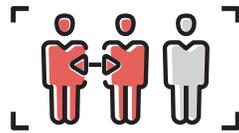


# DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY ARE AMERICA'S PRIMARY EYE CARE PROVIDERS

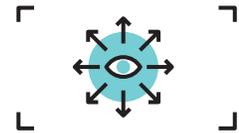
Doctors of optometry deliver an essential component of patients' overall primary health care. During a comprehensive eye exam, doctors of optometry not only determine eye and vision health, but also can identify early warning signs and manifestations of systemic diseases including diabetes, hypertension and cancer.



**\$139 billion** - the economic burden of eye diseases, vision loss, and eye disorders in the U.S.

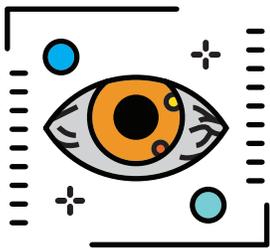


Doctors of optometry provide **more than two-thirds of primary eye health care in America** and more than 99 percent of the U.S. population lives in counties with an eye doctor.



**Optometry has greater geographic distribution** and is more accessible than other eye care professions

## OPTOMETRISTS PROVIDE HIGHLY SPECIALIZED EYE CARE SERVICES, INCLUDING:

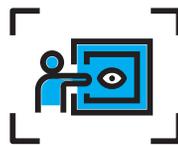


- Deliver vision services such as comprehensive eye examinations, treatment of eye conditions such as amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Diagnose eye conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, conjunctivitis, and more
- Prescribe medications for specific eye conditions (allowed in most states)
- Prevention of eye disease and eye injury services
- Prescribe and fit eye glasses and contact lenses
- Provide pre-operative and postoperative care for patients before and after eye surgery

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING



After undergraduate college training, the **post-graduate, doctoral-level degree program in optometry** is comprised of an additional four years of extensive classroom, laboratory, and clinical training at an accredited optometry school.



This education combines **all phases of functional eye health care and optics with the health sciences** in a unified, specialized program.



**Post-graduate clinical residency programs** are available for optometrists who wish to specialize in family practice optometry, pediatric optometry, geriatric optometry, vision therapy, contact lenses, hospital-based optometry, primary care optometry, or ocular disease.



In addition to their formal training, **all 50 states and the District of Columbia require doctors of optometry to participate in ongoing continuing education courses** to stay current on the latest standards of care and to be eligible for license renewal.



## YEARS 1 & 2 U.S. MEDICAL & OPTOMETRY SCHOOLS

### OPTOMETRY

- Optics
- Vision Science
- Binocular Vision
- Ocular Pharmacology
- Color Vision

### COMMON CORE OPTOMETRY & MEDICINE

- Human Anatomy (Human Cadaver Dissection)
- Neuro Anatomy & Physiology (Brain Dissection)
- Epidemiology/Biostatistics and Public Health
- Pharmacology (Animal Lab)
- Pathology
- Respiratory Systems
- Histology and Cell Biology
- Dermatology
- Microbiology
- Endocrinology
- Reproductive Systems and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Clinical Diagnosis
- Gastroenterology
- Clinical Methods/Interviewing/Physical Examination
- Infectious Disease
- Cardiovascular Systems

### MEDICINE

- Death and Dying
- Healthcare Quality Improvement
- Medical Information Management

## GENERAL OPTOMETRY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### YEAR 3

- Evidence Based Health Care
- Glaucoma/ Neuro Eye III and IV
- Specialty Rotation (Advanced Eyecare)
- Specialty Rotation (Vision Rehabilitation)
- Specialty Rotation (Pediatrics/ Binocular Vision)
- Specialty Rotation (Cornea/ Contact Lens)
- Patient Care Program (Primary Eyecare) IV, V, VI, and VII
- Community-Based Patient Care (CPS)
- Eyewear Center II
- Contact Lenses II
- Infant/ Child Development and Management
- Clinical Medicine I and II
- Retina I and II
- Binocular Vision Disorders
- General & Ocular Emergencies
- Ocular Disease Seminar
- Strabismus and Amblyopia, I and II
- Injections and Minor Surgical Procedures
- Business of Optometry
- Ophthalmic Lasers
- Practice Management III

### YEAR 4

- Externship Rotations (20 CR hrs each):
- Eye Institute Patient Care Rotation
- VA/ Hospital Based Externship Rotation
- Specialty Externship Rotation
- Specialty Externship Rotation

## U. S. MEDICAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### YEAR 3: CORE CLINICAL CLERKSHIPS

- Family & Community Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery
- 2 additional elective clerkships

### YEAR 4: PRE-RESIDENCY

- 4 weeks sub-internship
- 4 weeks ambulatory medicine
- 2 weeks emergency medicine
- 34 weeks electives (students typically do 2-4 week rotations in their specialty area of interest, i.e. ophthalmology, radiology, etc.)
- 2 weeks capstone

