# AUTOMATED PHOROPTER QUALITY ASSURANCE Amanda Kruse, BS, Ashley Gorney, BS, Brian McDowell, OD

## Introduction

Automated phoropters are relatively new technology with very little information available besides what the manufacturers offer. Optometrists have begun to make the switch from standard to automated phoropters, but not completely. Optometry students currently get limited exposure to automated phoropters and may not have the opportunity to gain efficiency using them. The purpose of this survey is to evaluate the level of interest current students at the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) have in automated phoropters.

### Methods

This quality assurance study was conducted by sending out a survey to all current students at the MCO. The main areas focused on in the survey included gaining information if students had knowledge of current automated phoropters available for use at MCO, if students had any major reservations about using automated phoropters, the level of interest in learning how to use automated phoropters and integrating them more into the curriculum at the MCO. These questions helped to determine if the length of time at MCO impacted if respondents knew there are automated phoropters available to them. They also helped to determine if respondents had reservations about operating them and if respondents believed learning how to efficiently use automated phoropters would help their future career paths.

Figure 1: Survey Question 🔻

Would you like to see the use of automated phoropters included in the curriculum at MCO?

What is your level of interest in using automated phoropters?

How many semesters have you been a student at MCO?

Do you have any reservations about using an automated phoropter?

Do you feel like learning to use an automated phoropter will help your future career prospects?

Are you aware that MCO has automated phoropters available for use in lab?

Are you aware that MCO has automated phoropters available for use in clinic?

## Results

83 MCO students participated in the survey, with 21 being first year students, 20 being second year students, 21 being third year students, and 21 being fourth year students.Out of all 83 responders, 80.7% knew we had automated phoropters available in lab, and 68.7% of responders knew automated phoropters were available to use in clinic. Overall, the majority of responders felt that learning how to use automated phoropters should be included into the curriculum at MCO and will help build their resume while they are applying for jobs in the future.

Are you aware that MCO has automated phoropters available for use in lab?



Are you aware that MCO has automated phoropters available for use in clinic?



What is your level of interest in using automated phoropters?



This survey received responses from each class at MCO. 85% of responders feel that learning to use automated phoropters will be beneficial for their future resumes and careers. 86.7% of responders said they would like the use of automated phoropters to become implemented into the curriculum. According to the "Adoption of the Automated Phoropter by Michigan Optometrists" survey, 43.4% of optometrists that responded stated they were using automated phoropters in practice, and of those optometrists who were not currently using automated phoropters, 20.3% stated they intended to use them in the next five years. This data shows that practicing optometrists are embracing new technology and students at MCO should understand how these devices work and how to incorporate them into clinical practice.



#### Conclusion

Do you feel like learning to use an automated phoropter will help your future career prospects?

Yes

No No



Would you like to see the use of automated phoropters included in the curriculum at MCO?



#### References

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