

Accreditation Council on  
Optometric Education



American Optometric Association

243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Floor 1 • St. Louis, MO 63141  
(314) 991-4100 • (314) 991-4101 FAX

February 22, 2006

David L. Eisler, Ph.D.  
Office of the President  
Ferris State University  
1201 S. State St., CSS 301  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Dear Dr. Eisler:

At its Winter Meeting on February 3-5, 2006, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education considered the report of the November 13-16, 2005 evaluation visit to the professional optometric degree program at Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry. The Council voted to accept the report, to adopt the Council summary, the statement of compliance with the standards, and the recommendations and suggestions for program enhancement attached to the report, and to continue the classification of "Accredited." The classification of "Accredited" is granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the standards for accreditation. This classification indicates that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. However, the recommendations indicate areas where corrective action is needed to bring the program into full compliance with the standards.

In accordance with requirements for accrediting agencies recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council requires that all professional optometric degree programs must come into full compliance with the ACOE standards within 2 years from the date that the Council determines the program is not in full compliance. The Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry is hereby notified that it must take action within 2 years (by no later than February 5, 2008) to come into compliance with the following standards:

**Summary of Compliance with ACOE Standards**

Standard	Status	Reason for Met in Part or Not Met
IV Faculty	Met in part	No evaluation process for non-tenure track faculty (4.4)
V Students	Met in part	Student records not secured from hazard (5.8); Student policies not published (5.9); Published policies needed for student complaint process and adjudication (5.10)

In its next annual report due May 1, 2007, the program must report efforts to address the above concerns, which are more completely articulated in the enclosed evaluation report and in the recommendations at the end of the report. If the program does not come into compliance with the standards within 2 years, the USDE requires the Council to take prompt adverse action against the program. The Council may extend the time frame for compliance for good cause. The program may also elect to submit a progress report at any time prior to the May 1, 2007 annual report if they have addressed the outstanding recommendations and wish for the Council to consider the recommendations' status prior to submitting the 2007 annual report.

The Council policies indicate that schools and colleges must be evaluated through an on-site visit at least once every eight years, and all programs are reviewed annually through the annual report process. Currently, the next scheduled full evaluation visit for the professional optometric degree program at Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry is November, 2013.

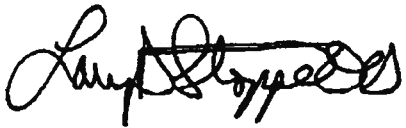
The accreditation is measured from the date of the most recent evaluation visit. Schools and colleges should avoid using such phrases as "accreditation has been continued for eight years" since it is subject to a continual review. Depending on the outcomes of annual reports, progress reports, interim visits, substantive program changes and other events affecting a program, the Council may decide to schedule a full on-site evaluation visit before the original eight year accreditation period is complete. Also, the USDE requires that ACOE must ensure that if a program elects to publicly disclose its ACOE accreditation status, the program

must accurately list its status and include the Council's name, address and telephone number, which are listed above.

The enclosed **Accreditation Manual: Professional Optometric Degree Programs** includes information on ACOE's policies and procedures, including but not limited to information on monitoring accredited programs (page 32), appeal of accreditation decisions (page 30), information on the Council's mission (page 2) and the standards of accreditation (in Chapter 2).

The Council welcomes input on its policies, procedures and standards and invites you to contact us at the St. Louis office address or phone number above with questions, concerns or suggestions. We also invite you to visit the ACOE web site at [www.theacoe.org](http://www.theacoe.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry D. Stoppel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Larry D. Stoppel, O.D., FAAO  
Chair

cc: Dr. Kevin Alexander, Evaluation Team, ACOE

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July 26, 2007

Kevin Alexander, O.D., Ph.D., Dean  
Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry  
1310 Cramer Circle  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Dear Dr. Alexander:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) reviewed the 2007 annual report of the professional optometric degree program at Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry at its annual meeting on June 27-30, 2007 in Boston, Massachusetts and passed the following motion:

**The 2007 annual report of the Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry is accepted. The Council thanks the program for submitting a comprehensive annual report. The ACOE considers that Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 from the program's 2005 evaluation visit are met, and the program has now met all recommendations. The Council will look forward to receiving the program's next annual report on May 1, 2008.**

The following is the status of recommendations from the most recent visit to your program. You are commended for meeting all of the recommendations from the last site visit.

Recommendation	Status	Date Met
1. A process for formal evaluation, including establishment of goals and performance assessment, must be instituted for non-tenure track faculty. (4.4)	MET	6 2007
2. Student records must be secured from fire, water and other hazards. (5.8)	MET	6 2007
3. The College must develop and publish an accessible compilation of all student-related policies for students. (5.9)	MET	6 2007
4. The College must publish and provide policies and procedures regarding registering and handling of student complaints. (5.10)	MET	6 2007

The date of the next scheduled site visit for Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry is November 2013.

On behalf of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, I thank you for providing us with this update on the status of your program. I encourage you to contact me at the St. Louis address above if you have any ideas or suggestions on ways the Council can improve its process. I also invite you to visit our web site at [www.theacoe.org](http://www.theacoe.org) to obtain the latest information about Council activities, process and standards.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Stoppel, O.D., F.A.A.O., Chair

cc: ACOE, Ms. Urbeck