



All didactic courses are offered within the first three years of the curriculum, freeing the entire fourth year for a concentrated clinical experience. Fourth year clinical externships serve to bridge the gap between student and professional life. More than 70% of Michigan College of Optometry interns are off campus their entire fourth year. The fourth professional year extends over a full calendar year divided into three 15-week rotations. Some student interns elect to spend one rotation in residence at the University-based Campus optometry practice, while electing two others from among the affiliated external clinic sites which include military medical facilities, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, co-management consultation centers, State Department of Corrections facilities, health maintenance organizations (HMO), specialty services, and optometric and ophthalmologic private practices.

On line web seminar courses are used to respond to the unique challenges of a widely distributed external educational program. Using the WebCT course management software (Ferris Connect), year-long on-line seminar courses connect all on and off campus faculty and interns, provide a way to connect and communicate in discussions and case presentations, provide feedback in a timely manner, and provide a method of dispersing and receiving administrative information. The online courses are designed to enhance the extern's real-time clinical activities.