

Pennsylvania College of Optometry has an unparalleled legacy in educating competent and compassionate Doctors of Optometry. We have been pioneering standard-setting innovations in optometric education since 1919. What does it mean today? You get the strongest foundation, in both academics and clinical education, for launching a high-reward, high-satisfaction career. PCO graduates the country's best-trained and most-experienced optometrists. We have been doing it for nearly a century.

PCO delivers more clinical immersion: more extensive, more

Salus University comprises four accredited colleges:

- Pennsylvania College of Optometry
- George S. Osborne College of Audiology
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Education and Rehabilitation

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SALUS is proud to be the only university founded by a college of optometry. That spirit of innovation drives the educational philosophy of our graduate-level colleges in the health sciences. With a long track record of "firsts" and "onlys," Salus University is an educational leader in Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant studies, and Low-Vision Education and Rehabilitation. We pioneered many of the advances that have transformed education in our professions.

Our academic programs feature innovative biomedical-based curricula as well as early and extensive clinical education both on and off campus. Hands-on skills are learned in state-of-the-art teaching labs, and direct patient care is mastered in our own community-based clinics as well as in hundreds of practice sites across the country. In addition, Salus is a multidisciplinary university that encourages a collaborative campus culture, ensuring that our students are well grounded in today's team approach to health care.

Because Salus pushes the frontiers of education, our graduates stand at the forefront of their professions. That's why ambitious students from around the world choose to study at Salus. This private university, located in a quiet suburb outside Philadelphia, is a collaborative and goal-oriented community united in a common purpose: to make a real difference in the lives of real people. Our name—Salus, from a Latin word meaning "health and well-being"—embodies that mission.



Optometry has many rewards: Multiple career paths with work– family flexibility. Solid prospects in a high-demand, biggrowth profession. Impressive salaries. The satisfaction of improving people's lives—measurably and immediately every day. In fact, U.S. News & World Report has named optometry as one of today's best careers.



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legacy of leadership and a reputation for innovation distinguishes the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. For almost a century, PCO has continually thought forward in optometric education, challenging accepted practices and setting new standards. We continue that tradition in our four-year, post-baccalaureate program leading to the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.

This is a rigorous program of in-depth classroom learning and intense



ALWAYS STRIVING

New academic programs and options are
being launched, so check our website often.

PCO Firsts in Optometry

1010

First nonprofit, independent college of optometry in the country

1923

First to confer the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree

1975

First to develop a comprehensive externship program

1978

First to establish a comprehensive, multidisciplinary clinical facility for community-based training

clinical experience. The academic focus is on the biomedical sciences, so you understand not only vision but also overall health and disease. The clinical experience is patient centered, so you master the skills of the clinician and the values of the primary care practitioner. The curriculum is fully integrated through a modular approach that reinforces vision-science concepts with hands-on clinical work. PCO strives to educate optometrists who are skilled, knowledgeable, and caring professionals.

In fact, our graduates enter the profession with more hours of clinical experience than do their peers. That's because PCO is the first college of optometry to introduce early clinical education, beginning in the first year. This earlier and more extensive clinical exposure begins at The Eye Institute, our on-campus community eye care clinic, and continues through a 16-month extern-

ship program involving

hundreds of practice sites. PCO further eases the transition to real-world practice with targeted preparation for the business aspects of a successful optometry practice.

As a student of Salus University, you will enjoy the camaraderie and focused support of a community united across disciplines in the pursuit of human health and wellness. As a student of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, you will benefit from the expertise of a stellar faculty and access to top-flight academic facilities. Finally, as a PCO-educated optometrist, you will join an elite professional network of 6,500

alumni in the United
States and 2,000
international
practitioners.

PCO faculty are respected practitioners and world-class scientists attracting \$2 million in sponsored research each year. They are also engaged and generous teachers, dedicated to the success of their students and the advancement of the optometric profession. "The faculty always have an open door policy and go the extra mile to help us excel in our professional endeavors," says third-year student Abby Brubaker.

More Opportunity

PCO offers one-year postgraduate optometric residency appointments at The Eye Institute to the highest-achieving students. Ambitious students can also collaborate on faculty research.

ot just eye care—patient care. The PCO curriculum trains and educates optometrists who are skilled at refraction, vision correction, and primary care and health maintenance of the eye. With its strong biomedical foundation, our curriculum also prepares optometrists who are empowered with a holistic understanding of the eye and its interconnections with human health and disease. PCO optometrists are true primary care practitioners, enhancing vision and managing patients' comprehensive ocular health.

Our curriculum integrates biomedical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional values across a year-round, four-year program. Organized into ten overlapping educational modules, the curriculum sequentially introduces concepts and builds competence in all knowledge areas over the entire course of study. In this integrative model, scientific concepts



FACE TO FACE
Students practice on real patients with real needs in a community setting.

presented in coursework are simultaneously translated into hands-on practice in progressively challenging clinical settings, from our on-campus clinical facility to off-campus practice sites.

A PCO education emphasizes small-group, interactive learning. Faculty members work one on one with students in the Clinical Skills Lab. Faculty-led student teams collaborate on challenging case studies in clinical problem-solving classes. With an eye on your future, the PCO curriculum includes a professional development

module that prepares you to manage the business aspect of your optometric career.

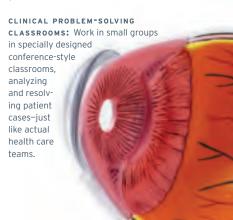
Students looking to further enrich their educations can do so at PCO. Students can assist with faculty research, or pursue an advanced studies program in one of several optometric specialty areas. An accelerated dual-degree program is open to qualified undergraduates at participating institutions. As a result of your PCO education, you will graduate as a confident optometrist well prepared for entry-level practice.

Great Spaces for Learning

CLINICAL SKILLS LAB: Sharpen your skills in a 21-bay teaching lab that replicates the instruments and technologies used by practicing optometrists.

ALCON LAB: Experience dynamic group learning in a multimedia classroom where students and faculty interact with course materials and with each other via linked computers at each desk.

CENTER FOR COMPUTER-ASSISTED
LEARNING: Connect with all things
digital, from standard applications to
specialized software and faculty-developed
instructional programs that supplement
your coursework.



The Eye Institute is our clinical teaching facility. This community clinic manages more than 45,000 visits each year and puts direct patient care on your résumé. At The Eye Institute, students treat patients from infants to seniors. They collaborate with optometrists, ophthalmologists, opticians, optometric technicians, and others. They also deliver the highest-quality eye care in an actual community setting.

Clear Advantage Students care for high-need patients at The Eye Institute, ensuring exposure to a broad range of eye diseases and conditionsincluding ones that many practicing optometrists may not see over many years.

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ur early and extensive clinical education program offers students more hours of onsite practice than most other optometry programs. We were the first college of optometry to introduce early clinical experience, with students providing comprehensive patient care in the second year and performing externships in the third year. But it is quality and not just quantity that defines PCO's clinical program.

From the start of your program, you get hands-on training in our Clinical



KIDS COUNT

Students care for infants and children and participate in school vision screenings.

Rigorous Pathway to Practice

YEAR 1

Early introduction to clinical concepts and hands-on training in our Clinical Skills Lab

YEAR 2

Early exposure to direct patient care through mentored clerkships at The Eye Institute and other community settings

YEAR 3

Expedited entry into a 16-month externship program offering hundreds of practice sites nationwide

YEAR 4

Continued practice in 3- to 6-month externships, leading to over 3,000 total hours of clinical experience at graduation

Skills Lab. Arranged in a circle around a central hub are 2I bays, each furnished with the equipment used by practicing optometrists for eye examinations. Here, students pair up to practice doctor-patient interactions under the close guidance of faculty preceptors. Access to instruments made by several different companies ensures that students go into practice with experience on a wide variety of equipment.

By the middle of your second year,

you care for patients at The Eye Institute, our clinical teaching facility located in the nearby Oak Lane section of Philadelphia. Because The Eye Institute serves a high-need community, our students gain experience with the full range of eye and vision problems, from the common to the complex, as well as with associated systemic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and tumors. Additional practice is obtained through clerkships,

community screenings, and on-campus clinical assignments.

Capping your clinical training is a 16-month externship program that begins in the third year; PCO is the only college of optometry offering third-year externships. This expedited entry provides 16 months of experience through four or five 3- to 6-month externships. Students choose among hundreds of sites nationwide, including The Eye Institute, hospital-based sites, disease sites, and private practice sites. You begin your career with a distinct advantage: more clinical immersion and more professional networking contacts than the majority of new optometry graduates.

The Hafter Student Community Center gives students a place alone, or connect with classmates. This new, 36,000-squarefoot complex is staffed with full-time instructors and includes a fitness facility, suspended running track, and full-size basketball court. A comfortable lounge area includes televisions, game room, kitchenette, and meeting rooms.

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ocused yet friendly-that's how students describe PCO and the larger Salus community. The main campus is located in Elkins Park, a quiet place that offers suburban conveniences with quick access to the cultural and professional opportunities of Philadelphia. (The train to Philadelphia is a 15-minute walk from campus.) The Elkins Park Campus, beautifully landscaped on II.5 acres of a former estate, includes two modern academic buildings and a student center clustered near a pond. The Eye Institute, our clinical teaching facility, and its satellite clinics in the Mt. Airy and Strawberry Mansion neighborhoods, are only a few miles away.

Our busy students benefit from a centralized campus with easy access to academic and co-curricular resources, including classrooms, laboratories, library, bookstore, lounges, administrative offices, and a comfortable cafeteria serving drinks,



HEALTH CARE HUB

Philadelphia is home to leading hospitals, academic medical centers, and many professional sites for optometric practice.

snacks, and made-to-order hot and cold foods. As a graduate-level university, Salus assists its students in relocating to the area and choosing among many attractive, affordable housing options in local neighborhoods. Students find it convenient to commute from Elkins Park, by car or public transportation, to clerkships and externships throughout the Philadelphia region.

Salus students are connected by common goals and united in a shared mission, creating a professionally focused campus community. Peers assist one another in evening practice sessions in the labs. Members of the student chapters of optometric professional organizations gain valuable insights and connections within the profession. Students coordinate events such as student-faculty talent shows, charity fundraisers, and the annual Salus Soiree semiformal dance. Volunteers in service organizations share their optometric skills with underserved communities at home and abroad. At Salus, you'll find a campus community as people centered as the health professions it serves.

The Best of Philadelphia

1. OPPORTUNITY

It's a metro center, a medical mecca, and a great place to launch a career in optometry.

2. ARTS & CULTURE

It's a cosmopolitan city of museums, theaters, restaurants, nightclubs, boutiques, and more.

3. SPORTS

It's a real sports town, with 12 professional teams, including the Flyers, Eagles, 76ers, and Phillies.

4. HISTORY

It's where America began, with a story stretching from the colonial to the contemporary.

5. LOCATION

It's at the center of the Northeast metropolitan corridor, close to New York and Washington DC, the Jersey Shore and the Pocono Mountains.

Salus University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disabilities, or veteran status in its programs and activities. For inquiries regarding our non-discrimination policies, contact Maura Alexander, Salus University Affirmative Action Officer, at 215.780.1313.

A Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry is an investment in a profession offering impressive salaries and the immense personal satisfaction of making a meaningful difference in people's lives. We encourage applications from candidates with the prerequisites listed here. In selecting the best students for PCO, we consider many factors, including academic performance, personal achievements, and work experience, among others. The best-qualified applicants receive an invitation for a campus visit and formal interview. This is our opportunity to get to know you, and your opportunity to decide if PCO is right for you.

Timeline for Application

The application process begins the year prior to the year of desired enrollment, with the following key dates:

JUNE 1: Although applicants can take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) through June I of their entering year, we recommend taking the test earlier, between September and December. For more information, visit www.opted.org.

JULY 1: Applications must be submitted through OptomCAS, the centralized application service used by all colleges of optometry. Information is available at www.optomcas.org. AUGUST 1: Application review process begins.

SEPTEMBER 1: The interview process begins, and qualified students are admitted on a rolling basis until class capacity is reached.

MARCH 31: Applications must be received by OptomCAS on or before this date to receive priority consideration.

Prerequisites

- At least 90 semester hours or 135 quarter hours of undergraduate credits
- Satisfactory performance on the Optometry Admission Test (OAT)
- Grade point average of 2.5 (C+) or higher
- Completion of the following pre-professional courses with a grade of 2.0 (C) or higher:
 - General Biology or Zoology, with labs (1 year)
 - General Chemistry, with labs (1 year)
 - Organic Chemistry, with labs (1 year) or Organic Chemistry, with labs (1/2 year) plus Biochemistry or Molecular Biology (1/2 year), with labs recommended
 - · General Physics, with lab (1 year)
 - Mathematics (1 year) or Calculus (1/2 year), with Calculus highly recommended
 - English Composition or Literature (1 year)
 - Psychology (1/2 year)
 - Statistics, with Math, Biology, or Psychology preferred (1/2 year)
 - Microbiology or Bacteriology, with labs (1/2 year)