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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

According to the American Optometric Association, Doctors of Optometry (ODs) are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.

- Doctors of Optometry prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical procedures.
- Optometrists counsel their patients regarding surgical and non-surgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations, and lifestyle.
- An optometrist has completed pre-professional undergraduate education in a college of university and four years of professional education at a college of optometry, leading to the doctor of optometry (OD) degree. Some optometrists complete an optional residency in a specific area of practice.
- Optometrists are eye health care professionals state-licensed to diagnose and treat diseases and disorders of the eye and visual system.

-Approved by the AOA Board of Trustees, 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Although optometry has met today’s challenges with some measure of success, tomorrow’s tests will be even greater. Tomorrow’s challenges will require cooperation among health care providers, legislative bodies, public policy makers, and consumers with a firm commitment to modify the health care delivery system to the changing needs of the patient.
Future need for optometric services means that, upon graduation, tomorrow's optometric graduates will be able to choose from a wide range of options in terms of the nature and location of their practices.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The curriculum has grown to include 42 undergraduate programs, 26 master’s programs, seven preprofessional programs, ten doctoral programs, and one first professional degree program. There are programs which answer the particular needs of older students returning to college; of students pursuing pre-architecture, pre-law, pre-medicine, pre-optometry, pre-pharmacy, pre-engineering, or pre-journalism courses, and of students interested in urban careers. There are also many opportunities for students to combine their academic course work with internships that often lead to job offers.

UM-St. Louis Mission Statement

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

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

Academic Structure

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

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

College of Business Administration
Through its bachelor's and master's degree programs, the College of Business Administration expands student capability in communication, analysis, and judgment, enabling its graduates to deal effectively with today's complex economic environment. The college maintains a balance between the specialization of professional courses and the diversity of liberal arts.
College of Education
Consistently one of the top three institutions in the state in production of educators, the College of Education provides undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare and sustain educational leaders. Its programs emphasize state-of-the-art technological applications to enhance teaching and learning as well as collaboration among university, college, agency, and corporate partners.

School of Fine Arts and Communication
The College of Fine Arts and Communication includes the Departments of Art and Art History, Music and Theater Dance and Media Studies. Our faculty and alumni have distinguished themselves as scholars, visual artists, teacher and performers.

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

College of Optometry
The College of Optometry is one of 23 colleges in the United States. It provides professional optometric education and clinical experience. Facilities are furnished with equipment for teaching and research. The college operates the Patient Care Center on south campus, the Lindell Eye Center in the city's Central West End, and the East St. Louis Eye Center, jointly owned and operated by the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graduates

The graduates of UM-St. Louis reflect the diversity found in a metropolitan community. The university has more than 70,000 graduates living in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Of these alumni, more than 80 percent continue to live and work in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

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

Accreditation

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

History

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

In 1974 the state legislature approved $50,000 to be used for “the planning phase for the opening of a College of Optometry.” As a consequence, 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 modern five-story building houses the College's classrooms, laboratories, research facilities, and administrative offices. The complex also includes a 350-seat amphitheater and the E. Desmond Lee Technology and Learning Center. The University Eye Center is now located in the new state of the art College of Optometry Patient Care Center.

University Eye Center

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

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

Libraries

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

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

Accreditation and Professional Association

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

Just over 1300 optometry alumni may be found around the world including Cameroon, Australia, and Canada, in addition to countries served by our military. Our alumni reside in 42 states. While primarily clustered in the upper and central Midwest and plains states, many of our graduates may be found in California and Texas. We also have alumni in Alaska and Hawaii.
Patient Care

Center for Eye Care

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

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

Third Year Patient Care Service

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

Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service

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

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

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

Pupil Project

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

Contact Lens Service

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

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

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

Low Vision Service

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

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

Dispensary Service

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

Fourth Year Externship Program

In addition to the patient care experiences available through the Patient Care Center and its affiliated clinics, the College of Optometry has a diverse Externship Program. Students must receive approval from the faculty and the Director of 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 bi-weekly reports of patient encounters, therapies, and activities. The Externship rotations are designed to give students exposure in the following areas:
- Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care,
- Contact Lens Patient Care,
- Low Vision Patient Care,
- General (Primary) Patient Care,
- Refractive Management Patient Care,
- Eye Health Management Patient Care,
- Geriatric Patient Care,
- Optometric Rehabilitation Patient Care.

Research

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

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

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

Dr. Carl Bassi (Professor) his research involves the development of novel approaches to evaluate the visual system in a number of patient populations. The goals are to improve disease diagnosis, assessment of progression, and treatment. There are currently four major areas of interest in the laboratory:

- the development of new devices for the assessment of color vision, visual suppression, and photophobia;
- evaluation of the effects of a macular pigment, zeaxanthin, on visual function;
- evaluation of color vision in applied settings;
- electrophysiological (including electrophotograms [ERGs] and visual evoked potentials [VEPs]) as well as psychophysical techniques (including color vision, contrast sensitivity, and stereopsis) are used to assess structure-function relationships in patients with dementia, glaucoma, macular degeneration and other retinal abnormalities.

This work has been funded through Northrup-Grumman Technologies, Zeavision, Missouri Alzheimer’s Association, University of Missouri Research Board, and a Weldon Springs award.

Dr. Bassi is the Director of Research for the College of Optometry, as well as the Chair of the campus Human Subjects review board.

Dr. Edward Bennett (Professor) is actively involved in the clinical investigation of contact lens designs, materials and care regimens. Over the past thirty-five years he and his co-workers have performed more than 100 contact lens research studies, most of which have been supported by the contact lens industry. Specifically, his area of interest has been gas permeable contact lenses. He is especially interested in evaluating different types of rigid contact lens bifocal designs, the effect of different variables of initial comfort of gas permeable lenses, and the use of GP lenses to reduce myopia with overnight wear (i.e., orthokeratology or corneal reshaping). He has authored or edited eleven contact lens texts and two national board examination review books. He is a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in the Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies Section. He is currently Chair of the Contact Lens and Cornea Section of the American Optometric Association.

Dr. Bennett is Assistant Dean of Student Services and Alumni Relations for the College of Optometry.

Dr. Kathleen Boland (Associate Clinical Professor) serves in the areas of Primary Care and Community Services which provides vision examinations throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Dr. Boland provides eye and vision care at a variety of institutions throughout the region, many which serve the elderly and those with subnormal vision. Dr. Boland is the coordinator for the courses in Low Vision Rehabilitation and Geriatrics at the College. Dr. Boland has worked on research involving how carotenoid supplements affect light sensitivity. She has also worked with the University’s Gerontology Department doing research regarding driver’s licensing and vision impairment. Dr. Boland earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Benedictine College, and a Doctor of Optometry degree from UM-St. Louis College of Optometry.

Dr. Erin Brooks (Assistant Clinical Professor) in Primary Care and Community Services, is a new addition to the full-time faculty of the College of Optometry. Dr. Brooks has served as a preceptor and instructor (part-time) in the College, including the Optometric Center and Grace Hill since receiving her O.D. from the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry in 2011 and her M.S. in 2013. She has a diversity of interests including children’s vision, ocular disease, community health, and primary eye care. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Brooks is currently involved in research concerning the Pupil Project. Dr. Brooks serves as the course coordinator of Ocular Motility and joint teaches the new neuro-ophthalmology course with Dr. Aaron Franzel.

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

He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and Diplomat of the Cornea and Contact Lens Section. He serves on the Scientific Program Committee of the academy and is a past President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the Saint Louis Optometric Society (SLOS) representing over 200 members. He completed the inaugural yearlong UM-System Leadership Development Program for Department Chairs and was one of three academic leaders selected by ASCO to participate in a yearlong leadership program for administrators of health professions training programs. In 1999 the students at UM-St. Louis selected him as Outstanding Optometric Educator of The Year. He was awarded Optometrist of the Year in 1994 and Distinguished Optometrist for 2002 by the membership of the St. Louis Optometric Society.
Dr. Davis’s area of academic specialization is cornea, contact lenses and anterior segment ocular disease with special emphasis in refractive management of the diseased and/or injured eye. From 1993 to 2004 he served as the UM-St. Louis participating clinic principal investigator for the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) study, a multi-centered observational study of the common corneal disease.

Dr. Davis’s teaching responsibilities have included service as coordinator of the two-semester course in Ocular Disease and Ocular Assessment, a course that he helped to establish. He also serves as facilitator for the course entitled Scenario Based Discovery; a case based introductory experience for students enrolled in their first professional year. He has also served as preceptor in the primary care, eye health management and contact lens services in the Center for Eye Care.

Dr. Julie DeKinder (Associate Clinical Professor) specializes in contact lenses. Dr. DeKinder is the Director of Academic Programs and the Director of Residencies. She is also the Chief of Contact Lens Services and the coordinator of the Cornea and Contact Lens Residency. Dr. DeKinder’s primary teaching responsibilities include co-instructing Introduction to Contact Lenses. Her primary clinical responsibilities include attending students in contact lens clinics. Dr. DeKinder conducts contact lens research. She completed a Cornea and Contact Residency at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry in 2005. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society. She is a member of the American Optometric and Missouri Optometric Associations. Dr. DeKinder serves as the faculty advisor for Beta Sigma Kappa and SVOSH. She serves as a member of the residency committee for the American Academy of Optometry, the residency committee for Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), and a consultant to the part I exam development Committee for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

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

Dr. Casey Hamm (Assistant Clinical Professor) attended Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. She then went on to attend University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry, earning membership in the Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society and the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honors Society. Dr. Hamm completed a residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Hamm is a Candidate for Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry. She looks forward to the opportunity to return to her alma mater as a member of the faculty.

Dr. Vinita Henry (Clinical Professor) is the Director of Clinical Operations. She serves as an instructor in the contact lens courses along with Dr. Bennett and Dr. DeKinder. She completed her Doctor of Optometry and Residency in Contact Lens at UMSL. Her area of clinical specialization is contact lenses. Dr. Henry conducts contact lens research including FDA investigational contact lenses and solutions, special contact lens designs and lens comparison studies. She is co-instructor of the contact lens courses. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in the Cornea and Contact Lens Section.

Dr. Catherine Kerr-Niermann (Assistant Clinical Professor) grew up in the St. Louis area and earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois. Dr. Niermann graduated in 2013 with her Doctorate of Optometry from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, where she participated in four years of Student Volunteers in Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) and earned recognition from Beta Sigma Kappa and the Gold Key International Society.

Dr. Niermann completed her residency at the University of California- Berkeley in Low Vision with a secondary concentration in Ocular Disease. She previously worked as adjunct faculty at the University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry and also has experience as a staff optometrist in private practice and a hospital based ophthalmology clinic. Dr. Niermann continues to work with the Lighthouse for the Blind St. Louis and the Comprehensive Low Vision Project as a pediatric low vision optometrist.
Dr. Thomas Landgraf (Associate Clinical Professor), a graduate of Illinois College of Optometry, completed a Residency in Primary Care Optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry in 2007, Dr. Landgraf served as Chief of the Advanced Care Ocular Disease Service at Southern College of Optometry. While at the Southern College of Optometry, Dr. Landgraf received numerous teaching awards. Dr. Landgraf is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Landgraf has served in an administrative capacity on numerous occasions for clinical portion of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. At the College of Optometry at the University of Missouri St. Louis, Dr. Landgraf teaches in the Ocular Disease clinical and didactic sequences.

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

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

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

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

Dr. Coral Pucci (Assistant Clinical Professor) earned her Bachelor of Science in biology and minor in chemistry from Missouri State University, where she graduated summa cum laude. She then attended the University of Missouri—St. Louis College of Optometry where she was honored as Student Marshall of her 2017 graduating class. Following graduation, she completed a Primary Care/Ocular Disease residency at the Marion Veterans Affairs Medical Center in southern Illinois. During her residency, she had the opportunity to work with student externs in a clinical capacity, which bolstered her desire to obtain both a didactic and clinical optometric faculty position.
Dr. Mary Beth Rhomberg (Assistant Clinical Professor) completed her undergraduate degree at St. Mary’s College in Winona, MN and her optometric degree at University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry. Upon graduation, she completed a Family Practice residency at the same college of optometry. Since graduating, she has served as a clinical preceptor and an instructor in optometric labs including disease, low vision, and ophthalmic optics. Dr. Rhomberg has practiced in the areas of cornea and refractive surgery and primary optometric care. She has also served the profession as an associate director in Clinical Care at the American Optometric Association. Dr. Rhomberg has served as the St. Louis Optometric Society president and is active in the Missouri Optometric Association. She is interested in clinical aspects of optometry and the profession of optometry.

Dr. Patrick Stark (Assistant Clinical Professor) is a graduate of the University of Missouri College of Optometry. He then completed a residency in family practice and ocular disease at Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry. After residency, he moved into a clinical faculty role at NSUOCO. After working at UMSL in a part time capacity, he is joining the faculty full time in the fall of 2016.

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

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

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

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

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

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

III. PATIENT CARE
12. ophthalmic lens systems used to correct refractive, oculomotor and other vision disorders;
13. visual development and vision function with respect to deviation and enhancement of conditions such as, but not limited to, strabismus, amblyopia, ocular motility, accommodation, vergence and visual perception;
14. vision therapy and other rehabilitative methods used for the management of common visual disorders;
15. the detection, diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular disease and ocular manifestations of systemic disease;
16. the safe and effective use of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of disease and conditions affecting the eye and visual system, and recognize adverse reactions;
17. the strategies, interventions, and support system to best meet the unique needs of each patient regardless of age, taking into account co-existing medical conditions, medications, dietary needs, family issues, and social concerns
18. the utilization of injectable agents for the management of ocular and systemic diseases
19. the concepts of refractive surgery and its management;
20. basic life support skills for prevention and response to life-threatening emergencies;
21. the use of ophthalmic lasers in the management of refractive error and other anomalies of the eye;
22. the use of evidence from well designed and conducted research in healthcare decision-making

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

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

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

VII. INTRA/INTER PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION/PRACTICE
33. when there is a requirement for intra/inter professional consultation
34. the process of coordination among professionals involved in a patient’s care

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

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

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

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 includes six (6) rotations through the Externship program, giving the student added experience in the management of eye diseases, as well as valuable experience in other optometric specialties.

Four-Year Professional Degree (O.D.)

Curriculum

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

1 Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.
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**Elective Courses in the College of Optometry**

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

8010 Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes I (4)
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.

8020 Basic and Clinical Optics I (4)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Light as a wave, interference, vergence, shadows, chromatic properties of light, refraction at a plane surface, large and small angle prisms, thin lenses, cylinder lenses, effectivity, thick lenses, lens systems, mirrors, schematic eyes.

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.

8040 Neuroanatomy (4)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Detailed gross and microscopic anatomy of the human central nervous system with a special emphasis on the cranial nerves, nuclei, and the visual system.

8050 Basic and Applied Immunology (2)
Prerequisites: Students must be concurrently enrolled in 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

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.

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. Course may be repeated for credit.

8110 Anatomy, Physiology and Disease Processes II (5)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8010 and OPTOM 8060. Continuation of Human Anatomy and Physiology and Disease Processes I.

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.

8160 Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye (5)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8010, OPTOM 8040 and OPTOM 8060 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.

8180 Clinical Optometry I (5)
Selected tests for ocular assessment including case history, visual acuity, ophthalmoscopy, refraction, and binocular integration. The course format is two 75-minute lectures and two 2-hour laboratories.

8190 Introduction to Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning (1)
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.

8220 Ophthalmic Optics (4)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8140, and 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.

8230 Interpersonal Communications (2)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8030. Principles of human interpersonal relationships. The enhancement of listening and verbal skills will be provided. Emphasis will be preparing the student to understand and manage the many human interpersonal relationships necessary in the practice of optometry. Two hours of lecture per week.

8240 Ocular Motility (2)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8040 or consent of instructor. The anatomy, physiology, neurology, measurement, characteristics, and control of the intra and extraocular system.
8250 Monocular Sensory Processes (5)
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.

8260 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management I (4)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8110, OPTOM 8160 and OPTOM 8180. The first of a comprehensive, three semester course sequence. Topics will be discussed in a modular, system based approach. The course introduces students to disease and the organ systems they affect, clinical diagnoses, pharmacology on specified organ systems and optometric and medical management of ocular and systemic disease.

8280 Clinical Optometry II (5)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8180. Continuation of clinical optometry. Patient care in the areas of refraction, binocular integration, perimetry, and bimicroscopy.

8320 Ophthalmic Dispensing (1)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8220 Clinical experience in verification and dispensing of ophthalmic materials.

8340 Binocular Vision and Space Perception (4)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8240, OPTOM 8250 and OPTOM 8280 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.

8350 Epidemiology (2)
A review of descriptive statistics, probability sampling, correlation, and prediction. The essentials of epidemiological study procedures and a discussion of the epidemiology of vision disorders.

8370 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management II (5)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8260. A continuation of a comprehensive, systems based course sequence that introduces students to disease processes and the organ systems they affect, clinical diagnoses, pharmacology on specified organ systems and optometric and medical management of ocular and systemic disease. The laboratories will emphasize and augment important concepts introduced in the classroom environment.

8380 Clinical Optometry III (2)
Prerequisite: 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.

8390 Specialty Clinic Laboratory (1)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8280. Students acquire and practice skills for pediatric, binocular vision, low vision and contact lens examinations. The course format is one 2-hour laboratory per week.

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.

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 one 50-minute lecture per week.

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.

8400 Directed Readings (1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of Instrutor. 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.

8410 Directed Research (1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor. Credit is given for independent research. Projects may be laboratory, library, or clinically based research in any area of vision science. Projects will be supervised by one or more full time faculty members. This elective may be repeated up to a total of 6 credit hours.

8460 Foundations of Ocular and Systemic Disease and Management III (2)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8370. The third course in the foundation series that addresses ocular and systemic diseases and their management.

8500 Primary Care Clinic I (6)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8380 and successful completion of all first and second year course work. The clinical examination and care of general clinic patients, along with the fitting and dispensing of lenses and frames.

8520 Contact Lenses I (3)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8380 and OPTOM 8391. Historical development of the contact lens and its use. Basic lens terminology, specifications, physicochemical 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.

8540 Binocular Vision Anomalies (4)
Prerequisite: 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.
8550 Low Vision (2)  
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8380 and OPTOM 8393. The etiology, epidemiology, symptoms, signs, and course 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. Course format is 1-hour lecture and 1 two-hour laboratory per week.

8560 Public Health (2)  
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. The relationship of vision care to these topics is emphasized.

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 diagnosis 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.

8600 Primary Care Clinic II (6)  
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8500 and successful completion of all Fall semester third year course work. Continuation of Primary Care Clinic I.

8610 Environmental Vision (2)  
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8500. This course considers the relationship of the eye and vision to all aspects of one’s environment including home, work, recreation, and transportation. Emphasis will be placed on protecting the eye from injury and maximizing vision performance.

8620 Contact Lenses II (2)  
Prerequisite: 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 contact lens practice management. The course format is 1 lecture per week.

8630 Practice Management III (3)  
Prerequisite: 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, and recall systems. The establishment, development, and management of an optometric practice from a business point of view. Legal developments, governmental relationships, legislation and legislative process, malpractice, professional ethics, taxes, fee structures, insurance, and accounting methods.

8640 Pediatric Optometry (2)  
Prerequisite: 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 2 lecture/discussions per week.

8650 Geriatric Optometry (2)  
(Same as Gerontology 6458.) 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.

8660 Contact Lens Specialty Clinic (1)  
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8391. The clinical examination and care of patients in the optometric specialty area of contact lenses.

8670 Comprehensive Case Review and Analysis (1)  
Prerequisite: 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.

8680 Ophthalmic Lasers (1)  
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8570. Principles and applications of lasers for ophthalmic use. Emphasis will be placed on demonstration where possible. Topics will include the principles, physics and safety concerns of ophthalmic lasers. Lasers used in retinal imaging, and in the care of glaucoma, cataract, refractive conditions, and cosmetic conditions will be discussed and demonstrated. Comanagement of patients requiring ophthalmic laser treatment will also be covered.

8690 Pediatric/Binocular Vision Specialty Clinic (1)  
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8392. The clinical examination and care of patients in the optometric specialty areas of binocular vision and pediatric vision.

8700 UM-St. Louis Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care (3)  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of patients in pediatric/binocular vision clinic 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 8710 and OPTOM 8720.

8710 UM-St. Louis Contact Lens Patient Care (3)  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care in the contact lens clinic at the University of Missouri-St. Louis University of 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 8720.
8720 UMSL Eye Health Management Patient Care (1)
Prerequisite: 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.

8730 Community Service Patient Care Rotation A (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of patients at St. Louis area community health centers. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8770 Community Service Patient Care Rotation C (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of patients at St. Louis area community health centers. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8770 Community Service Patient Care Rotation C (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of patients at St. Louis area community health centers. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8780 External Rotation in Institutional Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of primary care patients at external sites approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8790 External Rotation in Ocular Disease Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of patients with ocular disease at external sites approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8800 External Rotation in Pediatric/Binocular Vision Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of pediatric/ binocular vision 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.

8810 External Rotation in Contact Lens Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of contact lens 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.

8811 External Rotation in Ophthalmic Surgical Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all second & third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of Ophthalmic Surgical 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.

8812 External Rotation in Geriatric Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of Geriatric 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.

8813 External Rotation in Ophthalmic Sports Vision (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of Ophthalmic Sports Vision 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.

8814 External Rotation in Primary Care (7)
Prerequisite: 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.

8815 External Rotation in Pathology and Treatment (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care in pathology and treatment of 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.

8816 External Rotation in Ophthalmic Laser Treatment (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care of ophthalmic laser treatment of 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.

8817 External Rotation in Rehabilitative Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all second and third year coursework. Comprehensive clinical care in rehabilitative patient care at an external site approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8820 External Rotation in Low Vision Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of low vision patients at external sites approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8830 External Rotation in General Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of a general population of optometric patients at external sites approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8840 External Supplementary Rotation in General Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of general population of optometric patients at external sites approved by the College of Optometry's Externship Council. This course fulfills one of the clinic courses required for graduation.

8850 Supplementary Rotation in General Patient Care (7)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Comprehensive clinical care of general population of optometric patients at the UM-St. Louis University Eye Center, UM-St. Louis Optometric Center, or the UM-St. Louis East St. Louis Eye Center.
8870 Practice Management IV (2)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. Further in-depth discussion in practice management.

8880 Clinic Seminar (1)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first, second, and third year course work. 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.

8910 Topics in Geriatric Optometry (3)
Prerequisite: OPTOM 8910. This course will address concerns and options in providing optometric care to a geriatric population. New techniques, research, and public policy changes will be discussed to assist students in assembling a global perspective on delivering health care to a specific population.

8970 (591) Geriatric Patient Care Delivery (3-6)
Prerequisite: Consent of Geriatric Residency Instructors. Direct optometric patient care to a population that is largely geriatric. Emphasis will be on integrating specialty care available for these patients to provide comprehensive vision care. Two hours of direct patient care per week are required per hour of credit. In addition, the student will attend weekly supervisory meetings. May be repeated with consent of instructor for a total of 18 credits. Patient care will become more independent of direct supervision and the type of patients seen will be more varied with each repeat.

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

Admission Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English†</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (including laboratory)*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics (including laboratory)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry**</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>General (including laboratory)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic (including laboratory)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† One semester (or one quarter) of Microbiology with laboratory is a requirement. One semester of Anatomy or Physiology is recommended.

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

*** Trigonometry as a prerequisite course for Calculus must be completed, either in high school (official high school transcripts required as proof), or college.

AP CREDIT POLICY: (Effective July 1, 2014)

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

A total of 10 hours of AP credit is acceptable if the applicant scored 4 or greater in the subject on the AP Exam. An official transcript is required.

- For science courses, in addition to the 10 hour limit and a score of 4 or higher achieved on the exam, the applicant must score a 330 or higher in that particular subject on the OAT exam.

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

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

Admission Test

All applicants are required to take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). The OAT is now offered through computer sites. As the computerized version may be scheduled at any time, please plan to take the OAT by June of the year you plan to apply in order to be considered for early admission. Official test scores are acceptable for up to three years from the testing date.

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

Optometry Admission Testing Program
211 East Chicago Avenue
Suite 1846
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2693
http://www.opted.org

Application Procedures

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

1. Application and appropriate fee through Centralized Application Service;
2. Supplemental application through UMSL with a $50.00 (U.S. dollars) non-refundable application fee submitted online (accepts credit card or check);
3. College transcripts followed by updated transcripts as they become available (Exception: graduates of international programs see deadline requirements for all transcripts);
4. official Optometry Admission Test (OAT) results must be released to UMSL;
5. three letters of recommendation which includes one letter of recommendation from an optometrist who is not related to you or a composite evaluation prepared by the pre-professional advisory committee at the educational institution the applicant is attending. A composite letter may be used in place of all but the required OD letter. Letters are sent electronically through the OptomCAS portal and may be e-mailed or electronically entered. Up to four letters may be sent to OptomCAS.
6. Students who are offered admission into the College of Optometry are required to complete a criminal background through Certiphi. Students
must satisfactorily complete this background check for admission. Students will complete and additional background check prior to starting their clinical experience in their 3rd year. A satisfactory criminal background check is required for clinical privileges. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student.

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

Official transcripts must be mailed from every college attended, regardless of whether or not credit was earned, once an applicant has been offered admission and that applicant has accepted our offer of admission. (International students: transcripts must be submitted by the early application deadline of January 5.)

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

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all application materials are received by the Centralized Application Service center by February 15 (International students: transcripts must be submitted by the early application deadline of January 5.) to be considered for admission to the class entering in August of the same year. Facsimile (faxed) application material will be not accepted or acknowledged. Application material received after February 15 will not be evaluated for the class entering in August of the same year. To be considered for merit scholarships, there is an early enrollment deadline. **All materials must be received by January 5, in order to be considered for the early application deadline.** Applications received after that time will still be considered for admission but not additional awards e.g. merit scholarships, state seat contracts.

**Application Deadlines**

**Early**
(Scholarship considerations and state contract seats)
Deadline: January 5. All materials must be received by 5:00 PM on this date to be considered.

**Final**
Deadline: February 15. All materials must be received by this date to be considered.

**International Students**

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

To complete their credential file, applicants are required to furnish original and official transcripts by the early application deadline of January 5, from each school and college attended both in this country and abroad. The Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc. or the World Education Services must evaluate **all international school and college transcripts** and their evaluation submitted as part of the application requirement. For information contact:

- **Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc.**
  - Post Office Box 514070
  - Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470
  - (414) 289-3400
  - Fax: (414) 289-3411
  - E-mail: eval@ece.org
  - Web site: [http://www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)

- **World Education Services**
  - Bowling Green Station
  - P.O. Box 5087
  - New York, N.Y. 10274-5087
  - (212) 966-6311
  - Fax: (212) 739-6100
  - E-mail: info@wes.org
  - Web site: [http://www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

The University of Missouri-St. Louis maintains an Office of International Student Services to assist applicants who have been offered admission. All new international students are required to attend a formal orientation program before matriculation. For more information, contact:

- **University of Missouri-St. Louis**
  - Office of International Student Services
  - One University Boulevard
  - St. Louis, MO 63121-4499
  - (314) 516-5229

**Selection Procedures**

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

The Admissions Committee has the responsibility to review and evaluate all applicants and select the best-qualified candidates. The committee considers: an applicant's overall grade point average, the grade point achieved in the sciences, any grade trend over the years in college, and the scores on the Optometry Admission Test. Concurrently, candidates are evaluated on less quantitative measures such as: extracurricular activities and interests, related or unrelated work experience, written narrative, and letters of recommendation.
Those applicants whom the committee feels to be most competitive will be invited for an on-campus interview. The on-campus interview facilitates an assessment of the applicant's communication skills, interests, motivation, and personal characteristics. In addition, the on-campus interview allows the applicant to tour the facilities, meet with currently enrolled students, present questions regarding financial aid and housing, and learn more about the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the College of Optometry. From this group of interviewed applicants, the entering class of approximately 44 students will be selected.

The policies of the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the College of Optometry comply with the provisions under those laws that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam era veteran.

Admission Process

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

Students offered admission have 20 days from the date on the offer of admission letter to make a required $500 acceptance deposit. The $500 deposit will be credited toward tuition when the student matriculates. $250 of the $500 deposit is refundable if the student relinquishes his/her seat before May 15. After May 15, the deposit is non-refundable.

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

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

Immunization

The University requires that students born after 1956 to provide documented proof of immunity for measles and rubella, through current immunization records or disease documentation by a physician. Beginning with the Fall 2002 entering class, optometry students are required to show evidence of having the Hepatitis B immunization prior to matriculation.

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

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

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

Residency

Optometry students who do not meet the residency requirements must pay the nonresident educational fee according to the schedule outlined in the "Fees and Estimated Cost of Education" section of this Bulletin. A definition of "residency" is outlined in Tuition and Residency Rules, available in the cashier's office (314-516-4973) or on the web at http://www.dhe.mo.gov/studentresidencyrequirements.shtml. Students are responsible for registering under the proper residency and paying the proper educational fees.

Questions related to residency requirements should be directed to:

Mr. Jerry Hoffman
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Residency Office
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121
(314) 516-4973

Admission Guidelines for Entering First Professional Year Students

The College of Optometry supports the following guidelines recommended by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO):

1. Applicants may be offered an acceptance for admission at any time and required to place a deposit at any time.

2. An institution should not ask accepted applicants to relinquish their alternate status at other institutions prior to the applicant's enrollment.
3. All offers of admission made prior to May 15 of the year of matriculation should allow the applicant at least two weeks in which to respond. After May 15, offers of acceptance may require a response time of less than two weeks. A statement of intent should permit the applicant to withdraw if later accepted by a college that he or she prefers.

4. The acceptance deposit, less an administration fee as determined by the individual institution, should be refunded until at least May 15. The deposit should be credited toward tuition when the student matriculates.

5. The schools and colleges should encourage applicants accepted after May 15 to immediately notify and withdraw from colleges or colleges where a seat is being held.

Approved by the Board of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (2013)

Pre-Optometry Programs

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

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

3 + 4 Program

Students may apply for the 3 + 4 program through Arts and Sciences advising department. Students must complete forms through the Arts and Sciences Pre-Health office by calling 314-516-5501 or stopping by 303 Lucas Hall.

Requirements of the 3 + 4 Program:

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

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

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

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

Receiving Bachelor’s Degree: Students must fill out the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Application as part of compliance with the 3 + 4 Program; however, if they are approved to pursue a Biology degree, this requirement is waived, but will include additional Biology courses. Once admitted into the College of Optometry, students will receive their BIS after the completion of their first semester. Students must apply for undergraduate graduation prior to matriculation into the College of Optometry.
Fees & Estimated Cost of Education

Education Fees

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

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

*A Summer Session is required between the third and fourth professional year.

Other Required Fees

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

Student Health Insurance (optional)

An Accident and Sickness Insurance plan is available to students and their dependents. Information concerning premiums and coverage is available upon request from University Health Services. Visit their web site at www.umsl.edu/services/health or call (314) 516-5671. For students registered at UM-St. Louis College of Optometry, health insurance is also available through the American Optometric Student Association. Visit the web site at http://www.studentinsurance.net/Public/ClientBrochures/2004_1849_1.pdf.

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, however, by the early application deadline of January 5 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.

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 $500-$2,000 for residents and $500-$11,500 for nonresidents. If the student missed the January 5th deadline, it is possible that no monies were awarded. The average award was $1,600 for a resident and $7,500 for a nonresident.

The average debt for the Class of 2016 is $148,121 (with debt ranging $38,000-$225,000).
Textbooks and Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Required Textbooks*</th>
<th>Required Equipment*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Year Student</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
<td>$ 2,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Year Student</td>
<td>$ 300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Year Student</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Year Student</td>
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<td>$ 0.00</td>
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*Text book and equipment figures are approximated.

Additional Fees

Students are required to complete a background check in their third year. The cost of this background check can range between $50.00 and $200.00.

KMK Review occurs in preparation of Part I of Boards during a student's third year with a cost of $600.00.

Other fees include: travel for Part III of Boards, Externship travel and housing.
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 www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students must complete a FAFSA form online to receive Federal Financial aid and to receive some scholarships.

The Student Financial Aid Office maintains a Web site at www.umsl.edu/services/finaid, where students will find useful information along with the ability to contact the office electronically via e-mail. Also included is a scholarship directory that is updated annually.

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

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

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

Eligibility for Federal Aid

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

Note: Eligible Non-citizen is a U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151 or I-1551 (Alien Registration Receipt Card). Students on an F1 or F2 student visa only, or on a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa only, cannot receive federal student aid.

Application Process

To apply for federal aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and mail it to the federal processor in January or as soon as possible thereafter. For those applicants with Internet access, the FAFSA may be completed on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. (Caution: Do not submit more than one application.) The University of Missouri-St. Louis code is 002519. Applications become available in most college and university Student Financial Aid offices after January 2.

In order to be considered for campus need-based programs (e.g., Perkins, Federal Work-Study), the FAFSA must be processed by the federal processor by the "priority" deadline of April 1. Applications filed thereafter will be considered on a "funds available basis." Late filers, in order to apply, must complete a Request form; this form is available in the University’s Office of Student Financial Aid.

Note: Independent optometry students, who wish to be considered for the full range of financial aid, must provide parent information. Specifically, the Health Professional Student Loan (HPSL), and Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) require parent information from independent students.

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 maximum amount is $2,500 per academic year.

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, 269 Millennium Student Center, 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. Refer to Financial Aid Appeals in the Appendix.

Loans

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

Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate and Professional Degree Students
Graduate and professional degree students can borrow a Direct PLUS Loan to help cover education expenses.

The terms and conditions applicable to PLUS Loans for parents also apply to PLUS Loans for graduate and professional students. These terms and conditions include: 1) determination that you (the applicant) do not have an adverse credit history; and 2) a fixed interest rate of 7.21% (2014-15) for Direct PLUS Loans.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Student Loan Program
The aggregate amount for undergraduate and professional unsubsidized loans is $225,000. The interest rate is variable and may change each July 1. There is a period of 10-30 years to repay.

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

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants

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

Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)
The SDS program is for students to pursue a course of study in specific health professions by providing funds to students with exceptional financial need who are from disadvantaged backgrounds. SDS award levels are subject to availability of funds.

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.

Essilor of America Student Grant Award
Sponsored by Essilor of America, Inc. competitive entry through UMSL College of Optometry Award: $500 per college plus entry into national judging Eligibility: Fourth year student.
(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).

(Dr. Seymour) Galina Grant
Sponsored by American Optometric Association administered through UMSL College of Optometry
Award: $2,500
Eligibility: Beginning fourth year student; member in good standing of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA).

(Mary M.) Gilbert Scholarship in Optometry
Sponsored by the Mrs. Mary M. Gilbert Scholarship Fund administered through UMSL College of Optometry
Award: Variable
Eligibility: Minimum grade point average of 3.0 and a member of the American Academy of Optometry and/or the American Optometric Association.

The William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by Dr. William R. Jackson Jr. Estate Administered through the College of Optometry
Award: Variable
Eligibility: Currently enrolled; resident of Missouri at time of matriculation.

The William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by Dr. William R. Jackson Jr. Estate Administered through the Missouri Optometric Foundation in cooperation with the UMSL College of Optometry
Award: Variable
Eligibility: Currently enrolled fourth year student; resident of Missouri; based on external rotation site selected by the Missouri Optometric Foundation.

Dr. Robert A. Koetting Scholarship
Sponsored by Dr. Robert A. Koetting and friends of Dr. Robert A. Koetting Scholarship Fund administered through UMSL College of Optometry
Award: Variable
Eligibility: Beginning fourth-year optometry student; minimum grade-point average of 3.5; member of the American Academy of Optometry and/or the American Optometric Student Association.

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

Merit Minority Scholarship
Sponsored by the College of Optometry
Award: Variable
Eligibility: Entering first year students are offered a merit scholarship based on his or her OAT section scores and undergraduate cumulative GPA. In order to keep this scholarship, the student must maintain a GPA above 2.5 in the optometry program.

Navy Scholarship
Sponsored by U.S. Armed Forces (Navy)
Award: 100% tuition, fees, expenses, and monthly stipend.
Eligibility: Student must be fully accepted for the next entering class; be a citizen of the United States; be of good moral character; and must meet the physical requirements for a Navy commission.

(Dr. A.M.) Skeffington Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by friends of Dr. A.M. Skeffington and Dr. Robert L. Mobley Scholarship Fund administered through UMSL College of Optometry
Award: Variable
Eligibility: Fourth year optometry student with demonstrated interest in pursuing the specialty of binocular vision, vision perception, and vision therapy.

Vision Service Plan Scholarship
Sponsored by Vision Service Plan administered through UMSL College of Optometry
Award: (2) $2,000 and plaque
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.
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
Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has written the best case study determined to be the most qualified entry that used an Alcon product.

**A. M. Skeffington Memorial Scholarship Award**
Sponsored by the A. M. Skeffington and friends of Dr. Robert Mobley Scholarship Fund
Award: Plaque
Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate for excellence in binocular vision anomalies, pediatric optometry, binocular vision and space perception, as well as an interest in the principals of Dr. Skeffington and the Optometric Extension Program.

**Clinical Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy Award**
Sponsored by the College of Optometry
Award: Certificate
Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate in recognition of clinical performance in the area of binocular vision/vision therapy.

**Clinical Excellence Award**
Sponsored by the GP Lens Institute
Award: Plaque and GP Diagnostic Lens Set
Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate in recognition of clinical performance in the area of contact lens care.

**Clinical Excellence Award**
Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation
Award: $1,000 and plaque
Eligibility: Awarded to the student who has demonstrated highest level of all aspects of clinical patient care.

**Contact Lens Clinical Award**
Sponsored by Paragon Vision Sciences, Inc.
Award: (2) Plaques
Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated clinical excellence in the field of contact lenses.

**Dean’s and the Dr. M. Earl McClellan Memorial Awards**
Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation and the College of Optometry
Award: $1,000 and plaque
Eligibility: Awarded to a graduate for outstanding scholarship.

**(William) Feinbloom Low Vision Award**
Sponsored by Designs for Vision, Inc.
Award: Certificate for magnifiers
Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated excellence in both the didactic and the clinical aspects of low vision care.

**(Dr. William R.) Jackson Jr. Memorial Award**
Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation
Award: One (1) $3,000 and two (2) $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 Catalogue (up to a $400 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.

**Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care**
Sponsored by Vistakon
Award: $1,000 and plaque.
Eligibility: Awarded to the graduate who provided outstanding clinical contact lens patient care as indicated by his or her knowledge of the subject matter and demonstrated clinical skills in managing contact lens patients.
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.

The Office of Student Services publishes the Optometry Student Handbook.

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 UM-St. Louis Student Academic Planner and/or the (optometry) Student Handbook. These publications are given to entering students during the orientation program. Some of the services offered by the University and the College are:

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 and copying 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 UM-St. Louis 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. Beginning Fall semester 2010, students enrolled in a course will be eligible to receive one (1) Metro pass regardless of credit hours taken. No additional charge will be assessed to the student when picking up the pass from the Cashier’s Office. The pass can be used on all MetroLink and Bi-State buses in metropolitan St. Louis (St. Louis County, the City of St. Louis, and the Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair) when classes are in session.

To participate in the program, students must have an official 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

UM-St. Louis operates a campus shuttle for students when classes are in session. Students may use this service free of charge. The shuttles stop at numerous locations on the North and South Campuses. Schedules and routes are posted at various locations across campus. The shuttle schedule can be viewed at http://www.umsl.edu/%7etransportation/campus-shuttle/index.html

Bookstore

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

Information Technology Services

The Office of Information Technology Services provides microcomputer and mainframe support for your academic needs. There is no additional charge for use of these facilities. Non-credit short courses are offered in the fall and spring semesters that provide hands-on experience. 516-6000 or http://www.umsl.edu/technology

Student Computing Services

UM-St. Louis 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 7, 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.

**Child Development Center**

The Child Development Center is a campus-based child care center serving the UM-St. Louis and surrounding communities. It is the intent of the Center to provide high quality children's and parent programs, staff development and teacher training, and serve as a site for child study/research. The Center, located in the South Campus Classroom Building of the South Campus, provides full and half-day care for children who range in age from six weeks to five years. A summer program for college-age children five to 12 years old is also available.

Child care fees vary according to the age of the child and the attendance schedule. The Center phone number is (314) 516-5658.

Parents are advised to call well in advance of needs, as there are usually long waiting lists for the daytime program.

**Health and Fitness Facilities**

The new state-of-the-art Recreation and Wellness Center opened in the Fall of 2015. The center adds 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 UM-St. Louis 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 8:00 am-9:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 am-5:00 pm on Friday. Evening hours are in effect only when evening classes are in session. 516-5671 or [www.umsl.edu/services/health/](http://www.umsl.edu/services/health/)

**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.

(www.umsl.edu/~studentplanner/Policies%20and%20Procedures/drugsalcohol.html)

**Standards of Conduct**

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

**Legal Sanctions**

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

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

Health Risks

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

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

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

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

Hallucinogens (acid, LSD, PCP, MDMA, etc.): Unpredictable behavior, emotional instability, violent behavior, organic brain damage in heavy users, convulsions, and coma.

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

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

Resources

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

Non-Smoking Policy

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

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 thoughtful consideration, 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; residence hall and apartment space is available. Housing is available during the academic year and summer session. On-campus housing provides on-site laundry facilities, mail delivery, and shuttle service. A variety of educational and social programming is offered, and students are encouraged to be active members of the residential and campus community.

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

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

Placement

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

Upperclass Student Advisory Program

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

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

New Student Orientation Program

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

Tutorial Service

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

Counseling

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

Services to Students with Disabilities

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

International Student Services

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

Veteran Affairs

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

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

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

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

**Minority Affairs**

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

The College has a number of characteristics that makes it an ideal place for minority students to attend. One is the number of minority faculty who has been an important source of support for current and former minority students. Another ideal characteristic is the small class size (44 students for each class) which allows for more individualized interaction between the students and faculty.
Student Activities/Organizations

Campus Wide Student Government

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

Student Organizations

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

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

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

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

American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)

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

The national structure of AOSA consists of an executive council made up of four elected national officers and a board of trustees composed of one student from each of the 17 schools and colleges of optometry in the United States.

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

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

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

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

All optometry students enrolled in the 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.

AOSA-St. Louis publishes the Eye Opener, a news bulletin.

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

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

College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)

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

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

Gold Key Honor Society

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

Missouri Optometric Student Association (MOSA)

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

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

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

Society for Advancement of Independent Optometry (SAIO)

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

Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH)

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

**Positive Work and Learning Environment**

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

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

**College of Optometry Code of Conduct**

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

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

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

Refer to the UM-St. Louis Code of Student Conduct published in the Appendix.

**Credit Hours**

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

**Non-Clinical Grading Criteria**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DL</td>
<td>Delayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX</td>
<td>Excused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Not Reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 coursework 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 an agreement between the faculty member and the student. 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 UM-St. Louis 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. 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.

Clinical Privileges

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

Academic Promotion and Management of Students in Academic Difficulty

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

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

Guidelines

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

2. Failed Course
   If a student fails a course in any semester of the program, and is not dismissed from the program, the student will, unless there are special circumstances, restart the semester the following year and retake all courses in the semester where the failing grade occurred, except the courses in which the student earned a grade of B- or better.
3. Dismissal
A student is dismissed from the College of Optometry on the recommendation of the faculty Student Committee and concurrence of the Dean. Students subject to dismissal are invited to meet with the Student Committee before a recommendation is made to the Dean. Dismissal letters will be sent from the Office of the Dean with a copy sent to the Office of Student Services. Grounds for dismissal from the College of Optometry include – but are not limited to – one or more failing grades, a failing grade while on academic probation, or a cumulative GPA below 2.50 at the end of a one semester probationary period. Academic dishonesty of any form may be considered grounds for dismissal. Issues of academic dishonesty are subject to the UM-Collected rules 200.010 and 200.020.

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. Students must submit evidence to the Office of Student Services that they have taken the 3 part NBEO examinations prior to graduation. Such evidence shall include a copy of the score report received from NBEO.

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

Course Waivers

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

The committee will then collect and review all information pertinent to the waiver request and conveys this information to faculty members responsible for the course in question. Based upon the recommendation of the faculty members involved, the Curriculum, Instruction, and Educational Policy Committee, together with these faculty members, will decide as to the appropriateness of the waiver request, and the committee chairperson will communicate that decision to the student who submitted the request.

Guidelines used in considering a waiver request are as follows:

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

Curriculum Changes

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

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

Elective Course Requirement

Beginning with the Class of 2013 and all future classes, the three credit hour elective course requirement is discontinued. Fourth year students must complete three elective Externship courses.

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

Graduation with Honors
The selection of students to be accorded this honor will be based on the cumulative grade-point average at the end of the fall semester of the student's fourth year as follows:

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

Grade changes processed after the closing date of the fall semester will not be considered.

Leave of Absence
Students who are forced to interrupt their studies should request a leave of absence from the University. In consultation with the Director of Student Services, students should define the program modifications the leave of absence requires. Requests should indicate the reason for leaving and the expected date of return to the University.

Withdrawal from the University
Withdrawal from the University is arranged through the Director of 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: http://www.umsl.edu/~registration/student/transcripts.htm.

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

Retention
The attrition rate for students enrolled in the College of Optometry averaged 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 the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry to consider a transfer request, a student must meet the following criteria:

- be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the transferring institution;
- meet all current admission requirements;
- submit a letter from the chief executive officer of the transferring institution stating that the applicant is in good academic standing and eligible to continue;
- submit a formal application along with the required ($50) application fee;
- provide a letter stating the specific circumstances surrounding the request for transfer;
- provide four (4) letters of recommendation;
- provide official transcripts of all collegiate work completed, including that taken at the transferring institution;
- provide official scores from the Optometry Admission Test.

Decisions on transfer applications are made by the Admissions Committee and the Student Committee.
Factors considered include: available space, admission requirements, reason for transfer, appropriateness of courses completed to the academic level to which transfer is requested and personal attributes of the applicant.

**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 UM-St. Louis Confidentiality Policy published in the Appendix.
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 Affair Medical Center in Wichita, KS

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

Hospital Based Optometric Residency
St. Louis Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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

Hospital Based Optometric Residency
Marion Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Marion, IL

Description of Program: This one year residency will provide extensive clinical experience in primary care with treatment and management of ocular disease as well as low vision rehabilitation. The resident will assist with direct patient care and the teaching of student interns. Other responsibilities include attending and/or lecturing at seminars.

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.
Continuing Education

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

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

University of Missouri-St. Louis
College of Optometry
Office of Continuing Education
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
(314) 516-5615
OptometryCE@umsl.edu

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

Licensure

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

Faculty (on-campus)

Carl J. Bassi
Director of Research; Professor
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California, Doheny Eye Institute

Edward S. Bennett
Assistant Dean for Student Services and Alumni Relations; Professor
M.S.Ed., O.D., Indiana University, Bloomington

Kathleen Boland
Associate Clinical Professor
O.D., University of Missouri—St. Louis

Erin M. Brooks
Assistant Clinical Professor
O.D., M.S. In Vision Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Larry J. Davis
Dean, Associate Professor
O.D., Indiana University; Residency, Contact Lenses, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Julie Ott DeKinder
Associate Clinical Professor; Director of Academic Programs; Director of Residency Programs; Chief of Contact Lens Service
O.D., Northeastern State University
Residency, Cornea and Contact Lens, University of Missouri—St. Louis

Aaron S. Franzel
Associate Clinical Professor; Chief of Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service, Pediatrics; Program Coordinator of Pediatric Residency Program
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis

Casey Hamm
Assistant Clinical Professor
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis

Vinita A. Henry
Clinical Professor; Director of Clinical Operations
O.D., Residency, Contact Lenses, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Catherine Kerr-Niermann
Assistant Clinical Professor
O.D., Southern College of Optometry

Thomas Landgraf
Associate Clinical Professor
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry; Residency, Primary Care, Pennsylvania College of Optometry

Linda Marks
Associate Clinical Professor; Coordinator of Screenings
O.D., Ferris State University; Residency, Pediatric Optometry, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Linda Nguyen
Assistant Clinical Professor
O.D., M.S., The Ohio State University College of Optometry

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

Mary Beth Rhomberg
Assistant Clinical Professor
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Family Practice

Angel Novel Simmons
Assistant Clinical Professor, Director of 4th Year Clinical Rotations
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis; Residency, Ocular Disease and Primary Care, Hudson Valley VA Health Care System, Montrose, NY

Patrick Stark
Assistant Clinical Professor
O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis

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

On-Campus Part-Time Faculty

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

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

Beth A. Henderson
On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor
O.D., The Ohio State University
Deborah Iadevito  
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O.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis

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

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

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

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

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

Sonia Salas  
On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., Southern California College of Optometry

Gary Vogel  
On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Assistant Professor  
O.D., Ohio State University

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

Dwayne Young  
On-Campus Adjunct Faculty; Adjunct Professor  
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Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus  
O.D., Ph.D., The Ohio State University

Gerald A. Franzel  
Associate Clinical Professor Emeritus  
O.D., University of Houston

Ralph P. Garzia  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
O.D., Residency, Pennsylvania College of Optometry;  
Residency, Pediatric Optometry, Pennsylvania College of Optometry

William F. Long  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
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W. Howard McAlister  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
M.A., Webster College; M.P.H., University of Illinois at  
Health Sciences Center-Chicago; O.D., The Ohio State University

Raymond I. Myers  
Clinical Professor Emeritus  
O.D. Indiana University

Carol K. Peck  
Professor Emeritus  
Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California Los  
Angeles

Timothy A. Wingert  
Professor Emeritus  
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry

**Emeritus Faculty**

William G. Bachman  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
M.S., University of Alabama-Birmingham; O.D., Southern  
College of Optometry
Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty

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

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

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

Amjad Badwan
Off-Campus Adjunct Faculty
O.D., NOVA Southeastern University

Utham Balachandran
Off Campus Adjunct Faculty
O.D., Southern College of Optometry

Douglas Becherer
Off Campus Adjunct Faculty
O.D., Southern College of Optometry

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

David Bellware
Off Campus Adjunct Faculty
O.D., Southern College of Optometry

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APPENDIX

The following policies may be found at the URL’s in the text, and are updated periodically. The web site will have the most up-to-date information.
https://www.umsystem.edu/ums.

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Confidentiality Policy

The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act of
1974 (Reviewed August 13, 2013)
(http://bulletin.umsl.edu/confidentiality/)

These statements are set forth as guidelines and
procedures to implement the University of Missouri policy
on student records developed from The Family
The University of Missouri-St. Louis as charged in the Act
will annually inform its eligible students by including in the
Student Planner and the University of Missouri-St. Louis
Bulletin: Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professional
Catalogue the following information:

1. "Educational Records" are those records, files,
documents, and other materials which contain
information directly related to a student and are
maintained by the University. Those records,
made available for review to the student under
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
1974, are student financial aid, the student's
cumulative advisement file, student health
records, disciplinary records, the admissions file,
and the academic record.
Confidential letters and statements of
recommendation which were placed in student
credential folders at the Office of Career Planning
and Placement after January 1, 1975, are also
made available, if the student has not waived the
right to view these recommendations.
The University of Missouri-St. Louis "Educational
Records" do not include:

a. records of instructional, supervisor, and
administrative personnel and
educational personnel ancillary thereto
which are in the sole possession of the
maker thereof and which are not
accessible or revealed to any other
person except a substitute;
b. the records of the University of Missouri
Police Department which were created
for a law enforcement purpose and are
maintained by the police department;
c. in the case of persons who are
employed by the University but who are
not in attendance at the University,
records made and maintained in the
normal course of business which related
exclusively to such persons and their
capacity as employees where the
records are not available for any other
purpose;
d. all records on any University student
which are created and maintained by a
physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or
other recognized professional or
paraprofessional acting in a professional
or paraprofessional capacity, or
assisting in that capacity, and which are
created, maintained, or used only in
connection with the provision of
treatment to the student, and are not
available to anyone other than persons
providing such treatment, provided,
however, that such records can be
personally reviewed by a physician or
other appropriate professional of the
student's choice.

2. The University of Missouri-St. Louis recognizes
"Directory Information/ Public Information" to
mean a student's name, address, telephone
listing, e-mail, enrollment status, current level,
major field of study, participation in officially
recognized activities and sports, dates of
attendance, degrees and awards received, and
the most recent previous educational agency or
institution attended by the student. All students
must inform the Office of the Registrar before the
end of the two week period following the first day
of classes that any or all of the information
designated as directory information should not be
released without the student's prior consent. The
student privacy form can be found online at
http://www.umsl.edu/~registration/files/pdfs/stude
ntprivacyform.pdf. The information listed above will become directory information or public information as of the first day of classes following the end of the two week period in a regular semester and the first day of classes following the end of the one week period during the summer session. Students may change their privacy settings by logging in to MyView.

3. University of Missouri-St. Louis students have access to the educational records identified in Paragraph 1 above. In accordance with Pub. Law 93-380 as amended, the University of Missouri-St. Louis will not make available to students the following materials:
   a. financial records of the parents of students or any information contained therein;
   b. confidential letters and statements of recommendation which were placed in the educational records prior to January 1, 1975, if such letters or statements are not used for the purpose other than those for which they were specifically intended;
   c. confidential recommendations respecting admission to the University, application for employment and receipt of honor, or honorary recognition, where the student has signed a waiver of the student's rights of access as provided in 6.0404, the University Policy on Student Records.

4. The Director of Financial Aid, the appropriate academic dean, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Affairs: Health, Wellness, & Counseling Services, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, the Director of Career Placement Services, the Director of Admissions, and Registrar are the officials responsible for the maintenance of each type of record listed in paragraph 1.

5. Students may, upon request, review their records and, if inaccurate information is included, may request the expunging of such information from their files. Such inaccurate information will then be expunged upon authorization of the official responsible for the file.

6. Students desiring to challenge the content of their records may request an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of their educational records in order to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein, and to insert into such records a written explanation respecting the content of such records.

7. The University official charged with custody of the records will attempt to settle informally any disputes with any student regarding the content of the University's educational records through informal meetings and discussions with the student.

8. Upon request of the student or the University official charged with custody of the records of the student, a formal hearing shall be conducted as follows:
   a. the request for a hearing shall be submitted in writing to the campus chancellor who will appoint a hearing officer or a hearing committee to conduct the hearing;
   b. the hearing shall be conducted and decided within a reasonable period of time following the request for a hearing. The parties will be entitled to written notice 10 days prior to the time and place of the hearing;
   c. the hearing shall be conducted and the decision rendered by an appointed hearing official or officials who shall not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing;
   d. the student shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the hearing;
   e. the decision shall be rendered in writing within a reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the hearing; and
   f. either party may appeal the decision of the hearing official or officials to the campus chancellor. Appeal from the chancellor's decision is to the president. Appeal from the president is to the Board of Curators.

9. The University of Missouri-St. Louis will provide grade reports by way of a password-protected website and upon request by the student can mail them only to a student's permanent mailing address. Grades will not be mailed to parents unless the student in question has completed the necessary authorization in the registrar's office.

10. The University of Missouri-St. Louis may permit access to or release educational records, without the written consent of the student, to the parents of a dependent student as defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
11. If any material or document in the educational record of a student includes information on more than one student, the student may inspect and review only such part of such material or document as relates to the individual student seeking the review or be informed of the specific information contained in such part of such material.

Code of Student Conduct (200.010)

200.010 - Standard of Conduct (Amended Bd. Min. 3-20-81; Bd. Min. 8-3-90, Bd. Min 5-19-94; Bd. Min. 5-24-01, Bd. Min. 7-27-12; Bd. Min. 12-7-12; Bd. Min. 6-19-14; Revised 9-22-14 by Executive Order 41; Revised 11-3-15 by Executive Order 41; Amended 2-9-17

A student at the University assumes an obligation to behave in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution and voluntarily enters into a community of high achieving scholars. A student organization recognized by the University of Missouri also assumes an obligation to behave in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. Consequently, students and student organizations must adhere to community standards in accordance with the University's mission and expectations.

These expectations have been established in order to protect a specialized environment conducive to learning which fosters integrity, academic success, personal and professional growth, and responsible citizenship.


A. Jurisdiction of the University of Missouri

Generally shall be limited to conduct which occurs on the University of Missouri premises or at University-sponsored or University-supervised functions. However, the University may take appropriate action, including, but not limited to the imposition of sanctions under Sections 200.020 and 600.030 of the Collected Rules and Regulations against students and student organizations for conduct occurring in other settings, including off campus, in order to protect the physical safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors or if there are effects of the conduct that interfere with or limit students' ability to participate in or benefit from the University's educational programs and activities.

B. A student organization

Is a recognized student organization which has received official approval in accordance with Section 250.010 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. To determine whether a student organization is responsible for conduct outlined in Section 200.010.C, all circumstances will be considered, including but not limited to whether:

1. The student organization approved, condoned, allowed, encouraged, assisted or promoted such conduct;
2. The prohibited behavior in question was committed by one or more student organization officers or a significant number of student organization members;
3. Student organization resources, such as funds, listservs, message boards or organization locations, are used for the prohibited conduct; and/or
4. A policy or official practice of the student organization resulted in the prohibited conduct.

C. Conduct

For which students and student organizations, when applicable, are subject to sanctions falls into the following categories:

1. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, or sabotage. The Board of Curators recognizes that academic honesty is essential for the intellectual life of the University. Faculty members have a special obligation to expect high standards of academic honesty in all student work. Students have a special obligation to adhere to such standards. In all cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor shall make an academic judgment about the student's grade on that work and in that course. The instructor shall report the alleged academic dishonesty to the Primary Administrative Officer.

   a. The term cheating includes but is not limited to: (i) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (ii) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (iii) acquisition or possession without permission of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; or (iv) knowingly providing any unauthorized assistance to another student on quizzes, tests, or examinations.

   b. The term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: (i) use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without
fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, citations or bibliographical reference; (ii) unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; or (iii) unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.

c. The term sabotage includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized interference with, modification of, or destruction of the work or intellectual property of another member of the University community.

2. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of University documents, records or identification, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University.

3. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, conduct proceedings, or other University activities, including its public service functions on or off campus.

4. Physical abuse, threats of violence, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.

5. Stalking another by following or engaging in a course of conduct with no legitimate purpose that puts another person reasonably in fear for his or her safety or would cause a reasonable person under the circumstances to be frightened, intimidated or emotionally distressed.

6. Violation of the University’s Equal Employment/Education Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Policy located at Section 600.010 of the Collected Rules and Regulations.

7. Violation of the University’s Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct in Education/Employment Policy located at Section 600.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations.

8. Threatening or Intimidating Behaviors, defined as written or verbal conduct that causes a reasonable expectation of injury to the health or safety of any person or damage to any property or implied threats or acts that cause a reasonable fear of harm in another.

9. Participating in attempted or actual theft of, damage to, or possession without permission of property of the University or of a member of the University community or of a campus visitor.

10. Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys to any University facilities or unauthorized entry to or use of University facilities.

11. Violation of University policies, rules or regulations or of campus regulations including, but not limited to, those governing residence in University-provided housing, or the use of University facilities, or the time, place and manner of public expression.

12. Manufacture, use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages or any controlled substance without proper prescription or required license or as expressly permitted by law or University regulations, including operating a vehicle on University property, or on streets or roadways adjacent to and abutting a campus, under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance as prohibited by law of the state of Missouri.

13. Disruptive conduct. Conduct that creates a substantial disruption of University operations including obstruction of teaching, research, administration, other University activities, and/or other authorized non-University activities that occur on campus.

14. Failure to comply with directions of University officials acting in the performance of their duties.

15. The illegal or unauthorized possession or use of firearms, explosives, other weapons, or hazardous chemicals.

16. Hazing, defined as an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or an act that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any person within the University community, or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. Participation or cooperation by the person(s) being hazed does not excuse the violation. Failing to intervene to prevent, failing to discourage, and/or failing to report those acts may also violate this policy.
17. **Misuse in accordance with University policy of computing resources**, including but not limited to:
   a. Actual or attempted theft or other abuse.
   b. Unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or change the contents, or for any other purpose.
   c. Unauthorized transfer of a file.
   d. Unauthorized use of another individual's identification and password.
   e. Use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or University official.
   f. Use of computing facilities to interfere with normal operation of the University computing system.
   g. Knowingly causing a computer virus to become installed in a computer system or file.

**Maintaining a Positive Work and Learning Environment (330.080)**

Executive Guideline No. 3, 7-18-97; Executive Order No. 3 replaced by policy stated in Bd. Min. 1-29-99. (Reviewed August 13, 2013)

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.

**Student Disciplinary Matters (200.020)**


(Reviewed August 13, 2013)

A. **Preamble.** The following rules of procedure in student conduct matters are hereby adopted in order to insure insofar as possible and practicable (a) that the requirements of procedural due process in student conduct proceedings will be fulfilled by the University, (b) that the immediate effectiveness of Section 10.030, which is Article V of the Bylaws of the Board of Curators relating to student conduct and sanctions may be secured for all students in the University of Missouri, and (c) that procedures shall be definite and determinable within the University of Missouri. Student or student organization conduct involving discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct is governed by Section 600.030: **Equity Resolution Process for Resolving Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct against a Student or Student Organization.**

B. **Definitions.** As used in these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

1. **Primary Administrative Officers.** As used in these procedures, the Chief Student Affairs Administrator on each campus is the Primary Administrative Officer except in cases of academic dishonesty, where the Chief Academic Administrator is the Primary Administrative Officer. Each Primary Administrative Officer may appoint designee(s) who are responsible for the administration of these conduct procedures, provided all such appointments must be in writing, filed with the Chancellor of the campus, and the office of General Counsel. The Primary Administrator's Office will certify in writing that the given designee has been trained in the administration of student conduct matters.

2. **Student Panelist Pool.** The student panelist pool is a panel of students appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who may participate on the Student Conduct Committee. Specifically, if requested by the accused student or student organization, the Chair of the Student Conduct Committee shall select not more than three students from the Student Panelist Pool to serve as members on the Student Conduct Committee, or not more than two students to serve as members on a Hearing Panel.

3. **Student.** A person having once been admitted to the University who has not completed a course of study and who intends to or
does continue a course of study in
or through one of the campuses of
the University. For the purpose of
these rules, student status
continues whether or not the
University's academic programs
are in session.

4. **Student Organization.** A
recognizable student organization
which has received official
approval in accordance with
Section 250.010 of the Collected
Rules and Regulations. Three
members of the organization may
represent the student organization
in all proceedings, and the
registered faculty/staff advisor may
be present, though not act on
behalf of the student organization.
Each student organization shall
designate, and such designation
shall be on file with the University,
the individual who will receive all
notices, findings, determinations
and decisions on behalf of the
student organization. If the student
organization fails to have a
designation on file with the
University, the President of the
organization is the default
designee. The registered
faculty/staff advisor will also be
sent a courtesy copy of all notices,
findings, determinations and
decisions.

5. **Student Conduct Committee.** As
used in these procedures,
"Student Conduct Committee,"
hereinafter referred to as the
Committee, is that body on each
campus which is authorized to
conduct hearings and to make
dispositions under these
procedures or a Hearing Panel of
such body as herein defined.

6. **Hearing Panel.** As used in these
procedures, the term "hearing
panel" refers to the part of the
Student Conduct Committee
described in Section
200.020.E.3(b) below.

C. **Sanctions.**

1. The following sanctions may be
imposed upon any student found
to have violated the Student
Conduct Code; more than one of
the sanctions may be imposed for
any single violation. Sanctions
include but are not limited to:
   a. **Warning.** A notice in
      writing to the student or
      student organization that
      the student is violating or
      has violated institutional
      regulations.
   b. **Probation.** A written
      reprimand for violation of
      specified regulations.
      Probation is for a
designated period of time
      and includes the
      probability of more
      severe sanctions if the
      student or student
      organization is found to
      be violating any
      institutional regulation(s)
      during the probationary
      period.
   c. **Loss of Privileges.** Denial
      of specified privileges of
      the student or student
      organization for a
designated period of time.
   d. **Restitution.**
      Compensation by the
      student or student
      organization for loss,
      damage, or injury to the
      University or University
      property. This may take
      the form of appropriate
      service and/or monetary
      or material replacement.
   e. **Discretionary Sanctions.**
      Work assignments,
      service to the University,
      or other related
discretionary
      assignments.
   f. **University Housing
      Suspension.** Separation
      of the student or student
      organization from
      University owned or
      operated housing for a
definite period of time,
after which the student or
      student organization is
      eligible to
      return. Conditions for
      readmission may be
      specified.
g. University Housing Expulsion. Permanent separation of the student or student organization from University owned or operated housing.

h. University Dismissal. An involuntary separation of the student from the institution for misconduct apart from academic requirements. It does not imply or state a minimum separation time.

i. University Suspension. Separation of the student from the University for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified.

j. University Expulsion. Permanent separation of the student from the University.

k. Withdrawal of Recognition. Student organization loses its official approval as a recognized student organization. May be either temporary or permanent. Conditions for future approval may be specified.

3. **Temporary Suspension of a Student Organization.** The Chancellor or Designee may at any time temporarily suspend the student organization’s operations. University recognition, access to and use of the University campus/facilities/events and/or all other University activities or privileges for which the student organization might otherwise be eligible, pending formal procedures when the Chancellor or Designee finds and believes from available information that the presence of the student organization on campus would seriously disrupt the University or constitute a danger to the health, safety, or welfare of members of the University community. The appropriate procedure to determine the future status of the student organization will be initiated within seven business days.

D. **Records Retention.** Student conduct records shall be maintained for seven years after University action is completed.

E. **Policy and Procedures.**

1. **Preliminary Procedures.** The Primary Administrative Officer or Designee (hereafter "Primary Administrative Officer") shall investigate any reported student or student organization misconduct before initiating formal conduct procedures and give the student or student organization the opportunity to present a personal or organizational version of the incident or occurrence. The Primary Administrative Officer shall utilize the preponderance of the evidence standard in deciding whether or not to initiate formal conduct procedures and in deciding whether or not to offer an informal disposition in accordance with Section 200.020.E.2 below. The Primary Administrative Officer may discuss with any student or student organization such alleged misconduct and the student or student organization shall attend such consultation as requested by the Primary Administrative Officer. The Primary Administrative Officer, in making an investigation and disposition, may utilize
student courts and boards and/or divisional deans to make recommendations.

2. **Informal Dispositions.** The Primary Administrative Officer/Designee(s) shall have the authority to make a determination and to impose appropriate sanctions and shall fix a reasonable time within which the student shall accept or reject a proposed informal disposition. A failure of the student either to accept or reject within the time fixed may be deemed by the University to be an acceptance of the determination, provided the student has received written notice of the proposed determination and the result of the student's failure to formally reject and, in such event, the proposed disposition shall become final upon expiration of such time. If the student rejects informal disposition it must be in writing and shall be forwarded to the Committee. The Primary Administrative Officer/Designee(s) may refer cases to the Committee without first offering informal disposition.

3. **Formal Procedure and Disposition.**
   a. **Student Conduct Committee:**
      (1) The Committee shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and shall have the authority to impose appropriate sanctions upon any student or students or student organization appearing before it.
      (2) When deemed appropriate or convenient by the Chair of the Committee, the Chair may divide the Committee into Hearing Panels each consisting of no less than five (5) Committee members of which no more than two (2) shall be students. If the Chair creates such Hearing Panels, the Chair of the Committee shall designate a Hearing Panel Chair. A Hearing Panel has the authority of the whole Committee in those cases assigned to it. The Chair of the Committee or a Hearing Panel Chair shall count as one member of the Committee or Hearing Panel and have the same rights as other members.
      (3) The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs shall appoint a panel of students, to be known as the Student Panelist Pool. Upon written request of an accused student or the student organization designee before the Committee made at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the hearing, the Chair of the Committee shall appoint from the Student Panelist Pool not more than three students to sit with the Committee or the Hearing Panel Chair shall appoint two students to sit with the Hearing Panel for that particular case. When students from the Student Panelist Pool serve as members of the Committee or as members of the Hearing Panel, they shall have the same rights as other members of the Committee or Hearing Panel.
   b. **General Statement of Procedures.** A student or student organization accused of violating the Student Conduct Code is entitled to a written notice and a formal hearing unless the matter is disposed of under the rules for informal disposition. Student conduct proceedings are not to be construed as judicial trials and need not wait for legal action before proceeding; but care shall be taken to
comply as fully as possible with the spirit and intent of the procedural safeguards set forth herein. The Office of the General Counsel shall be legal adviser to the Committee and the Primary Administrative Officer, but the same attorney from the Office of the General Counsel shall not perform both roles with regard to the same case.

Notice of Hearing. At least fourteen (14) business days prior to the Student Conduct Committee Hearing, or as far in advance as is reasonably possible if an accelerated resolution process is scheduled with the consent of the accused student or student organization, the Primary Administrative Officer will send a letter to the accused student or student organization with the following information:

1. A description of the alleged violation(s) and applicable policies
2. A description of the applicable procedures
3. A statement of the potential sanctions/remedial actions that could result; and
4. The time, date and location of the hearing. If any party does not appear at the hearing, the hearing will be held in their absence. For compelling reasons, the hearing may be rescheduled.

This Notice of Charges letter will be made in writing and will be delivered either: 1) in person, 2) by email only to the Party’s University-issued email account if the Party has consented in writing to receipt of all notifications by email; or 3) mailed to the mailing address of the respective Party as indicated in the official University records and emailed to the Party’s University-issued email account. If there is no local address on file, mail will be sent to the Party’s permanent address.

Notice is presumptively deemed delivered, when: 1) provided in person or 2) emailed to the individual (when prior consent - whether electronically or in writing - has been given to receipt of all notifications by email or 3) when mailed and emailed.

Any request to reschedule the hearing shall be made in writing to the Chair, who shall have the authority to reschedule the hearing if the request is timely and made for good cause. The Chair shall notify the Primary Administrative Officer and the accused student or student organization of the new date for the hearing. If the accused student or student organization fails to appear at the scheduled time, the Committee may hear and determine the matter.

4. Right to Petition for Review:
   (other than University expulsion, University dismissal, or University suspension).
   a. In all cases where the sanction imposed by the Committee is other than University expulsion, University dismissal, or University suspension, the Primary Administrative Officer/Designee(s), the charged student or the
alleged victim, (referred to hereafter as the "complainant") in the case of nonconsensual sexual behavior may petition the Chancellor or Designee in writing for a review of the decision within five (5) business days after written notification. A copy of the Petition for Review must also be served upon the nonappealing party or parties within such time. The Petition for Review must state the grounds or reasons for review in detail, and the nonappealing party or parties may answer the petition within five (5) business days.

b. The Chancellor or Designee (hereafter "the Chancellor") may grant or refuse the right of review. In all cases where the Petition for Review is refused, the action of the Committee shall be final. If the Chancellor or Designee reviews the decision, the action of the Chancellor shall be final unless it is to remand the matter for further proceedings.

5. **Right of Appeal** (University expulsion, University dismissal, or University suspension only).
   a. When an accused student is expelled, dismissed, or suspended from the University or when a student organization has its recognition withdrawn, either temporarily or permanently, by the Committee, the Primary Administrative Officer, the accused student or student organization may appeal such decision to the Chancellor by filing written notice of appeal stating the grounds or reasons for appeal in detail with the Chancellor within ten (10) business days after notification of the decision of the Committee. 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.
   b. The Chancellor or Designee shall review the record of the case and the appeal documents and may affirm, reverse, or remand the case for further proceedings and shall notify each party in writing of the decision on the appeal. The action of the Chancellor shall be final unless it is to remand the matter for further proceedings.

6. **Status During Appeal.**
   a. In cases of suspension, dismissal, or expulsion where a Notice of Appeal is filed within the required time, a student may petition the Chancellor in writing for permission to attend classes pending final determination of appeal. The Chancellor may permit a student to continue in school under such conditions as may be designated pending completion of appellate procedures, provided such continuance will not seriously disrupt the University or constitute a danger to the health, safety, or welfare of members of the University community. In such event, however, any final sanctions imposed shall be effective from the date of the action of the Committee.
   b. In cases of withdrawal of recognition where a Notice of Appeal is filed within a required time, a student organization may petition the Chancellor in writing to stay the withdrawal of recognition while the appeal is pending. The Chancellor may stay the withdrawal of
recognition under such conditions as may be designated pending completion of appellate procedures, provided such continuance will not seriously disrupt the University or constitute a danger to the health, safety, or welfare of members of the University community.

7. **Student Honor System.** Forums under the student honor systems established for investigating facts, holding hearings, and recommending and imposing sanctions are authorized when the student honor code or other regulations containing well defined jurisdictional statements and satisfying the requirements of Section 10.030, which is Article V of the Bylaws of the Board of Curators, have been reduced to writing and have been approved by the Chancellor and the Board of Curators and notice thereof in writing has been furnished to students subject thereto. Though the student honor system has jurisdiction, together with procedures set forth therein, instead of the Primary Administrative Officer/Designee(s), the standard of conduct called for in any such student honor system shall be deemed to contain at a minimum the same standards set forth in Section 200.010, entitled Standards of Conduct. Procedures shall satisfy the requirements of the Board of Curators' Bylaws, Section 10.030, which is Article V, and shall contain procedures herein before stated insofar as appropriate and adaptable to the particular situation and shall be approved by the Chancellor and the General Counsel. Students subject to student honor systems shall have the rights of appeal as set forth in Section 200.020 E.6 and 7.

F. **Hearing Procedures.**

1. **Pre-Hearing Witness List and Documentary Evidence.** At least seven (7) business days prior to the hearing, the student or representatives of the student organization will provide the Primary Administrative Officer a list of the names of the proposed witnesses and copies of all proposed documentary evidence. At least five (5) business days prior to the hearing, the Primary Administrative Officer will have the names of proposed witnesses, copies of all pertinent documentary evidence and a copy of any investigative report available for the student or representatives of the student organization, and a copy of the same will be sent to the Hearing Panel Chair.

2. **Conduct of Hearing.** The Chair shall preside at the hearing, call the hearing to order, call the roll of the Committee in attendance, ascertain the presence or absence of the student or representatives of the student organization accused of misconduct, read the notice of hearing and charges, verify the receipt of notices of charges by the student or student organization, and call to the attention of the accused student or student organization and the adviser any special or extraordinary procedures to be employed during the hearing and permit the student or student organization to make suggestions regarding or objections to any procedures for the Conduct Committee to consider.

   a. **Opening Statements.**

      (1) The Primary Administrative Officer shall make opening remarks outlining the general nature of the case and testify to any facts the investigation has revealed.

      (2) The accused student or student organization may make a statement to the Committee about the charge at this time or at the conclusion of the University's presentation.
b. **University Evidence.**
   (1) University witnesses are to be called and identified or written reports of evidence introduced as appropriate.
   (2) The Committee may question witnesses at any time.
   (3) The accused student or student organization or, with permission of the Committee, the adviser or counselor may question witnesses or examine evidence at the conclusion of the University's presentation.

c. **Accused Student or Student Organization Evidence.**
   (1) If the accused student or student organization has not elected to make a statement earlier under a.(2) above, the accused student or student organization shall have the opportunity to make a statement to the Committee about the charge.
   (2) The accused student or student organization may present evidence through witnesses or in the form of written memoranda.
   (3) The Committee or Hearing Panel may question the accused student or representatives of the accused student organization or witnesses at any time. The Primary Administrative Officer/Designee(s) may question the accused student or witnesses.

d. **Rebuttal Evidence.** The Committee may permit the University or the accused student or student organization to offer a rebuttal of the other's presentation(s).

e. **Rights of Student Conduct Committee.**
   The Committee shall have the right to:
   (1) Hear together cases involving more than one student or more than one student organization which arise out of the same transaction or occurrence, but in that event shall make separate findings and determinations for each student or student organization;
   (2) Permit a stipulation of facts by the Primary Administrative Officer and the student or student organization involved;
   (3) Permit the incorporation in the record by reference of any documentation, produced and desired in the record by the University or the accused;
   (4) Question witnesses or challenge other evidence introduced by either the University or the student or student organization at any time;
   (5) Hear from the Primary Administrative Officer about dispositions made in similar cases and any dispositions offered to the accused student or student organization appearing before the Committee;
   (6) Call additional witnesses or require additional investigation;
   (7) Dismiss any action at any time or permit informal disposition as otherwise provided; and
   (8) Permit or require at any time amendment of the Notice of Hearing to include new or additional matters which may come to the attention of the Committee before final determination of the case; provided, however, that in such event the Committee shall grant to
the student or student organization or Primary Administrative Officer such time as the Committee may determine reasonable under the circumstances to answer or explain such additional matters;
(9) Dismiss any person from the hearing who interferes with or obstructs the hearing or fails to abide by the rulings of the Chair of the Committee;
(10) Suspend summarily students from the University who, during the hearing, obstruct or interfere with the course of the hearing or fail to abide by the ruling of the Chair of the Committee on any procedural question or request of the Chair for order.

4. Determination by the Student Conduct Committee. The Committee shall make its findings and determinations based on the preponderance of the evidence in executive session out of the presence of the Primary Administrative Officer and the accused student or student organization. Separate findings are to be made:

a. As to the conduct of the student or student organization, and

b. On the sanctions, if any, to be imposed. No sanctions shall be imposed on the accused student or student organization unless a majority of the Committee present is convinced by the preponderance of the evidence that the student or student organization has committed the violation charged. In determining what sanction, if any, is appropriate, the Committee may take into consideration the previous disciplinary history of the accused student or student organization.

5. Official Report of Findings and Determinations. The Committee shall promptly consider the case on the merits and make its findings and determination and transmit them to the Primary Administrative Officer/Designee(s) and the student charged forthwith.

6. Other Procedural Questions. Procedural questions which arise during the hearing not covered by these general rules shall be determined by the Chair, whose ruling shall be final unless the Chair shall present the question to the Committee at the request of a member of the Committee, in which event the ruling of the Committee by majority vote shall be final.
7. **General Rules of Decorum.** The following general rules of decorum shall be adhered to:

   a. All requests to address the Committee shall be addressed to the Chair.

   b. The Chair will rule on all requests and points of order and may consult with Committee's legal adviser prior to any ruling. The Chair's ruling shall be final and all participants shall abide thereby, unless the Chair shall present the question to the Committee at the request of a member of the Committee, in which event the ruling of the Committee by majority vote shall be final.

   c. Rules of common courtesy and decency shall be observed at all times.

   d. An adviser or counselor may be permitted to address the Committee at the discretion of the Committee. An adviser or counselor may request clarification of a procedural matter or object on the basis of procedure at any time by addressing the Chair after recognition.

8. **Record of Hearing.** An audio, video, digital, or stenographic record of the hearing shall be maintained. The notice, exhibits, hearing record, and the findings and determination of the Committee shall become the "Record of the Case" and shall be filed in the Office of the Primary Administrative Officer and for the purpose of review or appeal be accessible at reasonable times and places to both the University, and the accused student(s) or student organization designee.

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**Financial Aid Appeals**

http://www.umsl.edu/services/finaid/files/pdfs/F17SAF.pdf

(Reviewed August 13, 2013)

Financial Aid 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. The general provisions for appeals procedures are as follows:

1. An aid applicant who is not satisfied with the fact that no aid was offered, or was not pleased with the type and/or amount of aid that was offered, may make a written appeal to the Student Financial Aid Director for reconsideration of the aid request.

2. If the Financial Aid Director cannot provide a satisfactory solution, the student may refer the written appeal with all pertinent information to the Faculty-Student Committee on Student Aid. In ordinary practice, it is rare for a case to be appealed beyond this step.

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**Grade Appeal Process**

Academic Affairs: January 20, 1999; Revised, September 2006, February 2007, and April 2010

(http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/policy/grade-appeal.html) (Reviewed August 13, 2013)

University of Missouri-St. Louis Grade Appeal Procedures

On each campus of the University of Missouri it is the Chancellor who is ultimately responsible to the President and the Board of Curators for all campus programs, policies and activities. On the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus, the Chancellor has delegated responsibility for overseeing the grade appeal process to the Provost. The Provost is therefore responsible for assuring that grade appeals are handled in a fair and timely manner. More specifically, that officer is responsible for seeing that the procedures outlined below are appropriately followed.

**Application of this Policy**

Students are responsible for meeting the standards established for each course they take.

Faculty members are responsible for establishing the criteria for grades and evaluating students' academic performance.

The grade appeal procedure is to allow only the review of allegedly capricious grading. It is not intended as a review of the instructor's evaluation of the student's academic performance. The burden of proof shall be on the student. Disagreement or dissatisfaction with a faculty member's professional evaluation of coursework is not the basis for a grade appeal.

**Capricious Grading** is defined as any of the following:

a) The student's grade was assigned on the basis of other factors rather than the performance on the assignment or in the course;
b) The student's work was graded with more demanding standards than were applied to equivalent students in the course; (Note: Different grading criteria are expected of graduate students enrolled in 4000-level courses.)

c) The instructor assigned a grade using standards that were substantially different from those previously announced or stated in the syllabus.

Informal Procedures
At any time after the awarding of a grade, for a course or an assignment in a course, a student may discuss the grade with her or his instructor and request that the instructor review the grade.* If the instructor does review the grade he or she is, of course, free to change the grade or not as is appropriate.1

Formal Procedures
The following procedures apply if the above informal procedure does not resolve a dispute concerning a grade to the student's satisfaction and if the process is initiated within thirty working days of the start of the first regular semester (fall or spring) following the semester for which the grade was given, or thirty days after the assignment of the grade (whichever is later)2

1. If the student has not already done so, he or she discusses the contested grade fully with the instructor. The student should prepare for this meeting by taking all relevant written work (tests, reports, etc.) with him/her. If the issue is not resolved, and the student wishes to pursue the appeal, a written appeal should be submitted to the chairperson or director of the department*, division**, area***, school, or discipline housing the course in question. (For grade appeals in the Honors College, College of Nursing, College of Optometry, and the UMSL/Washington University Joint Engineering Program, written appeal should be submitted to the appropriate dean.)

*College of Arts & Sciences, College of Fine Arts & Communication
**College of Education
***College of Business Administration

Appeals must be presented in writing and contain the following information:

(a) A clear concise statement which includes the name of the instructor, the course and semester taken, and a statement describing the specific supporting evidence of capricious grading;

(b) A brief summary of the prior attempts to resolve the matter and the results of those previous discussions;

(c) A specific statement of the remedial action or relief sought.

The chairperson or director will discuss the appeal with the course instructor within 10 days of receipt of the written appeal, and will inform the student of the result of this discussion. The result of the meeting may be the instructor's agreement to change the grade or her or his refusal to change the grade.

2. If the matter remains unresolved, the student may, within 10 working days of being notified of the result of the discussion between the chairperson or director and the instructor, request that the case be forwarded to the dean of the college for a review of the matter.

3. The dean (or designee) will refer the case to a committee composed of at least three faculty members. This committee is charged with determining whether the grade in question was awarded capriciously. The committee will investigate the matter, meeting if it deems necessary with the student, the instructor, and possibly others. Following its inquiries and deliberations but prior to making it final recommendations, the faculty committee will submit a copy of its findings to the course instructor. If the course instructor elects to comment on the findings to the committee, this must be done within seven working days. After further consideration, but within 30 working days after receiving the student's statement, the faculty committee will submit its findings in writing with its recommendations and reasons for those recommendations directly to the course instructor, with a copy to the chairperson or director, and the dean.

4. If the faculty committee recommends that the grade be changed, the dean will ask the instructor to implement the recommendation. If the instructor declines, the dean will change the grade, notifying the instructor, the chairperson or director, and the student of this action. Only the dean, upon written recommendation of the faculty committee, will make a change in grade over the objection of the instructor who assigned the original grade.

This change, which the Registrar is mandated to make, is not considered a grade change and is consistent with this grade appeal policy. Students may appeal this change provided the appeal is initiated within 30 working days of the notification of the grade change.

1 If the instructor is deceased, cannot be located, or is otherwise unable or unwilling to reconsider the grade, the student should consult directly with the chairperson of the department, division, area, school, or discipline housing the course in question.

2 *Under current campus policy, transcript notation of "DL" automatically becomes an "F" after one regular semester.
5. If the student is dissatisfied with the result of the college level review, s/he may appeal to the Provost within 10 working days of receipt of the committee's recommendation. The Provost will review the appeal process and rule on whether the procedures were followed appropriately. If the Provost concludes that there were procedural errors that denied the student due process, the case will be referred back to the dean to reconvene a new committee of faculty to review the case.

6. The Provost may NOT change a grade given by any instructor.

Student Organization Policy

Policy on Student Organizations

The University recognizes that the acquisition of knowledge is not confined to the formality of the classroom and that much can be gained through the activities of student organizations. To assure maximum freedom for students and to assure that organizational activities are orderly, responsible, and appropriate to the mission of the university, certain principles and procedures are established through which organizations gain university recognition. Please refer to the current “U Book” for guidelines on student organizations.

Policy on Hazing


Hazing, defined as an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or an act that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any person within the University community, or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. Participation or cooperation by the person(s) being hazed does not excuse the violation. Failing to intervene to prevent (and/or) failing to discourage (and/or) failing to report those acts may also violate this policy. The Office of Student Activities will investigate any incident in which a charge of hazing has been made. University recognition may be temporarily withdrawn pending hearings and due process procedures.

Should it be determined that a student organization or any of its members is guilty of hazing as previously defined, sanctions may include but are not limited to:

A. Automatic and indefinite suspension of campus recognition or registration with an accompanying loss of all campus privileges (i.e. use of facilities, student services, etc.);

B. Disciplinary action against those members involved in the incident(s) including suspension or expulsion from the university.

Implementation: Each organizational president (or equivalent officer) is required to read and sign the university's Policy on Hazing at the first regular meeting at which he or she presides. This policy, signed by the incoming president (or equivalent officer), must accompany any notification of a change in officers submitted to the Office of Student Activities. Failure to do so will result in the automatic imposition of inactive status on the organization with an accompanying loss of all university privileges until such time as the signed policy is submitted.

The following equal opportunity policies have been established by the University of Missouri Board of Curators to govern the academic and administrative functions of the four campuses and are available on the UM System website.

University of Missouri Plan for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (320.010)

320.010 Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Bd. Min. 2-19-71; Reaffirmed Bd. Min. 10-14-77; Amended Bd. Min. 5-23-80; Amended Bd. Min. 10-15-82; Amended Bd. Min. 10-16-03.

A. Policy -- The Curators of the University of Missouri do hereby reaffirm and state the policy of the University of Missouri on Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity.

1. Equal Opportunity is and shall be provided for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam era veteran. This policy shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or
military organizations associated with the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

2. Equal Opportunity is and shall be also provided for all students and applicants for admission in compliance with existing legislation.

B. Procedures -- The President of the University shall establish affirmative action procedures to implement this policy.

The Office of Equal Opportunity is located in 414 Woods Hall. They can be reached by calling (314) 516-5695.

Sexual Harassment (330.060)

330.060 Sexual Harassment

Executive Order No. 20, 3-17-81, rev. 7-1-81, 9-20-83, 3-93, 12-98) (Reviewed August 13, 2013)

This University of Missouri policy aims for an increased awareness regarding sexual harassment by making available information, education and guidance on the subject for the University community.

A. Policy Statement -- It is the policy of the University of Missouri, in accord with providing a positive discrimination-free environment, that sexual harassment in the work place or the educational environment is unacceptable conduct. Sexual harassment is subject to discipline, up to and including separation from the institution.

B. Definition -- Sexual harassment is defined for this policy as either:

1. Unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual activity by a University employee in a position of power or authority to a University employee or a member of the student body, or

2. Other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a University employee or a member of the student body to a University employee or a member of the student body, when:
   a. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used explicitly or implicitly as a condition for academic or employment decisions; or
   b. The purpose or effect of such conduct is to interfere unreasonably with the work or academic performance of the person being harassed; or

   The purpose or effect of such conduct to a reasonable person is, to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

C. The University’s Obligation -- The university has an affirmative obligation to investigate complaints of sexual harassment. Upon receiving notification of a sexual harassment complaint, the university is required to investigate such complaints for the protection of all students and employees from sexual harassment. Accordingly, an investigation will go forward once an accusation has been made. Although complainants cannot be assured of confidentiality, investigations are conducted in a professional and sensitive manner.

D. Reporting Sexual Harassment to the Office of Equal Opportunity -- Reports or complaints about sexual harassment should be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). The OEO has the expertise to conduct such an investigation in an objective, fair, and confidential manner that will protect the interests of the individual bringing the accusation, witnesses, and the accused individual.

The OEO may ask the individual reporting sexual harassment to provide a written statement, indicating the name of the person and the nature of the alleged sexual harassment, specifying the date and location when alleged incidents occurred.

The OEO may contact the individual accused and inform him/her that a written statement will be forthcoming. The OEO may provide the individual accused with a copy of the statement and the name of the person making the complaint. The individual accused may be asked to respond in writing to state his/her position in the matter.

At the end of the investigation, the OEO will inform the individual bringing the allegations of sexual harassment whether disciplinary procedures will be initiated. If the investigation substantiates the accusation, the University will initiate the appropriate disciplinary procedures. If initiated, the person who made the accusation of sexual harassment will be informed about the discipline imposed. There is a five-year limitation period from the date of the occurrence to the date of the filing of a charge that may lead to discipline.

E. Non-Retaliation -- This policy also prohibits retaliation against any person who brings an accusation of discrimination or sexual harassment or who assists with the investigation or resolution of sexual harassment. Notwithstanding this provision, the University
may discipline an employee or student who has been determined to have brought an accusation of sexual harassment in bad faith.

F. False Accusations -- The university may discipline an employee or student who has been determined to have brought an accusation of sexual harassment in bad faith.

G. Redress Procedures -- Members of the University community who believe they have been sexually harassed may seek redress, using the following options:

1. Pursue appropriate informal resolution procedures as defined by the individual campuses. These procedures are available from the campus Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer.

2. Initiate a complaint or grievance within the period of time prescribed by the applicable grievance procedure. Faculty are referred to Section 370.010, "Academic Grievance Procedures"; staff to Section 380.010, "Grievance Procedure for Administrative, Service and Support Staff" and students to Section 390.010, "Discrimination Grievance Procedure for Students". Pursuing a complaint or informal resolution procedure does not compromise one's rights to initiate a grievance or seek redress under state or federal laws.

H. Discipline -- Upon receiving an accusation of sexual harassment against a member of the faculty, staff, or student body, the University will investigate and, if substantiated, will initiate the appropriate disciplinary procedures. There is a five year limitation period from the date of occurrence for filing a charge that may lead to discipline. An individual who makes an accusation of sexual harassment will be informed:

1. at the close of the investigation, whether or not disciplinary procedures will be initiated; and

2. at the end of any disciplinary procedures, of the discipline imposed, if any.

Auxiliary Aids for Students with Disabilities (240.020)

240.040 Policy Related to Students with Disabilities


240.040 Policy Related to Students with Disabilities

Executive Order No. 21, 11-1-84; Amended 2-25-97.
A. EQUALITY OF ACCESS—The University of Missouri (UM) strives to assure that no qualified person with a disability\(^1\) shall, solely by reason of the disability, be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of any program or activity operated by UM. Each such qualified person shall receive reasonable accommodations to provide equally effective access to educational opportunities, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate unless provision of such reasonable accommodation would constitute an undue hardship on the university or would substantially alter essential elements of the academic program or course of study or would otherwise compromise academic standards. This policy shall apply to all programs, services, and activities of the university, including but not limited to recruitment, admissions, registration, financial aid, academic programs, advising, counseling, student health, housing and employment.

B. FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS—This policy is intended to be consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no recipient of federal financial assistance may discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities solely by reason of disability. This policy is also intended to be consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Missouri Human Rights Act.

\(^1\) From the U.S. Justice Department’s ADA Title II Technical Assistance Manual, Section II-2.8000: Qualified individual with a disability. In order to be an individual protected by Title II, the individual must be a “qualified” individual with a disability. To be qualified, the individual with a disability must meet the essential eligibility requirements for receipt of services or participation in a public entity’s programs, activities, or services with or without:

1) Reasonable modifications to a public entity’s rules, policies, or practices;
2) Removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers; or
3) Provision of auxiliary aids and services.

The “essential eligibility requirement” for participation in many activities of public entities may be minimal. For example, most public entities provide information about their programs, activities, and services upon request. In such situations, the only “eligibility requirement for receipt of such information would be the request of it. However, under other circumstances, the “essential eligibility requirements” imposed by public entity may be quite stringent.

Illustration: The medical school at a public university may require those admitted to its program to have successfully complete specified undergraduate science courses.
D. COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

1. Campus disability support service (DSS) offices or other designated campus units are responsible for coordination of programs, services, and classroom accommodations for qualified applicants for admission and qualified enrolled students with disabilities. Such coordination relates solely to disability issues. Determinations as to whether a student is otherwise qualified often will be based on the academic requirements developed by the faculty. Specific services available to qualified students with disabilities will be provided by the university in conformity with the requirements of federal and state law.

2. Determinations as to whether requested services and requested accommodations are required will be made initially by the Coordinator of DSS. Accommodation of the disability will be determined by the coordinator and faculty member, and if either disagrees with the prescribed accommodation, such disagreement shall be described in writing promptly and submitted to the Chancellor or his/her designee for resolution in a prompt manner.

3. Initial determinations and any disagreements submitted to the Chancellor or his or her designee will take into consideration all relevant factors including, but not limited to, the following:
   a. current documentation of the specific disability and of the need for the requested services or accommodations;
   b. the essential elements of the academic program or course of study being pursued;
   c. the fact that the law does not require a university to substantially alter essential elements of its academic program or course of study or to otherwise compromise its academic standards.

4. All students seeking disability-related services and/or accommodations must disclose the presence of a specific disability to DSS. Before receiving requested services and/or accommodations, the student will be required to provide the DSS office with current medical or other diagnostic documentation of a disability from a qualified physician or other qualified diagnostician, as well as current documentation of the need for accommodations. In cases where existing documentation is incomplete or outdated, students may be required to provide additional documentation at the student's expense.

5. It is the student's responsibility to self-identify, to provide current and adequate documentation of his/her disability, and to request classroom accommodations, through the DSS office. The appropriate documentation must be provided in a timely manner to ensure full resolution of accommodations prior to the student's entrance into the program or course of study. Documentation review and accommodations planning by DSS, including consultation with faculty and/or other campus entities that may be affected in providing accommodations, will be done on an individualized case-by-case basis.

6. Reasonable classroom accommodations will be provided to otherwise qualified and eligible students with disabilities who have self-identified and who have provided satisfactory documentation in support of their timely request for such accommodations, in compliance with federal and state mandates. These accommodations shall not affect the substance of the educational programs or compromise educational standards.

7. In addition to providing accommodations needed to ensure nondiscrimination in access to educational opportunities by otherwise qualified students with disabilities, the university is responsible for ensuring that no qualified disabled student is denied the benefits of or excluded from participation in a university program because of the absence of auxiliary aids, services, and/or other reasonable accommodations. Auxiliary aids, services, and/or other accommodations include but are not limited to interpreters (sign or oral), readers, scribes, adaptive equipment, and other appropriate services or equipment necessary for course or program accessibility.

8. While funding for accommodations to ensure equally effective access is provided by the university, funding for auxiliary aids, accommodations, and/or services in some instances may be shared with state vocational rehabilitation agencies. The law does not require and the university does not provide prescription devices or other devices/services of a personal nature (e.g. personal attendants) for students with disabilities.
E. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMPUS POLICIES—
Chancellors are directed to establish campus policies and/or procedures consistent with this order. These should cover, at a minimum, treatment of disability-related information and appropriate regard for confidentiality, responsibilities of students in applying for services through DSS, time-lines to assure that students make accommodation requests in a timely manner, guidelines to assure that disability documentation is reasonably current, a description of the process of individualized assessment of each student's disability documentation and accommodation request(s), the role of faculty in determining the essential elements of the academic program or course of study and the academic standards involved in the accommodations planning and review process within the context of academic program requirements, and processing of complaints and grievances including a procedure for appeal when faculty and/or academic administrators or administrators in other involved campus entities do not agree with the DSS on the requirements of this policy.

AIDS Policy Statement (280.030)

280.030 AIDS Policy Statement

A. Current knowledge indicates college and university students or employees with AIDS, ARC or a positive HIV antibody blood test do not pose a health risk to either students or employees in a usual academic or residential setting. The policy of the University of Missouri is to permit students and employees with AIDS to continue to engage in as many of their normal pursuits as their condition allows. Managers should be sensitive to the medical problem and ensure that such employees are treated consistently with the treatment of other employees. Students will be allowed to continue their enrollment and activities (including continued residency in student housing) as long as they continue to meet academic standards and medical evidence indicates their conditions are not a threat to themselves or others. Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality at all times.

B. The University also has a legitimate interest in the welfare of all students, employees, and visitors to the campus. Every reasonable precaution will be taken to minimize the risk that an employee's or student's condition will present a health and/or safety hazard to others.

C. The University will not discriminate against individuals with HIV infection, AIDS or ARC, but this protection does not include individuals with secondary infections or diseases that would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of others or who may because of the disease or infection be unable to perform duties of their employment. In such cases, the appropriate University personnel or student policy will determine what changes, if any, will be made in the student's or employee's academic or work program.

D. In the event of public inquiry concerning AIDS on campus, the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee will provide appropriate information on behalf of the University. Existing policies regarding confidentiality of employee and student records will be followed.

E. Consistent with its concern for students and employees with AIDS, the University offers a range of resources through the AIDS Task Force on each campus and through other campus and UM services.

1. Student, employee, and management education and information;
2. Referral to agencies and organizations that offer supportive services for life-threatening illnesses;
3. Consultation to assist employees in effectively managing health, leave and other benefits.

F. The AIDS Task Force on each campus will continue to meet periodically to review and update policy and to make recommendations as new medical facts become available. Each Task Force will continue to encourage programs to educate all members of the campus community about the reality of AIDS.

G. To address specialized campus needs, each campus is authorized to adopt and implement special policies related to AIDS which are consistent with this policy statement.

Affirmative Action on Committee Appointment (330.070)

330.070 Affirmative Action on Committee Appointments


A. Affirmative Action -- As a part of the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan of the University of Missouri, any person appointing any committee for the University or any campus, in selecting the membership, shall give due consideration to the inclusion in such
Discrimination Grievance Procedure for Students (390.010)

390.010 Discrimination Grievance Procedure for Students

Bd. Min. 12-17-82, Bd. Min. 1-25-90, Amended Bd. Min. 10-16-03, Amended Bd. Min. 11-29-07.

A. General

1. It is the policy of the University of Missouri to provide equal opportunity for all enrolled students and applicants for admission to the University on the basis of merit without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability, or Vietnam era veteran status. Sexual harassment shall be considered discrimination because of sex. This policy shall not be interpreted in such a way as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or military organizations associated with the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

2. To insure compliance with this policy, all University of Missouri prospective or enrolled students shall have available to them this student discrimination grievance procedure for resolving complaints and/or grievances regarding alleged discrimination.

3. This grievance procedure neither supersedes nor takes precedence over established University procedures of due process for any and all matters related to Academic Dishonesty, Grade Appeals, Traffic Appeals, Disciplinary Appeals, or other specific campus procedures which are authorized by the Board of Curators and deal with faculty/staff responsibilities.

4. These proceedings may be terminated at any time by the mutual agreement of the parties involved.

NOTE: A grievance concerning specific incidents filed under this discrimination grievance procedure shall not be processed on behalf of any student who elects to utilize another University grievance procedure. In addition, the filing of a grievance under these procedures precludes the subsequent use of other University grievance or appeals procedures for the same incident.

B. Definitions

1. A complaint is an informal claim of discriminatory treatment. A complaint may, but need not, constitute a grievance. Complaints shall be processed through the informal procedure herein set forth.

2. A grievance is the written allegation of discrimination which is related to:

   a. Recruitment and admission to the institution.
   b. Admission to and treatment while enrolled in an education program.
   c. Employment as a student employee on campus.
   d. Other matters of significance relating to campus living or student life, including, but not limited to:
      - Assignment of roommates in resident halls
      - Actions of fraternities and sororities
      - Membership in and/or admission to clubs/organizations
      - Student Health Services
      - Financial aid awards

3. A student is any person who has applied for admission or readmission, or who is currently enrolled, or who was a student of the University of Missouri at the time of the alleged discrimination.

4. Persons with disabilities -- For the purpose of this student discrimination grievance procedure, a "person with a disability" has been substituted for "handicapped individual" (Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and shall be defined as ":...any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities."

   a. Has a record of such impairment, or
   b. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

   For purpose of this definition, "major life activity" means any mental or physical function or activity which, if impaired, creates a substantial barrier to employment and/or education. Any reference in this document to written materials or to written oral presentations within the student discrimination grievance procedure may be adjusted to accommodate persons with disabilities for whom the stated materials or required
presentations would not be appropriate. Cost of such accommodation will be borne by the University, with no charge to the individual.

5. **Appropriate Administrative Officer** -- The primary administrative officer on the staff of the Chancellor (in the area of Student Affairs/Services, Administrative Services, Development, and Academic Affairs) having administrative responsibility for the unit in which the discrimination is alleged to have occurred.

6. **Grievance Consultant** -- At any step the Director of Equal Opportunity or of Affirmative Action may be asked to serve as a consultant by any of the parties involved in this grievance procedure.

**C. Complaints**

1. **Policies and Procedures** -- A student with a complaint will be provided with copies of appropriate policies and procedures pertaining to student complaints and grievances, and the Chief Student Personnel Administrator or his/her designee and the Officer or Equal Opportunity or for Affirmative Action shall be available to assist the student in understanding the opportunities afforded through such policies and procedures. The student may choose to have an advisor participate in any stage of the grievance procedures, subject to the restrictions of the hearing procedures set forth in Section 390.010 F.

2. **Joint Complaint** -- If more than one student is aggrieved by the same action, these students may, by mutual written agreement among themselves, file with the Chief Student Personnel Administrator a complaint and pursue their complaints jointly under this grievance procedure. If the number of students in such a case is as large as to make it impracticable for them to be heard individually in a joint proceeding, they may, by mutual agreement, elect one or more of their number to act on behalf of them all.

3. **Students may** informally discuss a complaint with the relevant supervising administrator. Every reasonable effort should be made to resolve the matter informally at this administrative level. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student may pursue the matter through each level of administrative jurisdiction up to and including the Appropriate Administrative Officer, or file a grievance within the time specified in D.1.b.

4. **Complaints Involving Recruitment**

. Undergraduate applicants must first present complaints about recruitment to the Director of Admissions. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the applicant may appeal the matter to the immediate supervising officer of the Director of Admissions.
   a. Applicants for graduate study may request a meeting with the academic department head and the Dean of the College for those campuses having schools or colleges, or their designees, who are actually involved in the recruitment effort to discuss the matter informally. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the applicant may appeal to the Dean of the Graduate School/Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and finally to the Appropriate Administrative Officer.

5. **Complaints Involving Admissions**

. Undergraduate and professional student applicants shall present complaints to the Director of Admissions or to the Dean of the School or College, depending upon where the application was originally filed.
   a. This University official shall compare the person's academic qualifications against the official University admissions criteria and review the denial. If the denial is sustained, officials' immediate supervisor or to the appropriate admissions committee.

6. **Complaints Involving Admissions (Graduate)** -- Applicants to the Graduate School may ask for a meeting with the academic department head of the program to which the applicant was seeking admission. This official shall explain the reasons for the denial of recommendation for admissions. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the applicant may then appeal to the Dean of the Graduate School/Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or to the appropriate admissions committee. If the denial is upheld, the applicant may appeal the decision to the appropriate administrative officer.

7. **Complaints Involving Admissions to or Treatment in an Educational Program or in the Granting of Assistantships** -- An undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at the institution who has a discrimination complaint involving admission to or
treatment in an educational program or in the granting of assistantships may request a conference with the appropriate department head and with the Dean of the School or College (or the Dean's designee) on those campuses having schools or colleges to discuss the matter informally. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student may present a grievance pursuant to Section 390.010 F.

8. **Complaints Involving Nonacademic Matters Related to Campus Living and Student Life** -- A currently enrolled student who has a University-related complaint concerning discrimination in nonacademic matters including but not limited to assignment of roommates, actions of fraternities and sororities, membership in and/or admissions to clubs/organizations, student health services and financial aid awards may request a conference with the appropriate administrative supervisor, department head and/or director to discuss the matter informally. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student may present a grievance pursuant to Section 390.010 F.

9. **Complaints Involving Student Employment on Campus** -- A student enrolled at the University who alleges that discrimination occurred either in applying for work or while working as a student employee at a University job may request a conference with the supervisor, department head or director of the employing unit to discuss the matter informally. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student may present a grievance pursuant to Section 390.010 D.

10. **Complaints Involving Financial Aid** (Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional):

   - Undergraduate, graduate, and professional student aid applicants shall present complaints to the Director of Student Financial Aid where the application was originally filed or the award originally made.
   - a. This University official shall compare the person's financial and academic qualifications against the official University financial aid criteria and review the award, amount, or denial of the aid. If the original judgment is sustained, the applicant may appeal this decision to the official's immediate supervisor or to the appropriate financial aid committee.

**D. Initiating a Grievance**

1. **Policies and Procedures** -- A student with a grievance will be provided copies of appropriate policies and procedures pertaining to student complaints and grievances, and the Chief of Student Personnel Administrator or designee and the Office for Equal Opportunity or for Affirmative Action shall be available to assist the student in understanding the opportunities afforded through such policies and procedures. The student may choose to have an advisor participate in any stage of the grievance procedure, subject to the restrictions of the hearing procedures set forth in Section 390.010 F.

   - **Joint Grievance** -- If more than one student is aggrieved by the same action, these students may, by mutual written agreement among themselves, file with the Chief Student Personnel Administrator a grievance and pursue their grievances jointly under this grievance procedure. If the number of students in such a case is so large as to make it impractical for them to be heard individually in a joint proceeding, they may, by mutual agreement, elect one or more of their number to act on behalf of all of them.
   - a. **Regardless of their nature**, all discrimination grievances are to be filed with the Chief Student Personnel Administrator. A grievance must have been filed by a student within one-hundred-eighty (180) calendar days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act.

2. **Filing a Grievance**

   - All grievances must be presented in writing and contain the following information:
   - (1) A clear concise statement of the grievance which includes the name of the person(s) against whom the grievance is made, the date(s) of the alleged discrimination and a statement describing the specific supporting evidence;
   - (2) A brief summary of the prior attempts to resolve the matter which includes the names of persons with whom the matter was discussed and the results of those previous discussions;
   - (3) A specific statement of the remedial action or relief sought.
   - a. Within seven (7) working days, the original grievance form with an explanation will be returned to the student if, in the judgment of the Chief Student Personnel
3. Any grievance not filed within the time limits specified in Section 390.010 D.1.b shall be deemed waived by the grievant. The Chief Student Personnel Administrator may extend the time limits only if adequate cause for an extension of the time limits can be shown by the student.

4. For informational purposes, copies of the grievance shall be forwarded to the Appropriate Administrative Officer and the Director of Equal Employment and/or Affirmative Action.

5. Within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of a grievance that satisfies the requirement of Section 390.010 D.1.b, the Appropriate Administrative Officer with the consent of the parties involved may establish an informal hearing with the aggrieved student, the responding faculty/staff/organization, the respondent's supervisor and the Appropriate Administrative Officer's designee. The Appropriate Administrative Officer shall not involve himself/herself in this meeting. If the informal means of resolving the grievance fails, a grievance committee will be impaneled as called for in Section 390.010 E.1.

E. Formation of Grievance Committee
1. It shall be the responsibility of the Appropriate Administrative Officer to coordinate the procedure contained herein, to make provisions for hearing rooms, to coordinate secretarial and recording services and to otherwise serve the grievance committee as needed.

2. A grievance hearing panel shall be established by October 1 of each year from which a grievance committee should be constituted. The panel shall consist of ten (10) faculty, ten (10) staff and ten (10) students. Selection of the panel will be made by the Chief Student Personnel Administrator from recommendations by the appropriate faculty, staff and student associations. Selection of membership will consider sex, race, disability, academic rank, student classification and employee classification. Membership on the hearing panel shall be for two years. A member's term shall expire on September 30 of the second year unless he/she is serving at that time on a hearing committee still in the process of reviewing an unresolved grievance. In such case, the member's term shall expire as soon as the committee has submitted a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Appropriate Administrative Officer.

3. A hearing committee shall be composed of five (5) members. The grievant shall select two (2) members from the grievance hearing panel provided by the Chief Student Personnel Administrator. The responding faculty/staff/organization shall select two (2) members from the grievance hearing panel. Both parties should have their selection made within 15 working days of the receipt of the request. The four committee members shall then select an additional member from the grievance hearing panel to serve as chair. Neither members of the immediate departmental unit nor student members of pertinent student organizations involved in the grievance shall be eligible to serve on the committee.

4. Any person selected to a grievance committee will be expected to serve on such committees and to be present at all sessions. If a member is absent from a single session, he/she will be required to review all tapes or transcribed proceedings of that session prior to the next meeting of the committee. Should a member be absent from two sessions or should a member request to be excused from service for reasons of illness, necessary absence from the campus or other hardship, then the member shall be replaced in the same manner used in the original selection (see Section 390.010 E.3). If a member is unable or ineligible to serve for whatever reason, the replacement shall review all tapes or written transcripts and all submitted evidence prior to service on the committee. Five members of the hearing committee, duly selected as in Sections 390.010 E.3 and E.4 must attend the opening and closing session of the hearing.

F. Hearing Procedures for Formal Grievances
1. It shall be the responsibility of the Appropriate Administrative Officer to coordinate the procedure contained herein, to make provisions for hearing rooms, to coordinate secretarial and recording services and to otherwise serve the grievance committee as needed.

2. At the first organizational meeting of the grievance committee, the committee shall elect a chairperson from among the
members to preside over subsequent meetings. Then the chairperson shall schedule a hearing at the earliest convenient time when all affected parties can be present.

3. A quorum consists of a minimum of four members of the committee except as provided by Section 390.010 E.4.

4. The grievance committee shall invite the grievant and the responding person to all hearings. Attendance at the hearings shall be limited to persons who have an official connection with the case as determined by the chairperson. The grievant and the responding person may choose to be accompanied by an advisor. Others whose participation in the hearing is considered essential in order to assist the committee in establishing the facts of the case shall appear before the committee only long enough to give testimony and to answer questions of committee members.

5. It is within the duties and responsibilities of all members of a grievance committee to commit themselves to observe procedures consistent with fairness to all parties concerned. For example, it is a matter of principle that members of the grievance committee will not discuss a case with anyone outside of the hearing process and that their finding will not be influenced by anything other than the evidence presented to them in meetings in which all affected parties are present.

6. The grievance committee shall set forth the rules of procedure for the hearing within the guidelines set forth herein. The chairperson may, for good cause and with the concurrence of a majority of the entire committee, authorize deviation from the suggested format, in which case the principal parties shall be notified.

7. At any point in the proceedings prior to the time at which the committee reaches its final decision, the grievant may withdraw any portion or all of the grievance with the consent of a majority of the committee members and of the respondent. In all cases of withdrawal at the consent of the committee and of the respondent, the grievant shall not have the privilege of reopening the same grievance at any time in the future. In the event that the student refuses to participate further in the committee hearing, the committee may choose to continue the case or to move to closure with an appropriate closing statement as per Section 390.010 F.9.

8. A confidential tape recording of the grievance hearing shall be made and will be accessible to the parties involved, the committee, the Appropriate Administrative Officer, the Chancellor, the President, members of the Board of Curators and authorized representatives on a need-to-know basis. Either party to the grievance may request that the committee provides a written transcript of testimony. The cost of preparation of such a transcript is to be paid by the party making such request unless possible, with equal fairness to both parties.

d. The interested parties shall provide the chairperson with the names of the advisor and potential witnesses at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing. It is the responsibility of the interested party, working with the chairperson, to ensure the presence of these individuals in a timely manner.

e. After initial witnesses for both parties have been heard, such witnesses may be recalled for additional questioning if requested by either party or the grievance committee. The committee may call new witnesses whose testimony it deems relevant or helpful.

f. In order to promote the truthful, unfettered exchange of information and ideas, all testimony pertaining to the grievance hearing shall be held in confidence.

g. Only evidence relevant to the grievance may be introduced. Questions regarding the admissibility of evidence shall be decided by the chairperson.
Section 390.010 B.4 is applicable. After the report of the grievance committee has been prepared, the tapes and relevant materials will be sealed and filed in the Appropriate Administrative Office. Unless extraordinary circumstances apply, these materials will be destroyed at the end of five years.

9. At the conclusion of the grievance hearing, the members of the grievance committee shall meet in closed session to deliberate upon their findings. A majority vote of the entire committee shall be required on all decisions. The grievance committee shall make a written report on findings and recommendations to the Appropriate Administrative Officer of the University, with copies to the grievant(s) and the responding person(s). The written report will contain:
   a. A statement of the purpose of the hearing,
   b. Issues considered,
   c. A summary of the testimony and other evidence presented,
   d. Findings of fact as developed at the hearing, and
   e. Recommendations for final disposition of the case.

10. The Appropriate Administrative Officer will make his/her decision. This decision and the actions that have been taken shall be presented to both parties in writing. If the administrator officer does not accept the recommendations of the grievance committee, a written statement of the reasons for so ruling must be given to both parties and to the chairperson of the committee.

11. If requested by the grievant or the responding party, normally within seven (7) calendar days of the notification of the decision, the decision of the Appropriate Administrative Officer may be subject to a review of the records by the Chancellor. Any review and decision by the Chancellor shall be made normally within thirty (30) calendar days. The decision of the Chancellor can be appealed to the President, who shall have thirty (30) calendar days in which to make a decision, which shall be final.

12. Grievances shall receive prompt attention. The hearing and the report of the grievance committee shall normally be completed within sixty (60) calendar days of the formation of the grievance committee, and a final decision shall be made by the Appropriate Administrative Officer normally within ten (10) calendar days thereafter. In any case in which these time schedules should prove to be inadequate, the committee shall present, in writing, an amended time schedule to all parties involved.

The format for filing a student discrimination is located at http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/grievance/ch390/grievance_390.010.
Profile

Name: University of Optometry
College of Optometry

Address: One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4400

Location: South Campus Complex of the University of Missouri-St. Louis

History: UM-St. Louis, the fourth campus of the University of Missouri was established in 1963.
The College of Optometry was established in 1980; graduated its first class in May 1984.

Programs: Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)
Hospital Based Optometric Residency
Residency Program in Contact Lenses
Residency in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision
Residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation
Residency Program in Ocular Disease and Eye Health-Management at Eye Health Care

Class Size: 44

Faculty/Student Ratio: 1:6

Clinical Facilities: UM-St. Louis University Eye Centers
Patient Care Center South Campus Complex
Lindell Eye Center
East St. Louis Optometric Center

Specialty Clinics:
Low Vision Rehabilitation
Pediatric/Binocular Vision
Contact Lens
Eye Health Management
Specialized Visual Analysis (which includes electroretinography, visual evoked potential, contrast sensitivity, dark adaptation and glare recovery, color vision and temporal resolution, and special tests of retinal and optic nerve function tailored for the particular patient's needs)

Accreditation: Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association (ACOE)
243 North Lindbergh
St. Louis, MO 63141
Next site visit is scheduled for November, 2015
Academic Calendar for 2018-2019

2018 Fall Semester
*Indicates date not yet set

August
20  Monday, classes begin 8:00 a.m.

September
3  Monday, no classes, Labor Day Holiday
4  Tuesday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.

November
17  Saturday, Fall Break (Thanksgiving Holiday) begins 5:00 p.m.
26  Monday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.

December
8  Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.
10  Monday, final examinations begin
15  Saturday, Fall Semester closes, end of day
15  Saturday Fall Commencement

2018 Winter Intersession

January
7  Monday, classes begin 8:00 a.m.
19  Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.

2019 Spring Semester

January
7  Monday, 4th year clinic begins at all sites
7  Monday, 3rd year classes, clinics, laboratories begin 8:00 a.m.
21  Monday, Martin Luther King Holiday
22  Tuesday, classes begin 8:00 a.m.

March
11  Monday, 3rd year NBEO study break begins (all clinic responsibilities continue)
19-22  NBEO Part I Exam (3rd year targeted exam dates)
23  Saturday, Internal Spring recess begins 5:00 p.m.

April
1  Monday, classes resume 8:00 a.m.
11-12, 18-19  Clinic privileging exam (tentative date)

May
11  Saturday, classes end 5:00 p.m.
13  Monday, final examinations begin
17  Friday, orientation to clinic for 2nd year students (tentative, time to be announce)
17  Saturday, Spring Semester closes, end of day
18/19  Sat/Sun, Spring Commencement
24  White Coat

2019 Summer Semester

2019 Summer Semester

Session I (4 weeks)

May
20  Monday, classes begin, 8:00 a.m.
27  Monday, Memorial Day holiday
28  Tuesday, classes resume, 8:00 a.m.

June
15  Saturday, session closes, end of day

Session 2 (4 weeks)

June
17  Monday, classes begin, 8:00 a.m.
July
4  Thursday, no classes, Independence Day holiday
5  Friday, classes resume, 8:00 a.m.
13  Saturday, session closes, end of day

Session 3 (4 weeks)

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

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

Session 4 (8 weeks)

May 20 – July 13 (Summer Sessions 1 & 2, above)
July 10, 11, 12, & 13 Final Examinations

Session 5 (8 weeks)

June 17 – August 10 (Summer Sessions 2 & 3, above)
August 7, 8, 9, & 10 Final Examinations

Session 6 (12 weeks)

May 20 – August 10 (Summer Sessions, 1, 2, & 3, above)
August 7, 8, 9, & 10 Final Examinations

August 10  Saturday Summer Commencement

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

http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/publications/academic_calendar.html
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### Curriculum Addendum

#### Classes of 2019‡

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

† Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.
## Classes of 2020†

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#### Fourth Year

#### Category 1 UM-St. Louis

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#### Category 3 Ocular Disease

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Elective Courses in the College of Optometry

8400 Directed Readings
8410 Directed Research

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1 Due to advances in the optometric profession, sequencing of courses may change. The courses listed above are subject to change through normal academic procedures. Refer to the addendum at the end of this bulletin for curriculum changes that may affect your program sequencing. 1 Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.
### Classes of 2021‡

#### First Year

**Fall Semester**

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**Spring Semester**

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#### Fourth Year

**Category 1 UM-St. Louis**

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

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**Category 2 Institutional**

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**Category 3 Ocular Disease**

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### Elective Courses in the College of Optometry

- 8400 Directed Readings
- 8410 Directed Research

\(^\d\) Due to advances in the optometric profession, sequencing of courses may change. The courses listed above are subject to change through normal academic procedures. Refer to the addendum at the end of this bulletin for curriculum changes that may affect your program sequencing. \(^\d\) Every two (2) lab hours and every two (2) clinic hours is equivalent to one (1) credit hour.
## Classes of 2022‡

### First Year

#### Fall Semester

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### Fourth Year

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**Elective Courses in the College of Optometry**

8400 Directed Readings
8410 Directed Research

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