

Michigan College of Optometry

"Every child has the civil right, if not the divine right, to enter our public schools with as good eyes, as good teeth, as clean throat, as good body as modern science can give him."

-Woodbridge N. Ferris

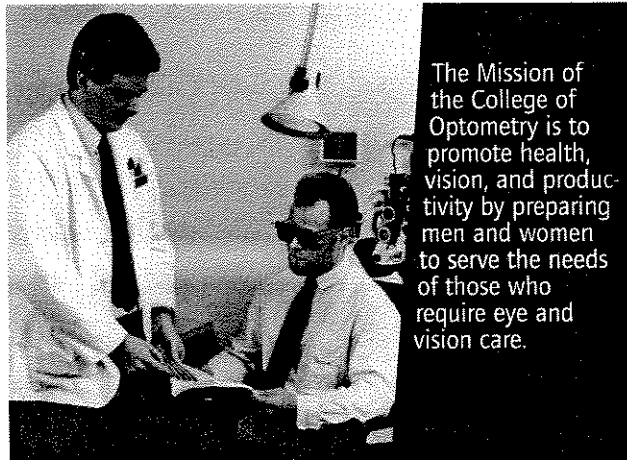


Michigan College of Optometry

The College of Optometry was established in accordance with Act 227 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1974. The initial class entered the College in the fall of 1975. The Board of Trustees changed the name to the Michigan College of Optometry in 1996.

The mission of the College of Optometry is to promote health, vision, and productivity by preparing men and women to serve the needs of those who require eye and vision care. It strives to impart to its graduates a strong ethical, social and professional commitment, and to assure its graduates have the knowledge and skills necessary for current practice as well as those that assure an ability and affinity for self-directed lifelong learning. The College, through its clinics, serves as a center for education, patient care and applied research to provide environments in which current vision care procedures, delivery systems and models are continually evaluated and where new approaches to clinical education and patient care are developed. The College serves as a resource for information and education to those already in practice and to the community at large.

College of Optometry



The Mission of the College of Optometry is to promote health, vision, and productivity by preparing men and women to serve the needs of those who require eye and vision care.

Purposes:

- To select and prepare men and women for excellence in the practice of optometry.
- To provide an academic and professional environment for students that will stimulate their appreciation for and understanding of professional and ethical behavior and which will provide the opportunity for them to develop their potential for leadership in their profession and communities.
- To maintain and develop clinical programs for the training of present and future practitioners which demonstrate and utilize the highest levels of technology and interpersonal skills and which serve as patient-care resources to the state of Michigan.
- To conduct programs of research in vision, patient care, and professional education which further the ability to care for patients and to educate those who will assume those responsibilities in the future.

The Profession of Optometry

Optometrists (O.D.) are independent primary health care providers, as regulated by state law, who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions. Optometric testing includes the health of the eyes and the visual system, the refractive (optical) status of the eyes, the functioning of the ocular neuromuscular system with emphasis on how efficiently the two eyes work together, and the perceptual functioning of the visual system.

Optometrists have completed special studies in pediatric and geriatric vision and ocular health problems, the effects of the general and occupational environment on vision and ocular health, and the role of vision in children with learning disabilities.

Optometrists are licensed to use both diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (drugs) in all fifty states for the purposes of treatment and management of certain ocular diseases.

Optometry is practiced in a variety of settings including solo practice, group practice, referral centers, and health maintenance organizations. In addition, there are hospital based optometry positions and other institutional practice settings within the military, Veterans Administration, and Indian Health Service. Optometry has long been regarded as a profession that is personally satisfying and financially rewarding.

Doctor of Optometry

The doctor of optometry degree (O.D.) offered by Ferris State University requires a minimum of three years of pre-professional study followed by four years of study in the professional optometric curriculum.

The professional curriculum includes clinical training and practice under the supervision of the faculty of the College of Optometry. Students who desire to study optometry must be orderly persons capable of assuming professional and ethical responsibilities.

Licensure as an Optometrist

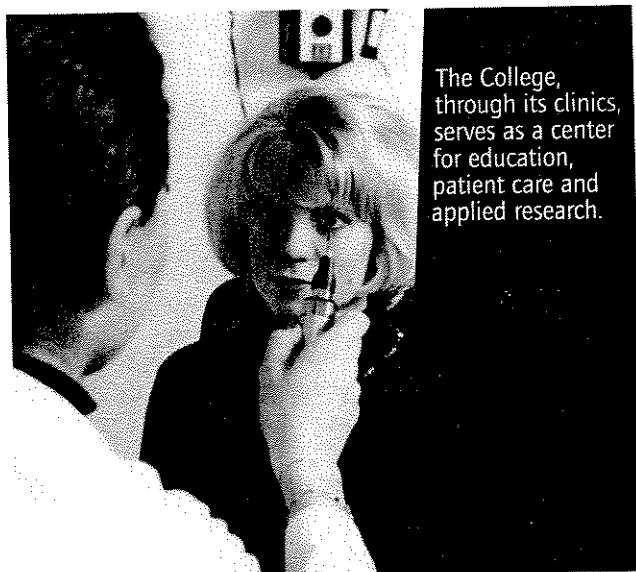
State laws regulate the practice of optometry as a profession. Before obtaining a license to practice optometry in a given state, a graduate must pass the examination given by the Board of Examiners in Optometry of that state. Most State Board of Examiners, including the state of Michigan, also requires passage of the National Board Examination as administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO). Since scoring requirements vary among the states, graduates should contact the boards of the specific states where they intend to seek licensure for further information.

Visual Science (Bachelor of Science)

A student who has completed the pre-optometry and specified distribution requirements and is enrolled in the professional optometry program, is eligible to receive a Bachelor of Science in Visual Science degree after completing the first two years of the optometry curriculum provided the student does not already possess a bachelors degree.

Students seeking this degree must meet the University's general education graduation requirements. Graduates must complete all general education requirements as outlined in the "General Education" section of this catalog, and have an ACT math subscore of 24, or complete MATH 115 or pass the proficiency exam. The specific requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Vision Science degree are included in the following section, "Admission Requirements."

Students enrolled in the pre-optometry track of the Applied Biology program of Ferris State University are eligible to receive a Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology after their first year in the professional program.



The College, through its clinics, serves as a center for education, patient care and applied research.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must complete at least 80 semester hours of pre-professional courses prior to admission to the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. An application may be submitted while the minimum requirements are being completed. The pre-professional courses may be taken at the Ferris State University College of Arts and Sciences, or at another accredited college or university.

Pre-professional training must include the following: general biology or zoology (one year with lab); general inorganic chemistry (one year with lab); non-calculus based college physics (one year with lab); college mathematics through calculus 1; organic chemistry (one year with lab); statistics (two semester hours); college English (one year or six semester hours); pre-professional, 200 level or higher physiology (four semester hours minimum with lab); biochemistry with organic chemistry prerequisite/concurrent enrollment (4 semester hours); microbiology, 300 level or higher, organic chemistry prerequisite (four semester hours minimum with lab); humanities (nine semester hours from two different areas to include one speech course); and behavioral science (nine semester hours with a minimum of three semester hours in general psychology. Courses should be selected from two different areas with one 300-level course from one of the following: anthropology, economics, political science, psychology or sociology. In addition, it is highly recommended that an applicant for admission take a course in introductory business management or accounting.

All applicants are required to take the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT), which is designed to measure general academic ability and scientific knowledge. In order to have the test results reported by the application deadline of February 1, it is essential that the applicant take the OAT during the fall testing session preceding the fall for which entry is being sought. Additionally, application for the OAT must be made at least one month prior to the testing date desired. Information regarding the OAT may be obtained by writing directly to Optometry Admissions Testing Program, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1840, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678.

How to Apply

Applications for admission to the Michigan College of Optometry are accepted between October 1 and February 1. In addition to the application form, the applicant must furnish the following materials to the Ferris State University Office of Admissions:

1. Official transcript of high school grades to include rank in the graduating class, and ACT and/or SAT scores;
2. Official transcript of all college courses completed (additional transcripts should be supplied as subsequent courses are added);

3. Letters of recommendation from three professional persons, one of whom should be a college professor and one an optometrist. The third letter should come from another professional who is neither an optometrist nor a college professor. Special forms will be provided for these letters and are required except in unusual circumstance. A letter from a college pre-professional committee will serve as the "instructor's" letter and will replace that particular recommendation form.
4. Results from the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT).
5. A brief essay written by the applicant stating the applicant's reasons for desiring to become an optometrist. The suggested length is two pages, typed, double-spaced.

The application is not considered complete until all of the above materials are in the applicant's file in the Office of Admissions. The optometry admissions committee reviews only those applications that are completed by February 1. Early application is recommended so that the applicant may receive early consideration by the admissions committee.

Candidates may be invited to the campus for a personal interview with members of the optometry admissions committee.

The Michigan College of Optometry receives applications from many more qualified candidates than can be accepted into the program. Accordingly, only the most qualified of those who are eligible are selected for admission. Student selection is based upon high school and college grades, grades earned in the required pre-professional science and mathematics courses, academic aptitude, OAT results, recommendations, interviews, personal qualifications, motivation, knowledge of and the potential for success in the profession.

Applicants who have completed their prerequisites outside of the United States or Canada are individually evaluated and must submit a certified course equivalency evaluation of all transcript coursework.

Also, for those for whom English is not the primary language, there is a requirement that the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) be successfully completed with a minimum score of 550. For TOEFL information, write to TOEFL, Educational Tests Service, Princeton, NJ 08540.

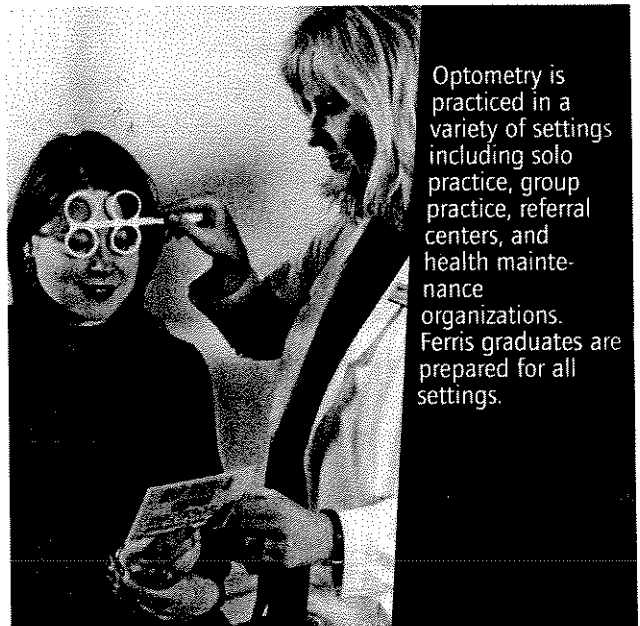
The completion of the annual applicant selection process, including announcements of results, is planned for April 15.

The Michigan College of Optometry and Ferris State University are equal opportunity institutions and comply fully with all federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to individual rights and responsibilities. Consistent with the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), applicants with a disability must be able to perform the essential requirements of the program and/or activities associated with the program, with or without reasonable accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the College of any circumstances that may necessitate an accommodation and to specifically state the accommodation(s) being sought.

Scholastic Regulations

The following regulations apply to optometry doctoral (O.D.) students:

1. A student whose grade point average (GPA) is less than 2.0 for any given semester is placed on academic probation for the following semester. A student who earns less than a 2.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters is dismissed from the College of Optometry.
2. Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 after one year in order to qualify for entry into the second year of the optometry program. Students not having at least a 2.0 GPA after the first year are dismissed from the College of Optometry.
3. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at all times during the final three years of the four-year optometry program. Failure to do so results in dismissal from the College of Optometry.



Optometry is practiced in a variety of settings including solo practice, group practice, referral centers, and health maintenance organizations. Ferris graduates are prepared for all settings.

4. In sequential courses in the same subject area, students must complete the sequence with a composite grade point average greater than or equal to 1.5, or be placed on academic probation with the potential for dismissal from the College of Optometry. The Academic Review Committee will weigh the consequences of the student's academic weakness and set criteria for the student to remedy the deficiency. However, if the criteria result in a time extension to allow for an out-of-sequence graduation, such a recommendation shall be forthcoming only at the option of the committee after careful consideration of the student's overall prior academic performance, perceived commitment to the College of Optometry, the optometry profession and optometric patients, any existing extenuating

circumstances and the best interest of the student and the faculty of the college. Failure of the committee to recommend this option shall result in dismissal from the College of Optometry subject to the approval of the dean.

Sequential courses within the curriculum are as follows:

OPTM 410/OPTM 411; OPTM 420/OPTM 421;
OPTM 440/OPTM 441; OPTM 512/OPTM 513;
OPTM 522/OPTM 523; OPTM 550/OPTM
551; OPTM 560/OPTM 661; OPTM 580/OPTM 581;
OPTM 682/OPTM 683; OPTM 784/OPTM
785/OPTM 786

5. Students who fail a course in the optometry program are placed on academic probation regardless of their GPA. The academic review committee weighs the consequences of the course failure. If such failure necessitates extending the individual's graduation date beyond that anticipated for the four-year professional program, then such course failure results in dismissal from the College. Should the academic review committee elect to recommend a time extension to allow for an out-of-sequence graduation by the student, such a recommendation shall be forth coming only at the option of the committee, and only after careful consideration of the student's overall prior academic performance, perceived commitment to the College and the optometry profession, any existing extenuating circumstances which warrant consideration, and the best interest of the student and the faculty of the College. Failure of the committee to recommend this option shall result in dismissal from the College of Optometry subject to the approval of the dean.
6. A student who is on academic probation may be dismissed at the end of any probationary semester if, in the opinion of the dean, the student's performance does not warrant continuation.
7. Students who are dismissed from the College for academic reasons have the opportunity to file an appeal with the Academic Review Committee of the College of Optometry. Requests for appeal must be made in writing and submitted to the office of the associate dean by letter postmarked within 48 hours of receipt of the dismissal letter.
8. Students are required to take and pass a proficiency examination at either the conclusion of the first year or the beginning of the second year of the program in order to qualify for patient care activities. Proficiency examination failure may result in dismissal from the college. Any such dismissal is subject to appeal.

Student Expenses

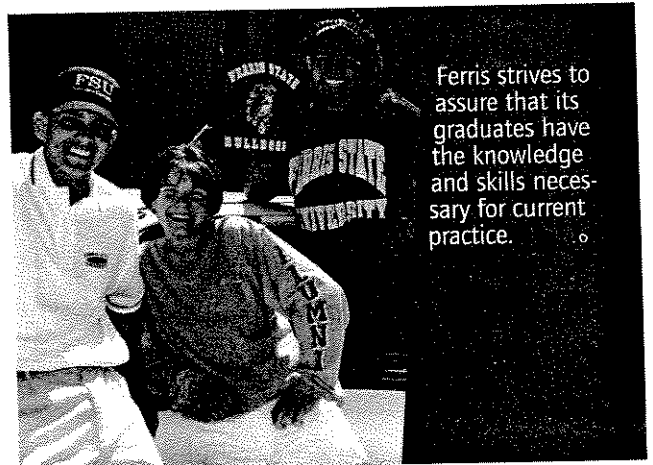
During the four-year optometry doctoral program, students are required to buy approximately \$4,900 worth of personal clinical equipment and \$2,200 worth of textbooks (1999 prices). See Ferris State University literature for tuition, housing, and food cost estimates. Travel, housing and food expenses for the off-campus clinic rotations may be higher than for the on-campus part of the curriculum.

To obtain a Michigan optometry license, graduates must have passed Parts I and II of the National Board Examination in Optometry. In 1999, the total fees for all parts of this examination were \$2,440.

Degree Requirements

Upon completion of the specified requirements, the Doctor of Optometry degree is awarded. Candidates for this degree must:

1. Successfully complete all of the courses outlined in the optometry curriculum;
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0 (see grading system);
3. Sit for the testing of Parts I and II of the National Board of Examiners of Optometry.
4. Meet any special conditions set forth by the dean.
5. Be recommended for the degree by the faculty of the Michigan College of Optometry.



Ferris strives to assure that its graduates have the knowledge and skills necessary for current practice.

Professional Academic Program

| Courses Required | | Credit hours |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| BIOL 431 | Human Anatomy and Physiology | 5 |
| BIOL 480 | Microbiology for Optometry | 2 |
| OPTM 401 | The Practice of Optometry | 2 |
| OPTM 410 | Geometric, Physical and Visual Optics 1 | 5 |
| OPTM 411 | Geometric, Physical and Visual Optics 2 | 5 |
| OPTM 420 | Ocular Health Assessment | 3 |
| OPTM 430 | Neuroanatomy | 3 |
| OPTM 421 | Assessment of the Eye's Refractive Status and Oculomotor Systems/Testing | 5 |
| OPTM 431 | Ocular Anatomy and Physiology | 4 |
| OPTM 440 | Optical and Motor Aspects of Human Vision | 6 |
| OPTM 512 | Ophthalmic Optics | 3 |
| OPTM 513 | Ophthalmic Optics and Environmental Vision | 4 |
| OPTM 522 | Assessment of the Oculomotor System/Analysis | 4 |
| OPTM 523 | Strabismus and Vision Therapy | 4 |

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| OPTM 532 | General Pathology | 4 |
| OPTM 533 | General and Ocular Pharmacology | 5 |
| OPTM 541 | Visual Information Processing and Perception | 6 |
| OPTM 550 | Ocular Disease 1 | 4 |
| OPTM 551 | Ocular Disease 2 | 3 |
| OPTM 560 | Contact Lenses 1 | 3 |
| OPTM 580 | Optometry Clinic 2-1 | 1 |
| OPTM 581 | Optometry Clinic 2-2 | 1 |
| OPTM 602 | Public Health Aspects of the Practice of Optometry | 3 |
| OPTM 624 | Pediatric Vision | 2 |
| OPTM 642 | Visual Fields | 3 |
| OPTM 652 | Clinical Neurooptometry | 2 |
| OPTM 661 | Contact Lenses 2 | 4 |
| OPTM 682 | Optometry Clinic 3-1 | 6 |
| OPTM 603 | Ethics and Management of the Practice of Optometry | 4 |
| OPTM 625 | Developmental Aspects of Vision | 3 |
| OPTM 634 | Pharmacological Management of Ocular Conditions | 2 |
| OPTM 643 | Low Vision and Geriatric Vision | 4 |
| OPTM 653 | Ocular Disease 3 | 2 |
| OPTM 683 | Optometry Clinic 3-2 | 6 |
| OPTM 784 | Clinical Practice in Optometry 1 | 13 |
| OPTM 785 | Clinical Practice in Optometry 2 | 13 |
| OPTM 786 | Clinical Practice in Optometry 3 | 13 |
| OPTM 797 | Special Studies | 1-4 |