

Mission Statement

The mission of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University is to provide *Excellence, Leadership, and Innovation* in optometric education.

Excellence

The Michigan College of Optometry is committed to providing quality state-of-the-art optometric education. The MCO faculty strives to select and prepare men and women for excellence in the practice of optometry to serve the eye care needs of the public.

Leadership

MCO is a recognized leader in optometric education and the profession. Our curriculum serves as a model for other optometry schools. Our faculty assumes leadership roles throughout the profession of optometry.

Innovation

The Michigan College of Optometry pursues innovation in faculty development and optometric education. MCO faculty develops creative new ways to assure that our graduates are prepared to serve the public's vision and eye care needs.

To meet our mission, MCO furthers the frontiers of primary vision care practice and advanced care practice through the following goals:

- Provide state-of-the-art basic science, clinical science and patient care teaching environments
- Attract and develop excellent faculty and staff
- Encourage scholarly research, educational innovation and invention to further the knowledge base of the profession
- Ensure continuous improvement in optometric curriculum
- Attract highly-qualified, diverse students
- Foster in students a high value for professional integrity and assurance in the dignity and privacy of patients
- Demonstrate and apply concepts of basic and clinical science in daily activities of patient care
- Provide public service to the community, profession and society
- Maintain post-graduate residency programs to ensure specialized training and advanced competency
- Provide strong programs for lifelong learning
- Establish and maintain relationships supportive of the program

Points of Pride

MCO modernized the Doctor of Optometry degree curriculum by reinstating basic biological sciences, adding ethics and the doctor-patient relationship, and applied critical thinking courses, as well as adding courses in glaucoma, laser technology and general physical examination and diagnostic procedures.

MCO expanded the number of affiliated post-graduate residency programs to include the Veterans Administration medical facilities in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Fort Wayne, Indiana; The Laser Center of Michigan in Jackson; the Michigan College of Optometry; and developed and funded an in-house Pediatric Residency to commence in July 2009.

MCO educated our graduates in the use of digital technology such as digital photography, nerve fiber analyzers, corneal topographers, and supported and encouraged the utilization of instructional technologies such as online delivery and teleconferencing.

MCO championed the development of collaborative relationships with Federally Qualified Health Centers, specifically, urban and rural community health centers whereby third- and fourth-year students have the opportunity to provide community-based, primary eye care services for indigent and uninsured members of our community.

MCO continued its support to students for overseas clinical mission trips to further instill a caring attitude as part of a service learning focus.

MCO supports and enhances student leadership development opportunities by the close relationships among our faculty and students.

MCO Optometry students perform markedly better on the NBEO examinations than the average performance for all students in the nation, including 19.3% higher than the national average on Part 1.

MCO supported and mentored faculty members and administrators to serve in leadership positions in the Michigan Optometric Association, the American Academy of Optometry, the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and in many American Optometric Association committees.

MCO completed a very successful re-accreditation process with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

MCO is participating in a \$700,000 grant through Trinity Health Call-to-Care to expand access to equitable care by improving diabetic eye care management and clinical outcomes for low-income patients with diabetes, and to implement a new model of care by installing retinal digital cameras and glaucoma testing devices at four community health centers to provide on-site convenient, cost-effective services to more than 1000 disadvantaged patients with diabetes.

MCO provides personalized instruction through affiliated fourth-year externship sites such as the Veterans Administration hospitals in Detroit; Saginaw; Columbia, S.C.; and Fort Wayne, Ind.; Military and Indian Health Service clinics; private optometric and ophthalmological eye care practices; specialized clinics such as Saginaw Special Needs Vision Clinic, Kresge Eye Institute, Clinical Center at Michigan State University, Cherry Street Health Services, Optometric Institute of Detroit and Duane Waters Hospital at Egeler Correctional Facility that assures the students increased cultural diversity and the widest possible range of patient-care experiences.

MCO continues its tradition of providing academically challenging and intellectually stimulating educational instruction with the addition of five new faculty members: Joshua Lotoczky, O.D.; James Nash, O.D., Ph.D.; Avesh Raghunandan, O.D., Ph.D.; Vandana Rajaram, O.D., Ph.D.; Sarah Hinkley, O.D.; and Dean Luplow, O.D.