responsibility for effective teaching and learning. The obligation that faculty and students have toward each other is based upon a commitment to professional and ethical principles and is, thus, far more profound than any obligation founded upon the principles of commerce.
5. While every student has ultimate responsibility for his/her own educational life at the College of Optometry, people who enter a community with goodwill have implicit obligations to other members of that community. It is therefore reasonable for students to expect collegiality and goodwill from their colleagues and professors and be willing to offer the same in return.
6. Every student has the right to faculty who have appropriate academic and clinical credentials to

teach in a professional medical curriculum. The student has a right to a culture that is conducive to learning and to a faculty who make an honest intellectual commitment to fairness.

7. As a member of a professional medical community, everyone is obligated to help maintain certain academic, professional, cultural, and social standards.

To satisfy the promise I made implicitly at my admission interview, I hereby publicly declare that I accept the Fundamental Assumptions outlined above, and I agree to make a good faith effort to be guided by the spirit of the following Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior. Furthermore, I understand that my failure to adhere to these expectations may place me in conflict with the desired goals of the college and could be grounds for further action including delay of academic progress and dismissal from the professional program. 2

Academic

1. As a student wishing to enter medical health care, I understand that I will be trusted implicitly by my patients. To meet my obligations to patients, I shall hold myself to the highest standards of intellectual achievement. I will do my utmost to come to class on time and to be physically and intellectually prepared to participate actively. I will work outside of class to supplement my classroom learning.
2. I will convey professionalism in all interactions, including written and spoken correspondence with fellow students, faculty and staff members, and the college administration.
3. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. I will do my best to reduce the likelihood that students, in moments of desperation, will commit such acts, but I will hold any student accountable for their actions on behalf of the College, the profession, and the public. I will commit myself to the following:
 - a. I will not use old examinations as a means of preparing for my exams unless the instructor publicly gives permission to use old tests as one resource in a larger plan of preparation.
 - b. I will not take others' work as my own, whether that work has been published or whether it is another's classroom, laboratory, or extracurricular work.

- c. I will contribute constructively to all group projects.
- d. I will not seek an unfair advantage during examinations by
 - i. Sharing or soliciting information about lab practicals with classmates in a later lab
 - ii. Copying the work of my neighbor either furtively or with their consent
 - iii. Attempting to elicit from the professor information that is not available to all students
 - iv. Soliciting information before a proficiency about the nature of a potential patient's refractive error and/or general ocular health.
- 4. I will not upload or post any protected intellectual property belonging to my professors, including lecture and lab documents to any site without permission from the professor. This includes any UMSL external sites like Quizlet and Chegg.
- 5. I will not falsify clinic records in any manner including but not limited to forging a preceptor's signature, fabricating findings for an examination procedure that was not performed, copying findings from a previous year's examination, entering data or test results after the exam date without documentation. I will actively protect patient privacy.
- 6. I will seek to understand and comply with the Ethics Policy promulgated by the National Board of Examiners of Optometry (NBEO). <http://www.optometry.org/ethics.cfm>
- 7. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record, I will refrain from the use of electronic devices for non-educational activities during classes and laboratories.
- 8. I understand not adhering to the academic expectations outlined above could result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Cultural

- 1. I understand that my classmates will one day be my colleagues and share my alma matter. I understand that I have a professional obligation to my classmates as human beings and colleagues and also, indirectly, to their patients. As such, I will strive to help them when they struggle and to make my individual talents and experiences

available for their benefit. This does not obligate me to volunteer every spare moment to tutoring other students. It means that I commit myself to maintaining an attitude that reveals shared goals and intellectual openness.

- 2. I will not be quick to form judgments based upon rumor, nor will I propagate rumors about any member of the faculty or student body.
- 3. I will not cause the obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, conduct proceedings, or other University activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, as stated in 200.010 of the University of Missouri System Collected Rules and Regulations ([200.010 Standard of Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](http://umsystem.edu)).
- 4. I will strive to make constructive changes for the betterment of our college. I will never be silent when I see an injustice simply because it may be unpopular to speak up. I will do this in an effort to ensure that my needs and those of my classmates are met by the faculty and administration.
- 5. I will not tolerate bigotry in any form, either from my student colleagues or from the faculty. I will take with grave severity any form of bias that I see as a student—even if it doesn't affect me directly—and I will take appropriate action to guarantee that such bigotry does not harm myself, my classmates or the culture of my College or my profession.
- 6. I understand not adhering to the cultural expectations outlined above could result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Social

- 1. I realize that while attending school sponsored events or professional conferences, I will be partly identified as a student of the University of Missouri College of Optometry. I will strive to behave at all times in a manner that does honor to that affiliation.
- 2. I will exercise good judgment when posting information on social media including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and Group Me. I recognize that information exchanged via e-mail and posted on social media is unprotected and will adhere to HIPAA laws when using electronic communication and when posting on social media.
 - a. The posting of pictures, opinions or information on social media that could be perceived as inappropriate towards the University, the College of Optometry, members of the College and/or

associated clinical sites should be avoided.

3. I understand not adhering to the social expectations outlined above could result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Discipline

Failure to comply with the academic, cultural, and social standards of the College of Optometry may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program. 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. ([Chapter 200: Student Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#)).

Apart from and in addition to these professional standards by which Optometry students will be graded and evaluated academically, all University of Missouri students are subject to the Standard of Conduct for students which appears in Section 200.010 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri [200.010 Standard of Conduct | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#) and for which they may be disciplined in accordance with the procedures in Section 200.020 [200.020 Rules of Procedures in Student or Student Organization Conduct Matters | University of Missouri System \(umsystem.edu\)](#).

BY PLACING MY NAME AND SIGNATURE BELOW, I SIGNIFY MY AGREEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

"I acknowledge that I have read all of the terms of the above College of Optometry Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior and that I understand such terms. I agree to all of the terms of the above as one condition to my enrollment in the College of Optometry as a student in good academic standing."

Student Name (Print)

Signature

Date: _____

This form should be submitted electronically at the following link: [Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior Form](#)

Appendix 4

Agreement to Complete a Course and Replace a Delayed Grade UMSL College of Optometry

Delayed grades indicate that a portion of the required course work is incomplete, most likely due to illness, a family emergency, or the student being called to active duty. Typically, undergraduate students have one semester to complete course requirements; graduate students have two semesters to complete the necessary work. Assigning a delayed grade to a student who is called to active duty is an indication that (1) *it is late in the semester* **and** (2) *the student has already completed a substantial portion of the course work*. In this case, University policy allows the student to complete the coursework upon his/her return from active duty.

The arrangements for completing a delayed grade must be an agreement between the faculty member and the student. Document this in writing to avoid future misunderstandings, especially those that may occur if the instructor is no longer employed at UMSL. An instructor may require work to be completed earlier than the maximum time allowed by campus policy. A recommendation may be made for students called to active duty to re-enroll in the course without paying additional fees.

Student Name: _____

Student ID
Number: _____

Course Name: _____

Curricular Designation and Number (enter as
OPTOP ####): _____

Semester: Fall Spring Summer

Instructor of
Record: _____

Instructor E-
mail: _____

Attach the course syllabus describing course requirements. Indicate the required work completed to date:

Indicate the outstanding work that remains to be submitted:

By what date must work be submitted in order to replace the delayed grade with a credit bearing grade (mm/dd/yyyy)? _____

Describe the arrangements made to complete the course:

Faculty Signature Faculty Email Address Office Phone Number

Date of Agreement: _____

Course Syllabus Attached? Yes No

Associate Dean of Programs Signature

The student, the instructor, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, and the student services office should keep a copy of this document.

This form should be submitted electronically at the following link by the faculty member:
[Delayed Grade Request Form.](#)

Appendix 5

Information Release: Externships

I _____ allow the University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry to release the following information to any of my externships during my fourth year. This information includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Formal Name
- Address
- UMSL email address
- Background Check
- Student ID
- Date of Birth
- Proof of Good Academic Standing
- Immunization information
- Phone number
- Emergency Contact information

I understand that this is part of my educational requirements and failure to provide or release pertinent information related to your academic progress could prevent me from completing the Doctor of Optometry program.

I have the right to revoke this release at any time via written communication to the Associate Dean of Student and Alumni Services and the Director of 4th Year Clinical Experiences.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form should be submitted electronically at the following link:
[Information Release: Externship Form.](#)

Appendix 6

Clinical Competencies

UMSL College of Optometry

(updated 2023)

Fail (0)/Unsatisfactory: (1)/Needs improvement (2)/Meets expected (3)/Exceeds expected (4)

1. Patient History

1. Unsatisfactory: patient interviews; deficient recording and analysis
2. Needs improvement: in level of patient history data for proper understanding of patient needs
3. Expected: level of patient history skills, but some guidance required
4. Exceeds expected: patient interview skills with little prompting needed

2. Patient Care

1. Unsatisfactory: treatment and management plans, failure to analyze clinical data/scientific evidence and patient preference when making medical decisions; demonstrates poor clinical judgment
2. Needs improvement: in diagnosis, treatment, or management skills, synthesis of clinical data; student requires frequent prompting in developing diagnosis, needs frequent guidance in developing treatment/management options
3. Expected: diagnostic and management skills; student able to develop treatment/management plan in most instances; develops differentials with appropriate level of assistance needed for final diagnosis and management
4. Exceeds expected: patient care with complete/appropriate treatment and management plans based on synthesis of clinical data, available scientific evidence and patient preference; demonstrates excellent clinical judgment

3. Record Keeping

1. Unsatisfactory: maintenance of patient health records, incomplete documentation, poor use of abbreviations, poor understanding of the necessity of accurate patient records
2. Needs improvement: in maintenance of patient health records, data records achieve completeness on an inconsistent basis, often require revision by attending preceptor, student does not respond immediately to proper guidance and instruction
3. Expected: maintenance of patient health records, generally complete application of proper record keeping protocols for entry level practice

4. Exceeds expected: maintenance of patient health records, complete understanding of the importance of patient health records, always proper use of abbreviations

4. Clinical Skills

1. Unsatisfactory: ability to perform clinical tests with accuracy
2. Needs improvement: in accurately performing necessary clinical tests
3. Expected: level of data collection and ability to administer clinical tests
4. Exceeds expected: performance in the administration of clinical tests; consistently accurate data collection

5. Optometric Knowledge

1. Unsatisfactory: knowledge of basic and clinical sciences, and the ineffective application of evidence-based knowledge to patient care; minimal interest in learning
2. Needs improvement: in knowledge of established biomedical, clinical, and behavioral sciences, and the ineffective application of evidence-based knowledge to patient care
3. Expected: knowledge of established biomedical, clinical, and behavioral sciences, and the normally guided application of evidence-based knowledge to patient care
4. Exceeds expected: level of Optometry knowledge, comprehensive understanding of complex relationships and mechanisms, with the generally self-sufficient application of evidence-based knowledge to patient care

6. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

1. Unsatisfactory: interpersonal and communication skills resulting in ineffective information exchange and teaming with patients, their caregivers, and professional colleagues for this encounter
2. Needs improvement: in interpersonal and communication skills; lacks consistent ability to communicate effectively with patients with frequent intervention required
3. Expected: interpersonal and communication skills resulting in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their caregivers, and professional colleagues
4. Exceeds expected: interpersonal and communication skills resulting in superior information exchange for successful teaming with patients, their caregivers, and professional colleague

7. Time Management

1. Unsatisfactory: time management; is unable or requires significant intervention to complete exam efficiently, lacks understanding of the patient's personal time, requires prompting to complete tasks or pick up a patient; unable to "think ahead"
2. Needs improvement: in time management; requires some oversight in keeping exam moving efficiently, needs reminding of the patient's personal time, carries out tasks without anticipating "next steps" or taking initiative
3. Expected: time management; demonstrates appropriate efficiency for the experience level and without compromising accuracy, demonstrates ownership of the patient, is respectful of the patient's time, attempts to complete additional duties as needed
4. Exceeds expected: time management; efficient patient care including self-driven record review, patient pick up, chart completion, and other necessary tasks; enhances both personal and team productivity; demonstrates utmost respect of the patient's time

8. Professionalism

1. Unsatisfactory: commitment to completing professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, level of compassionate care and sensitivity to a diverse patient population; fails to acknowledge errors
2. Needs improvement: in completing professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, level of compassionate care and in sensitivity to a diverse patient population; inconsistent empathy and/or reliability; questionable receptiveness to feedback
3. Expected: and self-directed commitment to completing professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, level of compassionate care and sensitivity to a diverse patient population; receptive to constructive feedback
4. Exceeds expected: and mostly autonomous commitment to completing professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, level of compassionate care and sensitivity to a diverse patient population; role-models responsible behavior and willingly acknowledges error

9. Practice-based Learning

1. Unsatisfactory: analysis of the effectiveness of own performance, does not use information technology for enhanced patient care
2. Needs improvement: in practice-based learning, relies on extrinsic evaluation, limited embrace of technology, irregular use of reference materials for self-improvement
3. Expected: competency in exploration of intellectual growth, but with supplementary guidance needed; accurate self-assessment of areas of needed improvement and strengths

4. Exceeds expected: ability to set and pursue learning goals, utilize accurate self-assessment, explore opportunities for intellectual growth and development

10. Systems-based/Interprofessional Practice

1. Unsatisfactory: awareness of larger context of health care systems; lacks understanding of the need for referral for proper patient outcomes, unable to effectively utilize system resources to coordinate optimal patient care between professionals
2. Needs improvement: in understanding the need for proper referral and the roles of other professionals in patient care; insufficient utilization of health system resources
3. Expected: competency in awareness of larger health care system including ethical, legal, and public health issues, with some guidance needed in resource utilization; demonstrates appropriate judgment for patient referral and appropriate interprofessional management skills
4. Exceeds expected: responsiveness to the larger context of health care; effectively explores options to improve patient care outcomes with deep understanding of ethical, legal, and public health issues; excellent sense of need for referral and coordination of care among professionals

Authorization Checklist and Consent to Release

I, _____ have reviewed, received, and understand the documents listed below (check all that apply):

- Authorization to Release Photos
- Information Release for Professional Growth
- Information release for Scholarships or Grants
- Authorization to Release Information for Externships
- Authorization of Release Form
- NBEO Registration
- UMSL Optometry Entry Levels Standards
- Academic Honesty Statement
- Academic Dishonesty Statement
- Understanding of Academic Good Standing
- Student Statement of Ethical/Professional Behavior
- Understanding of Criminal Background Check
- Understanding of Immunizations
- Fundamental Standards for Graduates
- FERPA
- Code of Conduct 200.000, 010, 015, 020, 025, 030, and 040
- Functional Standards for the graduates of the College of Optometry
- Provided with an accessible link to the Student Handbook

Print Name

Signature

Date

This form should be submitted electronically at the following link:
[Authorization Checklist and Consent to Release Forms.](#)



**Consent to Release Information:
Information Release for Professional Growth**

I allow UMSL Optometry to release my name, student email, mailing address, and professional year, information to student and professional organizations that allows for professional growth in the optometric profession. I understand that I can revoke this consent at any time by contacting the office of Student Services in writing.

Signature

Date

**Consent to Release Information:
Information Release for Scholarships or Grants**

I allow UMSL Optometry to release my name, student email, mailing address, and professional year, information to a donor or organization if I have been awarded a scholarship or grant. I understand that I can revoke this consent at any time by contacting the office of Student Services in writing.

Signature

Date

**Consent to Release Information:
Image and Likeness Release**

I allow UMSL Optometry to use my image and likeness for use in electronic, print, or video associated with the college as they deem appropriate. I waive and release the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the College of Optometry from any financial obligations in connection to the use of this information. I understand that I can revoke this consent at any time by contacting the office of Student Services in writing.

Signature

Date