Doctors of optometry are America’s primary eye care providers

Doctors of optometry deliver an essential component of patients’ overall primary health care. During a comprehensive eye exam, doctors of optometry not only determine eye and vision health, but also can identify early warning signs and manifestations of systemic diseases including diabetes, hypertension and cancer.

$139 billion – the economic burden of eye diseases, vision loss, and eye disorders in the U.S.

Doctors of optometry provide more than two-thirds of primary eye health care in America and more than 99 percent of the U.S. population lives in counties with an eye doctor.

Optometry has greater geographic distribution and is more accessible than other eye care professions.

OPTOMETRISTS PROVIDE HIGHLY SPECIALIZED EYE CARE SERVICES, INCLUDING:

- Deliver vision services such as comprehensive eye examinations, treatment of eye conditions such as amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Diagnose eye conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, conjunctivitis, and more
- Prescribe medications for specific eye conditions (allowed in most states)
- Prevention of eye disease and eye injury services
- Prescribe and fit eye glasses and contact lenses
- Provide pre-operative and postoperative care for patients before and after eye surgery

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

After undergraduate college training, the post-graduate, doctoral-level degree program in optometry is comprised of an additional four years of extensive classroom, laboratory, and clinical training at an accredited optometry school.

This education combines all phases of functional eye health care and optics with the health sciences in a unified, specialized program.

Post-graduate clinical residency programs are available for optometrists who wish to specialize in family practice optometry, pediatric optometry, geriatric optometry, vision therapy, contact lenses, hospital-based optometry, primary care optometry, or ocular disease.

In addition to their formal training, all 50 states and the District of Columbia require doctors of optometry to participate in ongoing continuing education courses to stay current on the latest standards of care and to be eligible for license renewal.
# OPTOMETRY
- Optics
- Vision Science
- Binocular Vision
- Ocular Pharmacology
- Color Vision

# COMMON CORE OPTOMETRY & MEDICINE
- Human Anatomy (Human Cadaver Dissection)
- Neuro Anatomy & Physiology (Brain Dissection)
- Epidemiology/Biostatistics and Public Health
- Pharmacology (Animal Lab)
- Pathology
- Respiratory Systems
- Histology and Cell Biology
- Dermatology
- Microbiology
- Endocrinology
- Reproductive Systems and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Clinical Diagnosis
- Gastroenterology
- Clinical Methods/Interviewing/Physical Examination
- Infectious Disease
- Cardiovascular Systems

# MEDICINE
- Death and Dying
- Healthcare Quality Improvement
- Medical Information Management

## GENERAL OPTOMETRY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### YEAR 3
- Evidence Based Health Care
- Glaucoma/ Neuro Eye III and IV
- Specialty Rotation (Advanced Eyecare)
- Specialty Rotation (Vision Rehabilitation)
- Specialty Rotation (Pediatrics/ Binocular Vision)
- Specialty Rotation (Cornea/ Contact Lens)
- Patient Care Program (Primary Eyecare) IV, V, VI, and VII
- Community-Based Patient Care (CPS)
- Eyewear Center II
- Contact Lenses II
- Infant/ Child Development and Management
- Clinical Medicine I and II
- Retina I and II
- Binocular Vision Disorders
- General & Ocular Emergencies
- Ocular Disease Seminar
- Strabismus and Amblyopia, I and II
- Injections and Minor Surgical Procedures
- Business of Optometry
- Ophthalmic Lasers
- Practice Management III

### YEAR 4
- Externship Rotations (20 CR hrs each):
  - Eye Institute Patient Care Rotation
  - VA/ Hospital Based Externship Rotation
  - Specialty Externship Rotation

## U. S. MEDICAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### YEAR 3: CORE CLINICAL CLERKSHIPS
- Family & Community Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women’s Health
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery
- 2 additional elective clerkships

### YEAR 4: PRE-RESIDENCY
- 4 weeks sub-internship
- 4 weeks ambulatory medicine
- 2 weeks emergency medicine
- 34 weeks electives (students typically do 2-4 week rotations in their specialty area of interest, i.e. ophthalmology, radiology, etc.)
- 2 weeks capstone