

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY



CATALOG

2010-11

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The dispositions of this Catalog do not constitute an irrevocable contract between students and the University. The University will make all reasonable efforts to maintain up-to-date information in this Catalog. However, it reserves the right to or change rules, tuition fees, service charges, requirements for programs of study, the requirements for degrees and academic distinctions, course content and any other arrangements that might affect students whenever it seems necessary or desirable.

Students are responsible for reading and understanding the academic, administrative and disciplinary policies and regulations as well as the general requirements for the degree they hope to obtain, from the moment they register in the University.

Graduation requirements as well as academic curricula and programs may change while students are registered at the University. Normally, these changes will not be applied retroactively, but students have the option of completing the new requirements. Nonetheless, when professional certifying or licensing agencies make requirement changes for the corresponding certification or license, the necessary changes to the curricula or programs will be applicable immediately. Students will be solely responsible for deciding if they wish to take the new courses.

It is the University's policy to guarantee equal opportunity in all its educational programs, services and benefits. The University does not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age, marital status, physical appearance, political affiliation or any other classification protected by the dispositions of Title IX of the Amendments to the Education Law of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Law of 1973, the Americans with Handicaps Law of 1990 or any other applicable federal or state law or regulation.

<http://www.optonet.inter.edu>

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ADMINISTRATION

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Galileo St. Jardines Metropolitanos
San Juan, Puerto Rico
*PO Box 363255
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-3255
Tel. (787) 766-1912

SCHOOL OF LAW

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Federico Acosta 85
Sector Tres Monjitas
San Juan, Puerto Rico
*PO Box 70351
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8351
Tel. (787) 751-1912

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
500 John Will Harris
Bayamón, Puerto Rico 00957
Tel. (787) 765-1915

SAN GERMAN CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
*Call Box 5100
San Germán, Puerto Rico 00683-9801
Tel. (787) 264-1912

BARRANQUITAS CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Bo. Helechal St.156,
Intersection 719, Barranquitas
*Box 0517
Barranquitas, Puerto Rico 00794-0517
Tel.(787) 857-3600

GUAYAMA CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Highway 744, K.1, H.2
*Call Box 10004
Guayama, Puerto Rico 00785
Tel. (787) 864-2222

BAYAMON CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Bo. Cerro Gordo
*Highway 830 # 500
Bayamón, Puerto Rico 00957
Tel. (787) 279-1912

ARECIBO CAMPUS

Highway # 2, KM 80.4
Bo. San Daniel, Las Canelas
Arecibo, Puerto Rico
*PO Box 4050
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00613-4050
Tel.(787) 878-5475

METROPOLITAN CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Highway 1
Corner San Francisco St.
*PO Box 191293
San Juan Puerto Rico 00919-1293
Tel. (787) 250-1912

AGUADILLA CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Bo. Corrales, Sector Calero
*PO Box 20000
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico 00605-20000
Tel. (787) 891-0925

FAJARDO CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Union St.-Batey Central, St. 195
Fajardo, Puerto Rico
*Call Box 7003
Fajardo, Puerto Rico 00738-7003
Tel. (787) 863-2390

PONCE CAMPUS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico
Parque Industrial Turpó, RD-1
* Mercedita Station, Puerto Rico 00715-1602
Tel.(787) 284-1912

***Mailing address**

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*The Executive Director is not a Trustee of the Institution.

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Damaris Sánchez, Administrative Officer I

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is the smallest of the Greater Antilles Islands, about the size of Connecticut, USA. Columbus discovered the Island, inhabited by the Taino Indians, in 1493. It remained a Spanish colony until 1898, when Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States. It is a Commonwealth (Estado Libre Asociado) since 1952. Puerto Ricans are United States citizens. Spanish is the main language although English is taught in all schools and is also spoken in the main metropolitan areas.

The average annual temperature of Puerto Rico is 82 degrees Fahrenheit (28 degrees Centigrade). It offers more than 300 miles of beautiful beaches ideal for bathers, joggers and sun worshippers. San Juan is a cosmopolitan city offering a variety of sights and activities including art galleries, international restaurants, sports and artistic events. Historic Old San Juan, the oldest city under United States jurisdiction, is a gem of Spanish architecture. The melting of the Taíno, African and Spanish cultures is evident in the profusion of folkloric festivals throughout the Island. Puerto Ricans are friendly and warm people, deeply proud of their cultural heritage.

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a private institution with a Christian heritage and an ecumenical tradition. It is a non-profit organization that provides college instruction to youth of both sexes. It was originally founded in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico by the Reverend J. William Harris and offered elementary and secondary education on the land occupied today by the San Germán Campus. The first college level courses were started in 1921 and in 1927, the first group of students graduated with Bachelor's degrees. In 1944, the Institution was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. It was the first four-year liberal arts college to be so accredited outside the continental limits of the United States. This accreditation has been maintained since then. The University is approved to provide educational services to veterans intending to pursue studies under the norms of the Veterans' Administration. The programs of the University are authorized by the Council on Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and by the Commonwealth's Department of Education, which certifies teachers for the public school system of Puerto Rico. Inter American University's School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association and the School of Optometry, inaugurated in 1981, by the Council on Optometric Education. In March 1982, the first doctoral program was initiated. Inter American University is the largest private university in Puerto Rico. Enrollment, in recent years, has been maintained at approximately 40,000 students. At the present time, about 24 percent of all the Island's college

students and 40 percent of the students who go to the Island's private colleges attend Inter American University.

Inter American University's tradition of public service, the geographical location of its instructional units and its continuing attention to student needs make it especially attractive and accessible to students from all the municipalities of Puerto Rico. The increasing availability of both Federal and Commonwealth funds for student financial aid has enabled many students, who otherwise would not have been able to do so, to get a college education.

GOVERNANCE

The highest governing body of Inter American University is a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, whose members are elected by the Board itself without any outside intervention or tutelage of any kind.

The President is the chief executive and academic officer of the Institution. The Managerial Systemic Council is composed of the President of the University, Vice-Presidents, Chancellors, the Deans of the Schools of Law and Optometry, an Executive Secretary appointed by the President, the Executive Director of the Information System, the Director of the Office of the Juridical Advisor and the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Systemic Research. In addition, when affairs relevant to their functions are being considered by the Council, the following persons will attend as advisors: the President of the University Council, the Director of the Human Resources Office, the Director of the Office of Promotion and Recruitment and the Director of Planning and Systemic Development of Physical Plant.

Subject to the approval of the President of the University and of the Board of Trustees, the faculties of the School of Law and of the School of Optometry are responsible for their own academic programs and standards. Nevertheless, in all other respects, these professional schools are also subject to university-wide policies, norms and procedures.

The Academic Senates of the instructional units and the University Council, heirs of the Academic Senate created in 1966 and succeeded by the University Senate in 1973, are primarily concerned with the academic well being of the University through the process of academic articulation among the Campuses. The Academic Senates establish academic norms subject to the ratification of the University Council and the concurrence of the President. Both bodies formulate recommendations on affairs related to educational, administrative and research policy.

INSTITUTIONAL UNITS

Inter American University offers academic programs in the following eleven instructional units: The Aguadilla, Arecibo, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Fajardo, Guayama, Metropolitan, Ponce and San Germán Campuses; and in two professional schools: Law and Optometry.

ACADEMIC DEGREES

Inter American University offers pre - university, undergraduate, graduate and professional programs leading to certificates, to Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees, to Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Nursing degrees, to Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science, Master of Library and Information Science, Master of International Business, Master of Fine Arts and Master of Social Work degrees, to a Specialist Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction and to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and a Doctor in Education (Ed.D.) degree. The School of Law of Inter American University grants the Juris Doctor degree and the School of Optometry, the Doctor of Optometry degree.

Some of the University's instructional units offer special programs, which are usually funded by federal grants. The educational activities of the Institution also include courses, seminars and institutes carried out as part of the University's Continuing Education Program.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

The University faculty and the administration strive to achieve the following institutional goals:

1. To provide and maintain a positive atmosphere in the university community that will foster intellectual, social, and moral development based on the fundamental values of Christianity.
2. To promote a liberal education that will lead to the development of an educated person, well-versed in the different fields of human knowledge through the development of critical thinking, moral and civic responsibility, skills in social integration, scientific and mathematical knowledge and a sensibility for the arts that enhance a full life.

3. To succeed in having the student become functionally proficient in the use of Spanish or English and in developing an acceptable level of competency in the other language.
4. To stimulate student understanding and appreciation of Puerto Rico's cultural heritage, its origins, development, contributions and relations with the Caribbean, the Americas and the rest of the world and the commitment to preserve it.
5. To offer a non-proselytizing cultural, ecumenical and moral religious education to increase student awareness of the place of religion in all civilizations and their understanding of its relationship to other disciplines.
6. To offer a variety of programs and services at the undergraduate, graduate, occupational and professional level in accordance with the changing necessities of the student population and of society in its global context.
7. To foster the ongoing growth and commitment of the faculty in the application of teaching methods, in the mastery of the subject matter and in their personal and professional development.
8. To foster the continuous development and improvement of the support personnel of the teaching staff.
9. To succeed in having the support programs for the teaching staff and student services and activities work in harmony with the academic program so as to enhance the total education of the student.
10. To achieve constant progress, properly planned, in the field of new technology with relation to the academic program, educational strategy, support of the faculty, student services, and administration.
11. To stimulate research and creativity in the entire academic community to enrich the Institution's educational endeavors, to increase human understanding of the environment and of the world and to generate new knowledge and technology.
12. To create an awareness of the social, cultural, economic, environmental, and political problems that confront the Puerto Rican society and to stimulate the search for solutions to these problems by defining and discussing them.
13. To promote maximum coordination and cooperation with educational institutions, professional agencies and institutions in Puerto Rico and abroad that foster educational improvement at all levels.

14. To stimulate the members of the communities the Institution serves to recognize the value of continuing personal and professional development by a variety of University program offerings that will enrich their lives and increase their knowledge.
15. To assume a leadership role in promoting the cultural and social enrichment and the prosperity of the communities the Institution serves.

RELIGIOUS LIFE POLICIES

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is an ecumenically oriented institution, but does not adhere to any one particular theology or ecclesiastical body. Founded by Dr. John William Harris, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, Inter American University maintains a historic, friendly and enriching association with that communion as well as with other Christian groups in accordance with its ecumenical spirit.

In affirming its commitment to the Christian ecumenical ideal, the University dedicates itself to the renewal and reaffirmation not only to its own Christian heritage, but also to that of the culture within which it is situated and which it serves. This does not oblige the acceptance of all the details of our Christian past nor of all the elements of modern Christianity. Nevertheless, the University has fostered and will continue to foster the convergence of all Christians in the one faith centered about the person of Jesus Christ as He is made known to us in the apostolic tradition of the Scriptures as the One whom Christians regard as decisive, definite and normative in man's relations with God and his fellow men and with society. The University affirms its conviction that to be a Christian today implies, on the one hand, knowledge of and obedience to the Gospel and, on the other, identification with the Universal church by means of an individual commitment to a particular Christian communion.

The ecumenical posture of the University involves openness to society, to science, to technology and to a plurality of faiths; it involves an integral education of each individual so he or she may exercise a vocation within his or her community in a responsible and productive way; it involves a commitment to serve though not to dominate society; and it involves the development of friendliness, fellowship and understanding to bridge human barriers.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a community of higher education dedicated to a comprehensive search for truth within an environment of responsible freedom and through the encouragement of a mature academic life which guarantees true freedom of investigation. Within this context, religion is studied in the University as an academic discipline designed to engage in fruitful dialog with other university disciplines.

To achieve this, Inter American University of Puerto Rico will continue and strengthen the development of its programs of religious studies and will provide to all its students an opportunity to understand the Christian faith and its implications for our culture; the University will furnish information about the most important aspects of the world's major religions to its students and will encourage them to appreciate these religions within their historic, theological and philosophic context. In this way, the search for faith and for the means to humanize mankind may be seen as a relevant option in a world striving for greater understanding and happiness.

The commitment of Inter American University to its Christian Heritage, as well as to its academic mission, will manifest itself through the development of an ecumenical program of religious life. In accordance with this basic religious philosophy for the academic study of religion and for the development of religious activities, Inter American University, by its act and works, will:

1. Encourage the expression of the Christian principles here set forth,
2. Require the academic study of fundamentals of the Christian faith,
3. Require each instructional unit to establish an Office of Religious Life, which will serve the entire University community.

ASSOCIATIONS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is member of the following professional organizations:

- ▶ American Association for Higher Education
- ▶ American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- ▶ American Council on Education
- ▶ American Health Information Management Association
- ▶ American Library Association
- ▶ Asociación de Colegios y Universidades de Puerto Rico
- ▶ Asociación Latinoamericana de Escuelas y Facultades de Optometría (ALDEFO)
- ▶ Asociación de Presidentes de Universidades de Puerto Rico
- ▶ Association of American Colleges
- ▶ Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
- ▶ Club de Roma
- ▶ College and University Personnel Association
- ▶ College Entrance Examination Board
- ▶ Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs
- ▶ Council on Social Work Education
- ▶ Eastern Association of College and University Business Officers
- ▶ Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
- ▶ Liga Atlética Interuniversitaria
- ▶ National Association of College and University Attorneys
- ▶ National Association of College and University Business Officers

- ▶ National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- ▶ National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- ▶ National League of Nursing
- ▶ National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission
- ▶ Organización Universitaria Interamericana (OUI)
- ▶ American Optometric Association (AOA)
- ▶ American Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE)
- ▶ American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)
- ▶ Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)
- ▶ Association of Visual Sciences Librarians (AVSL)
- ▶ Beta Sigma Kappa
- ▶ Cámara de Comercio de Puerto Rico
- ▶ International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE)
- ▶ National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO)
- ▶ National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)
- ▶ National Association of Colleges Business Officer
- ▶ Easter Association of Colleges Business Officer

RESERVE OFFICERS CORPS (ROTC)

Since January 1975, Inter American University has had formal arrangements with the University of Puerto Rico whereby male and female students of Inter American University may register in the University of Puerto Rico's program for the training of Reserve Officers. Arrangements for participation in this program should be made with the Department of Military Science or Department of Aerospace Studies at the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras or Mayagüez. All ROTC credits taken by Inter American University students under this agreement will be included on their transcripts together with their corresponding grades. These grades will be counted in the grade point index.

Inter American University will accept as elective credits for undergraduate degrees a maximum of twelve credits received in ROTC courses at the 3000 or 4000 levels. The credits received in ROTC courses, up to a maximum of four credits, will be used to satisfy an equal number of credits of the non-academic physical education requirements.

These two norms are applicable to credits received from the University of Puerto Rico under the aforementioned agreement or before its effective date and to credits received from another institution. Any credits not received under the agreement will be considered as transfer credits.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The University stresses the importance of developing educational resources that complement the teaching function. As a result, several programs have been implemented to integrate the latest technological advances to the University's educational services.

THE CENTER FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION (LIBRARY)

Each academic unit has an adequately staffed and equipped Center for Access to Information (CAI). These Centers are organized to function as a coordinated system. An on-line catalog provides access to all University bibliographical resources as well as audiovisual and electronic resources that are made available for computer based research.

The Centers provide remote access to electronic databases through Internet to students, faculty and administrators of the University.

Each Center for Access to Information has developed as an integral part of the University programs in which a number of activities take place, including the development of library skills for students, faculty and administration.

The system collection contains more than one million volumes of printed, audiovisual and electronic resources.

THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER

Each Campus has a Center equipped with computers and other related hardware to assist the faculty in using the computer to produce teaching materials. The Center also serves as a laboratory where those faculty members who already have computer skills can produce their own instructional modules or make use of available commercial software for instructional purposes.

PUBLICATIONS

Inter American University has a variety of publications to facilitate communication within the University community, with alumni and with other academics and academic communities.

The *Law Review*, edited by students, is the official publication of the School of Law. Its articles are written by professors and students from the School of Law, judges and practicing lawyers. Because of the careful selection of its articles, the

Law Review of Inter American University's School of Law is highly esteemed in the field of law.

Interamericana is the official publication of Inter American University. It is published four times a year and its 15,000 copies are distributed to students, faculty, administration, alumni and friends of the Institution. This publication covers activities from all instructional units and features special interviews and current events affecting education or the development of the Institution as well as general information regarding the faculty and administration.

Homines is published by the Metropolitan Campus. It contains critical analyses of current thoughts and events relevant to national and international affairs in the vast field of the social sciences. It is published twice a year.

Prisma is published annually by the Arecibo Campus. It has an interdisciplinary focus for the purpose of fomenting research and literary creativity in the University community. Essays, critiques, poems and short stories are published.

Surisla is published annually by the Ponce Campus. It transmits the literary works of the University community as well as the extramural contributions through an interdisciplinary focus.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association Poly-Inter is an organization of graduates and former students who attended Inter American University or Polytechnic Institute. The Association keeps its members informed of University activities and involves them in its development. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 29 members, nine of which correspond to the alumni chapters of the different campuses and two members to the professional schools. In addition, the Association is before the Board of Trustees of the University by an Alumni Trustee. Each year the Alumni Association holds two principle activities: the celebration of Founders Day and the honoring of distinguished alumni.

In addition, alumni of the School of Optometry may belong to the Alumni Association of the School called “Asociación de Graduados de la Escuela de Optometría”. The Association has Board of Directors which is elected by the alumni every year. Currently, about 80% of the dues of the association are donated to meet student’s needs at the School of Optometry. The Association also holds periodic educational, benefit and social events. Activities of the School’s alumni are coordinated through the Director for Continuing Education/Alumni Association.

INTRODUCTION TO OPTOMETRY

Optometry is a major primary health care profession in the United State whose major thrust is directed towards caring for mankind’s eye problems. The profession is the third largest of the recognized and licensed health professions.

Optometrists who make up the profession deliver general eye care at the primary delivery level. They are specifically licensed in Puerto Rico, all fifty states and the

District of Columbia.

Optometry is relatively young when compared to other health care professions and was first recognized as a profession in the United States by the Minnesota Legislature in 1901. The development of the field has been substantially related to the development of instrument technology and research findings. Many of the advances can be attributed to research conducted in the schools of optometry. This research has produced clinical instruments for use in the areas of glaucoma detection, retinoscopy, low vision, visual field examination and contact lens use. Integration of psychological and optometric knowledge has led to the utilization of behavior modification techniques in optometry's solutions to vision problems.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

The School of Optometry at Inter American University of Puerto Rico offers a bilingual Doctor of Optometry Degree Program dedicated to achieving excellence in clinical eye care. Its clinical program serves mainly Spanish speaking patients and requires students and clinicians to have a working ability of Spanish. Most of the lectures are given in Spanish. English is the official written language and all examinations, books and other printed material are in English. The School is the only accredited bilingual program in the U.S., Caribbean or Latin America and as such serves as a model for other Optometric Programs in Hispanic countries. The School promotes research and scholarship by its faculty, students and graduates for their professional growth and for the future growth and development of the profession.

MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

Our mission is to educate, develop and train, within a bilingual environment and supported by committed and competent collaborators, a diverse student population from Puerto Rico, the United States and the rest of the world, to become Doctors of Optometry who are knowledgeable, skilled and ethical primary health providers, dedicated to community service. We will promote lifelong learning and provide support services to the profession in and outside Puerto Rico through high quality technologies while maintaining the financial viability of the program.

VISION OF THE SCHOOL

A leader institution in the world producing bilingual (English/Spanish) primary eye care providers, known for excellence in primary eye care and community service. A leader in the development of the profession in Puerto Rico, and the outside world based on democratic values and Christian principles of Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHOOL

Goals Description	Objectives Description
1. Recruit a diverse population of students.	✓ The school will recruit and maintain an adequate number of applicants.
	✓ The School will recruit and maintain a diverse number of applicants from Puerto Rico, United States and other parts of the world.
2. Educate and train students to become Doctors of Optometry who are knowledgeable, skilled and ethical primary health providers committed to community service.	✓ Students will receive a quality education that will enable them to approve the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) and licensing examinations.
	✓ The School will maintain accreditation status from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the license from the Council of Higher Education of Puerto Rico.
	✓ The School will provide adequate clinical experiences for the attainment of entry level optometric competencies.
	✓ Patients will receive a clinically sound, courteous and sensitive clinical service.
	✓ Students will participate in community service activities in Puerto Rico and internationally.
3. Maintain and strengthen a bilingual (English/Spanish) environment	✓ Students will be able to communicate adequately in English and Spanish.
4. Provide an educational program with competent and committed faculty	✓ Faculty will have the academic and clinical credentials necessary to teach their courses and train students.
	✓ Faculty will publish papers and/or present and participate in posters, lectures, symposia and study groups or scientific meetings and be involved in research activities.
	✓ Members of the faculty will participate in Senate and regular faculty meetings as well as in development, counseling and co-

	curricular activities.
	✓ Faculty members will provide effective educational services
5. Provide support services by competent and committed staff.	✓ The staff will provide effective and courteous services to students, patients, faculty and other staff.
	✓ Staff will participate in activities designed to enhance the quality of their services.
	✓ The School will comply with University, state and federal regulations.
6. Provide lifelong learning and support services to the profession in Puerto Rico, Latin America, United States and the rest of the world.	✓ The School will provide a sufficient number of presential and distance continuing education programs.
	✓ The School will provide support services for the development of educational programs in Latin America.
7. Promote the use of the best educational and service technologies.	✓ The School will promote the development of web-based or web-assisted courses and continuing education programs.
	✓ The School will develop an efficient electronic clinical data collection and patient management system.
8. Maintain the financial viability of the program.	✓ The School will generate adequate revenues to support the program from a combination of tuition, clinical service and external funds.

CAREER PROSPECTS

The private practice of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico requires that students pass a licensing examination. The Doctor of Optometry degree is required before a license to practice is issued. A license to practice in Puerto Rico or any one state does not automatically qualify an optometrist to practice in another country or state.

A prospective student who plans to practice in a specific locality should write to the Secretary of the appropriate State Board of Examiners in Optometry to inquire about requirements for licensure in that state. Since licensure is a function of government, the School of Optometry assumes no obligation concerning any

changes which might be made by any State Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Most graduates enter private practice after graduation and licensure. However, since optometrists are members of the health care team, they may be found in multidisciplinary settings such as Veterans' Administration hospitals, public health, teaching and research careers.

Other graduates may enter residency programs and subsequently engage in specialized practice. Residencies are available in hospital or multidisciplinary clinical settings, pediatric or rehabilitative optometry. Special service residencies such as geriatric vision, low vision and contact lenses are also available.

ACCREDITATION

Inter American University of Puerto Rico; School of Optometry has received a license and approval from the Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education. The School has received accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and from the Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association. The School is a member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry in Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM DEFINITION OF ENTRY LEVEL

The Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry definition of entry level attributes for graduating students is in correlation with the recommendations of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate entry level attributes in knowledge, skills, and professionalism and ethics.

The graduate must be knowledgeable in:

1. Fundamentals in body systems, with emphasis on the eye and its visual system in association to the body as whole.
2. Pathophysiology of processes that lead to system and ocular disease/dysfunctions.
3. The optics of the eye and ophthalmic lens systems such as spectacles, contact lenses and low vision devices.
4. Pharmacological characteristic of pharmaceutical agents along with their respective diagnostic and /or therapeutic application to the eye.
5. Binocular vision anomalies, oculomotor disorders, and perceptual disturbances of the visual system.

6. All types of vision therapy and rehabilitation methodologies for the treatment and management of commonly encountered visual disorders.
7. Socio-economical and psychosomatic factors affecting diverse patient population and how these can be applied in the dynamics involved in patient-doctor interaction.
8. The structure and management of the different types of optometric practice settings.
9. Communication skills with patients.
10. Proper record documentation of examination encounter as well as verbal consultation realized in person or over the phone.

The graduate must be skillful in:

1. All procedures required for the diagnosis, treatment and/or management of common visual conditions and ocular diseases.
2. Critical thinking and clinical reasoning to assess and elucidate effective patients' management plan.
3. Prescribing ophthalmic materials, contact lenses, vision therapy, low vision systems, pharmaceuticals, and certain surgical procedures, to treat common vision disorders and diseases.
4. Determining when to order laboratory testing and other common diagnostic procedures.
5. The ability to recognize the need to establish proper interrelated multidisciplinary care for the wellbeing of patients.
6. The management of urgencies and emergencies as well as the proper intervention in the event of life threatening illnesses.
7. Effective verbal and written communication skills.

The graduate must be Professional and Ethical demonstrating:

1. Commitment to providing the highest standard of care.
2. Dignity, integrity, and confidentiality in all patient encounters and interactions with colleagues and other health professionals.
3. Exhibit cultural competency in the personal interaction with patient populations of diverse backgrounds
4. Capacity to effectively integrate patient care knowledge with socio-economical aspects of patient care to conform to patients' best interest in eye care.
5. Knowledge in professional ethics and standards of care in the practice of the profession.
6. Understanding the challenges pertaining to the delivery of medical eye care within the practice of optometry and possible impending alleged conflicts of interest with the medical profession.
7. Interest and dedication to community service related to optometry.

CURRICULUM DEFINITION OF ENTRY LEVEL

The curricular goal of the Institution is to educate students as optometrists to provide proper eye care services to patients. The curriculum definition of entry level embraces the consensus of the entire faculty on academic goals and objectives necessary to achieve entry level competency attributes at time of graduation. Entry level attributes at must be as follows:

- integrative knowledge of basic and clinical science concepts as it relates to vision and the eye
- clinical skills and its application related to basic science
- professional and ethical values.

Following is a briefing of the academic goals and objectives necessary to be met in order to comply with these attributes.

Integrative Knowledge and Clinical Skills

While in the program students must demonstrate acquired knowledge in integrating basic biomedical and behavioral concepts with clinical sciences, as it relates to vision. In addition, they must demonstrate competent clinical skills and reasoning founded on conceptual fundamentals. As a result, graduating students must have entry-level understanding and skills in the following:

1. systemic conditions
 - 1.1. the normal systemic structure and function
 - 1.2. the abnormal systemic structure and function
 - 1.3. systemic conditions which relate to vision.
2. ocular conditions and processes
 - 2.1. the normal structure and function of the eye and the visual system
 - 2.2. the altered structure and function of the eye, ocular adnexa and the visual System
 - 2.3. ocular diseases and trauma
3. refractive conditions
 - 3.1 the concept of emmetropia and all types of lower and higher order ametropia
 - 3.2 fundamental concepts of optics and lenses along with their application to vision

- 3.3 disease concepts and their applications related to refractive errors
- 4. contact lenses
 - 4.1 optic principles in contact lens and their basic application on refractive errors
 - 4.2 advanced contact lens fittings
 - 4.3 therapeutic applications of contact lenses
- 5. binocular vision
 - 5.1 concepts of physiological sensory and motor process
 - 5.2 concepts and applications of anomalies in binocular vision
 - 5.3 concepts and applications in vision development and pediatrics
- 6. public health
 - 6.1 concepts of epidemiology and their influence on the management of eye diseases and systemic conditions affecting vision
 - 6.2 community outreach systems and their application to community service and special populations
 - 6.3 principles of population diversity and their application to patient care
 - 6.4 principles of ethics and administrative aspect related to optometry
 - 6.5 judicious aspects applied to optometry
- 7. research
 - 7.1 development of proposal
 - 7.2 development of clinical research
 - 7.3 basic concepts of statistics
 - 7.4 article publication
- 8. patient care
 - 8.1 clinical skills in the diagnosis, treatment and management of conditions and diseases within the scope of optometric practice

8.2 record documentation

8.2 interpersonal skills with patients

Professional and Ethical Values

While in the program students must understand and learn values related to personality traits necessary to deliver proper primary eye care. By the time of graduation student must demonstrate:

1. interpersonal skills and professional and ethical values
2. commitment to the well-being of patients
3. personal charisma
4. equality of care independent of cultural differences
5. interest in community services -related values
6. ability to work in harmony with other health professionals to serve the patient's best interest at all times.

Defining entry-level curricular goals and objectives of optometric education is essential to provide the graduating student the appropriate tools in every fundamental area of primary eye care.

LANGUAGE POLICY

All State and National Board Examinations are in English; therefore the School of Optometry requires that written materials in classes, laboratories, clinical records and examinations be in English. The School's curriculum is taught mostly by faculty whose primary language is Spanish, and almost all patient care provided in the School's clinical systems requires entering students to understand and speak Spanish. In the primary eyecare courses, students must approve a **clinical proficiency examination in Spanish**. These language requirements of the Doctor of Optometry program results in the refinement of its graduates' bilingual abilities. The School offers two basic Spanish conversational skill courses in the first year for non-native Spanish speaking students within the curriculum as well as two basic English conversational skill courses for non - native English speaking students.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In fulfilling its responsibility to practicing optometrists in Puerto Rico and neighboring countries, the School offers continuing education programs on a regular basis. Course offerings are published well in advance and are made available to all optometrists in Puerto Rico and neighboring countries.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINER IN OPTOMETRY (NBEO)

The NBEO administers examinations several times each year. Passing all parts is required by most state boards and Puerto Rico in lieu of written examinations for state optometric licensure. Inter American University School of Optometry students are eligible to apply for and take Part I examination during their third professional year/spring semester. Students are eligible to take Part II examination in December of their fourth year and Patient Care examination in April of their fourth professional year.

Students at Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry will be required to pass Part I of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination before enrolling into the second semester of the last year of the School's Professional Degree Program. **Students need to authorize that their scores be sent to Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry.** All individual scores received will remain confidential.

ADMISSION POLICY, REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

REQUIRED PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The School of Optometry is interested in admitting students who are firmly committed to and identified with the problems of community health and who accept the responsibilities that involve those who exercise the profession of optometry. The School, therefore, will select from among the candidates for admission, those whose qualifications best meet this aim. Some specific qualities sought are:

- ✓ Social consciousness
- ✓ Professional responsibility
- ✓ Dedication to study
- ✓ Respect for human beings
- ✓ Respect for opposing opinions
- ✓ Acceptance and defense of professional canons

- ✓ Ability to work with others
- ✓ Facility in oral and written communications
- ✓ Leadership qualities
- ✓ Bilingual skills (English and Spanish)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, an applicant must have successfully met the following criteria:

- ✓ At least ninety (90) credits hours or their equivalent from an accredited institution.
- ✓ A minimum of 2.50 Grade Point Average.
- ✓ A minimum of 54 credit-hours as listed in the catalog in specific courses, approved with a Grade Point Average of 2.50 or greater.
- ✓ An academic average score of 300 or better in the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)*
- ✓ An interview.

*** As a second option on OAT scores admission criteria, the committee will consider candidates with an average score of 280 or higher in total science and reading comprehension combined.**

Among the ninety (90) semester credit hours, the following courses at Inter American University of Puerto Rico satisfy the academic requirement. Admission pending completion of one or more requirements may be granted by the Dean of the School.

COURSE OR AREA OR EQUIVALENT	NUMBER OF SEMESTERS	MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS
<i>GENERAL BIOLOGY</i>	2	6
<i>MICROBIOLOGY</i>	1	3
<i>GENERAL CHEMISTRY</i>	2	6
<i>ORGANIC CHEMISTRY</i>	1	3

<i>CALCULUS</i>	1	3
<i>GENERAL PHYSICS</i>	2	6
<i>STATISTICS</i>	1	3
<i>GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY</i>	1	3
<i>ENGLISH</i>	2	6
<i>HUMANITIES</i>	2	6
<i>SOCIAL SCIENCES</i>	2	6
<i>BIOCHEMISTRY</i>	1	3
<i>RECOMENDED: SPANISH</i>	1 or 2	

CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

All candidates for admission must take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT).

PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING ADMISSION

1. The application for admission should be filed as soon as possible after July 15 of the academic year prior to the year in which the applicant would like to commence study. Deadline for application for first year students is May 31. The candidate must access the OptomCAS website to fill out the application.
2. The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is offered in a computerized format. Testing is available year round-you select the date, time and place that is most convenient for you to test. You receive your scores immediately after the completion of the test. Schools receive official scores report within two weeks.

Information about the OAT can be obtained online at www.opted.org, this site contains information about the test, application process, fees, test content, and a sample test. Use this site to register online for the test and to request additional scores reports or call 1-800-232-2159. Automated information lines provide select information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Representatives are available to assist you Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm Central time.

3. A personal interview is an requirement for admission. Interviews will normally be initiated by the Admissions Office and may be held at the School or at the office of an authorized optometrist. A telephone interview may be arranged for students residing outside Puerto Rico. However, the applicant

may, before formally filing any application for admission, visit the school and request an interview for guidance and counseling with staff members.

4. All applicants will receive a written notification of action taken in response to their applications. Those admitted will have a period of fifteen (15) days after the date of notification to inform the School of their intention to attend and to pay the admission quota. If a candidate fails to respond within the period stated, his position will be declared vacant and another candidate will be chosen from the waiting list.
Normally, sixty (60) students are admitted each academic year.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Candidates must submit an application form through OptomCas. The Admissions Committee interviews candidates with completed applications, meeting the above requirements either in person or by telephone. For out of state candidates an interview with a practicing alumnus is arranged when feasible. The Committee explores the candidate's strengths using five criteria:

- Concern for career objectives
- Knowledge of the profession
- Communication skills in English and Spanish
- Motivation
- Self- confidence

Candidates are evaluated using the following interview parameters:

<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Grade Point Average (GPA)</i>	25 percent
<i>Required Course work Point Average (RGPA)</i>	30 percent
<i>Optometry Admission Test (OAT)</i>	35 percent

Once a candidate is accepted, a \$1,000.00 deposit is required within 15 days of acceptance. This deposit will be applied to the tuition fee. An administrative fee of \$ 250.00 will be deducted from the acceptance deposit if a prospective student with an offer of admission have withdraws or declines his/her candidacy.

READMISSION AND TRANSFER

Candidates previously admitted to the School of Optometry with a \$31.00 application fee, will receive a preferential treatment if they request readmission within one academic year. Candidates who have previously studied at another accredited school of optometry and who wish to be admitted to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry must follow the same procedure outlined in this catalog for first-time admissions. In addition, students should request the Dean, Dean for Academic or Student Affairs a letter indicating the student status. In lieu of this, the Dean of Academic Affairs or the Dean of the School may contact one of these officials to verify the student status. The Dean of Academic Affairs should study the student transcripts and the previous school catalog to determine which courses may be transferred and to be accredited by the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry. All transfer students applying for the third year block must first approve a clinic proficiency test before being registered for the Optometry Clinic Course.

Courses with passing grade of “D” are not considered for credits. This policy applies for both transfer students and also for academic dismissals students that re-apply for admission after one year of the dismissal. Only courses taken within a period of five years will be considered for transfer credits.

All admissions or readmissions are generally subject to availability of vacancies in the course to which the applicant requests admission.

ADMISSION FOR FOREIGN CANDIDATES (NONIMMIGRANT)

Foreign candidates interested in the Doctorate in Optometry degree must meet all requirements for admission stated in the admission requirement section.

Before acceptance is granted, foreign candidates need to complete the following steps to obtain their student visa:

- ✓ Send Notarized letters stating the financial situation of the student or the person or organization that is going to sponsor the student during

his studies. After the notarized document is received, the Admission Office will send to the students the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Students Status Form, in order to start the process to obtain the permit to enter the US.

- ✓ Candidates will take the Visa form to the US Embassy or US government representative near them. Visas are granted only to full-time students.

STUDENT STATUS AND ACADEMIC POLICY

STUDENT STATUS

Regular Student: A student taking the number of credits offered in any of the semesters according to the optometry program or a student taking 15 credits or more offered for his/her enrollment semester

Special Students: A student taking 14 credits or less for his/her enrollment semester.

ACADEMIC POLICY

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Good Standing: Any student (regular or special) who after the end of the academic year has an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better will be in Good Standing.

Non- Satisfactory Academic Progress

Dismissal: Any student (regular or special) who by the end of the academic year, June 30, has an overall grade point average below 2.0 will be dismissed. Students may also be dismissed for non academic reasons such as violation of student regulations, or failure to pay tuition or fees.

A dismissed student is no longer a student at the School of Optometry and loses all rights for appeal processes at the school. Dismissed student must reapply to school for review and recommendation for readmission to the school in order to take

courses. Dismissed students who are readmitted will have to retake all courses with grades D or less before moving on in the program.

WITHDRAWAL AND INCOMPLETE

Withdrawal: A student who cannot continue his/her studies for personal reasons may request and receive an official withdrawal (W). The official will indicate the date of withdrawal and the courses that the student was taking at the time of withdrawal. Students who discontinue class attendance without officially withdrawing will receive ***UW*** as final grade. Students that want to withdraw from the school should go to the Student Affairs Office to sign the official withdrawal form.

Incomplete: A student who has not completed all the requisites of a course may request and receive a grade of “I” (Incomplete) from the instructor. The student must complete all the specified requisites within a period of time, not to exceed one year. If the requisites are not completed within the allotted time, the grade of “I” (Incomplete) will become a grade of “F” (Failure). To request an Incomplete, student must pay a fee at the Bursar Office. The responsibility for removing the Incomplete rests on the student.

STUDENT SERVICES AND POLICES

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When students register, they are required to file their mailing address with the Student Affairs Office. Changes of address should be reported immediately to the Registrar Office. If this address is not kept up-to-date, the School will not be responsible for notifications mailed to the student.

Any notice mailed to a student’s address as it appears on record shall be deemed sufficient notice.

SERVICES OF THE STUDENTS AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Office for Student Affairs is responsible for registration, maintenance of all official academic records of students, the issuance of transcripts, certification of studies, and certification that students have met graduation requirements. It also issues study certification upon student request.

STUDENT RECORDS

Students requiring information concerning records or issuance of transcripts should contact the Registrar Office.

VETERANS AND OTHERS BENEFICIARIES FROM FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Veteran students or beneficiaries of Veteran Administration Programs will receive benefits if they complete their study programs at the regular time stipulated in the catalog. In case they exceed they loose eligibility for these benefits under Title 38. However they can be eligible for financial aid under Title IV, (Pell Grants and others) if they maintain the corresponding requisites.

The Office for Student Affairs offers Veterans orientation about university studies, academic tutors, and opportunities for study. Students applying for veterans benefits are responsible to go to this office.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

The School requires regular attendance at all lecture, laboratory and clinic sessions to which the student is assigned. The record of attendance is the responsibility of each individual instructor. Absences from lectures and laboratories may affect the final grade of the courses according to the stipulation in each course syllabus.

Students, who have not attended classes during the first two weeks of the academic semester or its equivalent, may be administratively dropped from the course. Permission to be absent must be obtained from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

General Policies and Conditions

1. Students who must interrupt the regular academic program may be granted a one-year "Leave of Absence" by the Institution.
2. Justifiable reasons for absence, and not limited to, include medical conditions, special family circumstances, and duties related to work or military assignments.
3. Students soliciting a "Leave of Absence" must apply by filling out the pertinent application form provided by the Institution and submit it to the Dean of Student

Affairs in conjunction with the required official evidence supporting the reason for absence.

4. Final authorization is granted by the Dean of the Institution.
5. While on “Leave of Absence”:
 - institutional regulations concerning the return of financial aid funds under Title IV to federal agencies or other agencies providing financial assistance are not applied.
 - a student cannot obtain additional financial aid funds under Title IV.
6. At the termination of a “Leave of Absence” a student may re-apply for another academic year of absence.
7. If a student does not re-apply or resumes studies at the expiration date of the term granted he/she will receive an official withdrawal from the program dated back to the time that the “Leave of Absence” was conceded. Unused financial funds parting from the date of withdrawal will be calculated and returned to the corresponding agencies under Title IV.

REPEATING COURSES

Students will have the right to repeat courses when not satisfied with their grades. In case a course is no longer offered at the University, it will be substituted with the new course created in the curricular revision or with an equivalent course approved by the Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs and Systemic Planning. The highest grade and its corresponding credits will remain on the student's transcript and lower grades will be changed to an **R** (repeated) course. When students repeat a course and obtain the same grade as in the previous term, the grade of the most recent term will appear on the transcript. The administration action symbol **R** and its corresponding credits will not be considered in determining if a student has satisfied the graduation requirements. Courses repeated after graduations are not considered in the computation of the graduation grade point index.

SUMMER COURSES

Courses may be offered during the summer session, limited up to seven credits by students. The offer will depend on sufficient demand, availability of faculty members, and eligibility of students. **Registration will be under special student status.** The honor points granted in summer will *only affect the cumulative grade*

point average (GPA) of the student. Summer courses are intended to give the students the opportunity to repeat courses on which they either failed or withdrew.

AUDITING COURSES

Student wishing to audit courses must enroll during the official registration period of the semester. Such students must pay 50% of the course fee as special student for auditing. Students who have not applied for admission should do so before registering as audit students.

GRADING SYSTEM

Course grades indicate the degree of student achievement in any given course. The University has established a quality point system to be used in accumulating and summarizing these grades. This quality point system is used to determine the minimum degree of general competence for graduation and for continuing the program at any level and to assign special honors to students who excel. Grades are reported in accordance with the following grading system:

- A- superior attainment; 4 honor points per credit hour.
- B- above average attainment; 3 honor points per credit hour.
- C- average attainment; 2 honor points per credit hour.
- D- lowest passing grade; 1 honor point per credit hour.
- F- failure; no honor point per credit hour.
- P- Passing; this grade is assigned to students satisfying the requirements in courses taken by proficiency examinations and for courses in which such grade is required. This grade is not included in the computation of the grade point index.
- NP- Not Passing; this grade is assigned to students who fail in the courses indicated under the grade P. This grade is not included in the computation of the grade point index.

The grading systems used by the faculty of the School are published in any course syllabus. Some faculty does *not* include the “D” grade as part of the grading system of the course.

Courses completed at the University and taken in other higher education institutions having previous authorization from the corresponding authorities at Inter American University will be included in the computation of the grade point index. The grade point index is determined by dividing the total number of honor quality points by the total number of credits completed with the grades of A, B, C, D, or F.

All courses that grant academic credit require tests or other grading tools. This includes a final examination or its equivalent. Faculty members will indicate on their class register how the final grade was determined.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION SYMBOLS

The following symbols are used to indicate administrative action taken in regard to student status in courses for which they registered.

- W- Course Withdrawal: Assigned when the student withdraws from a course after the end of the period for class changes and no later than the date established on the academic calendar for withdrawals with **W**.
- DC- Course Withdrawal: Assigned when the student withdraws from a course before the end of the period for class changes. Does not appear on the student transcript.
- AD- Administrative Withdrawal: Assigned when the University drops the student for reasons such as failure to meet payments or other situations warranting a drop.
- AW- Assigned when the professor informs in the electronic register that the student never attended class.
- I- Incomplete: When students have not completed a course requirement and present valid reasons for it, the professor may assign the symbol “I” (Incomplete). Together with the symbol “I”, the professor will include a provisional grade, after assigning zero for the unfinished work. When faculty members assign an “I”, they shall report to their immediate supervisor the grade that the student has earned up to that time, the evaluation criteria and a description of the unfinished work if applicable. A student who receives an “I” must remove it by the date specified on the Academic Calendar. The responsibility for removing the “Incomplete” rests on the student. If the “Incomplete” is not removed within the time specified, the student will receive the informed provisional grade. This policy will apply whether or not the student is enrolled at the University for the following semester.
- AU- Symbol used to indicate on student transcripts that the course was audited. No honor points or University credits are awarded.
- R- Symbol used to indicate the course was repeated.
- T- Symbol used to indicate the course was transferred from another institution.
- UW- Assigned in the electronic register when a student stops attending a course, and does not qualify for a grade of incomplete (I) or F.

POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS AND ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The University, in compliance with federal law Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), provides students and alumni access to their academic files, the right to request that the information contained in those files be amended and certain control over the disclosure of academic information.

1. Students and alumni have the right to inspect and review their academic files. They may request this in writing to the file custodian and indicate the file they wish to review. The file custodian will make the necessary arrangements so that the student or alumni may review the files within a period of time no greater than 45 days from the date in which the student or alumni presented the written request. If the person receiving the request from the student or alumni does not have the file, this person will indicate the correct place for the request to be presented.
2. Student and alumni have the right to request that incorrect information contained in their academic files be corrected. Interested students or alumni must present a written request to the University official in charge of the file, indicated the part of the file to be corrected and explain the mistake. If the University decides not to correct the file, the student or alumni will be notified of this decision in writing and the person will be informed of the right to request an informal hearing.
3. Student or alumni have the right to prevent the University from disclosing personal information found in the academic files, except in those cases where FERPA authorizes this, these cases are:
 - a. Disclosure of information to institution officials. Institutional officials are taken to mean administrative or teaching employees, persons contact by the University, members of the Board of Trustees and student members of special committees.
 - b. Disclosure of Directory information. The University has designed the following as Directory information: student or alumni name, address, major and year of study. Students and alumni have the right to prevent the University from disclosing directory information to third parties. The disclosure to third parties includes the release of information to the Armed Forces. If students or alumni wish to prevent their information from being disclosed to the United States Armed Forces, it is necessary that they express their desire that no information be disclosed to third parties.

To prevent information from being disclosed to third parties, it is necessary that students or alumni submit their request to this effect, in writing, to the Office of the Registrar of their academic unit. In order for the request to be effective for the academic year, it is important that students submit the request in or September 1st of that year.

- c. Information to other universities. The University will release student or alumni information to those universities to which they request admission.
- d. Exceptional circumstances. The University will disclose student or alumni information if they are economically dependent upon their parents. The University assumes undergraduate students and alumni are economically dependent upon their parents; therefore, in some cases it may disclose information without the consent of the student or alumni to parents that request it. Undergraduate students or alumni who are not economically dependent upon their parents must present this evidence to the office of the registrar to prevent information from being released to their parents. Information on graduate students or alumni will not be given to parents without their consent.
- e. Emergency cases. These are cases in which the health or security of a student, alumni or other person is in danger.
- f. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The university is obligated to give information to immigration service regarding certain foreign certain students or alumni.
If students or alumni understand that the University has not complied with these obligations, they have the right to file a claim to Department of Federal Education, Family Policy Compliance Officer, and 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20202-4605.

SOLOMON - POMBO ACT

Inter American University established its institutional policy regarding the student and alumni directory for the academic year 1999-2000. This measure was adapted to incorporate the new changes in the federal laws known as the Solomon - Pombo Act. This federal law permits-third parties to request from the Institution all personal data that is include by the University as Directory information.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico establishes the following data as Directory information:

1. Name
2. Major
3. Address
4. Year of study

The School exhorts all students not in agreement that these data be included in the Directory, to contact the Dean for Student Affairs.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Optometry students have an active student life that complements the School's commitment to academic and clinical excellence. Most of these activities are channeled through accredited student organizations such as:

- **The Student Council**- Officially represents the student body. The president of the council is a member of the Dean's committee. The council sponsors many social, sports, cultural and religious events throughout the year. The annual student convention is the key activity of the year.
- **Puerto Rico Optometric Student Association (PROSA)** - Is also the local chapter of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA). All students are members of both organizations through payment of their activity fees. PROSA sponsors lectures, ophthalmic shows, exam reviews, and social events during the academic year. Their main event is the annual international optometric student convention.
- **Asociación de Servicios Voluntarios Optométricos (ASVO)** - A volunteer group of students, faculty members, and practitioners offering primary eye care services to the disenfranchised populations in Puerto Rico and Latin America. They receive donations of eyeglasses which they distribute to the patients they serve.
- **Beta Sigma Kappa**- The student Optometric Honor Society Members are selected based on their scholastic and clinical achievement. Members serve as counselors and tutors to other optometry students.
- **National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)** - The campus chapter offers support to the School's minority students by participating in their recruitment and retention.

- **College of Vision Development Optometric Extension Program (COVD)** - Is an organization and rehabilitation devoted to the enhancement, prevention and rehabilitation of vision and vision development.

HONORS , AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Inter American University of Puerto Rico and the School of Optometry recognize the exceptional achievement of optometry students as leaders, scholars and clinicians. The following honors and awards are granted every year.

- **Dean's Leadership Award-** granted to the graduating optometry student who has shown exceptional qualities as a leader of the student body at the School of Optometry, as a member of the optometric community and as a member of the Puerto Rican society in general.
- **Inter American University Alumni Award-** Granted to a graduating optometry student who has shown exceptional qualities of cooperation and service to the School of Optometry and Inter American University of Puerto Rico.
- **Alumni Association of The School of Optometry Award-** Presented to that student demonstrating outstanding commitment to community service and the profession.
- **College of Optometrists in Vision Development Award-** Presented to the member of the graduating class with the highest achievement in the area of vision therapy.
- **Beta Sigma Kappa Medal Award-** Presented to the graduating member of Beta Sigma Kappa with the highest grade point average.
- **Residency Acceptance Award** - Recognizing a student for being selected for an Optometric Residency Program and the desire to advance in the profession.
- **Air Force Health Profession Award** - granted to a graduating student that had been part of the United States Arm Forces.
- **Alcon Award** - granted to that graduating student who submitted the best thesis.

- **Student Affairs Leadership Award-** Granted to one or more students of the graduating class who have demonstrated leadership in student organizations.
- **Exceptional Effort-** Granted to one or more members of the graduating class who have succeeded in completing their degree in spite of extraordinary difficult circumstances.
- **Dr. Harold Shnider’s Scholarship Award-** Presented to an outstanding student completing the second year of the program. The student must be in the upper 10% of the Basic Contact Lenses course and have the potential for being an outstanding clinician.
- **American Foundation for Vision Awareness Educational Grants (AFVA)**
Scholarships presented to assist students in meeting the costs of an optometric education.
- **American Optometric Association Student Leadership Scholarship-** Presented to one third-year student, who is a member in good standing in the American Optometric Student Association, has proven leadership roles, has been involved in student government, and who submits a paper on a selected topic.

All awards and scholarships are subject to change. Availability of these may vary.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The optometry program requires four academic years. The senior year is composed of a total of forty weeks of clinical experiences in the clinical system including internal and external rotations. Students must satisfactorily complete all the courses and meet all graduation requirements in order to receive the Doctor of Optometry degree at graduation exercises offered once a year. The School’s curriculum is composed of three Departments: Basic, Clinical, and Patient Care.

BASIC SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Provides student with the fundamental knowledge and understanding of the

scientific principles upon which Optometric practice is based. This knowledge builds on the students' undergraduate foundation in biological science, physics, chemistry and mathematics as applied to the structure and function of the human body, eye and visual system.

Opto 4003- Human Physiology
Opto 4007- Human Anatomy and Neuroanatomy
Opto 4010- Theoretical Optics
Opto 4015- Public Health Optometry
Opto 4025 -Critical Scientific Thinking
Opto 4030- Conversational Spanish I
Opto 4035- Conversational Spanish II
Opto 4029- English Communication Skills I
Opto 4034- English Communication Skills II
Opto 4040- Ocular Anatomy and Physiology
Opto 4045- General Pharmacology
Opto 4050- General Pathology
Opto 4055- Optics of the Eye and Instruments
Opto 4065- Professional Communication
Opto 5000- Ocular Pharmacology
Opto 5010- Ocular Motility
Opto 5020- Visual Perception I
Opto 5030- Clinical Medicine and Systemic Diseases
Opto 5040- Visual Perception II

CLINICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Provides students with the knowledge, procedures and techniques needed to develop entry level clinical skills for the diagnosis, treatment and management of primary eye care problems.

Opto 4020- The Profession of Optometry
Opto 4060- Primary Eyecare I
Opto 5005- Anterior Ocular Diseases
Opto 5015- Ophthalmic Optics
Opto 5025- Primary Eyecare II
Opto 5035- Posterior Ocular Diseases
Opto 5045- Clinical Optics
Opto 5050- Basic Contact Lenses
Opto 5055- Primary Eyecare III
Opto 6000- Ocular Therapeutics
Opto 6010- Low Vision
Opto 6015- Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy I
Opto 6020- Advance Contact Lenses
Opto 6025- Optometry Research
Opto 6030- Case Analysis
Opto 6035- Practice Management

- Opto 6045- Clinical Lasers
- Opto 6050- Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy II
- Opto 6055- Neuro-Optometry
- Opto 6060- Geriatric Optometry and Special Populations

PATIENT CARE DEPARTMENT

Provides students with clinical experiences in delivering primary eye care to qualify for entry level optometric practice. The patient care curriculum consists of third and fourth year clinical practice. The third year curriculum includes the Optometry Clinic I and II patient care courses. The curriculum and service is staffed by third year clinicians and is an entry level into most of the other School clinical services. In third year services, the basic eye examination is performed encompassing testing for refractive status, binocular status and the ocular health of each patient. When patients have been identified as needing specialty care service, they may be referred to the fourth year specialty clinical services, including: Pediatric and Visual Training Services, Specialized Contact Lens Services, Low Vision Services, Electrophysiological Services, Prosthetic Eye Services and Ophthalmologic Services. All of these services are given at the Instituto Interamericano del Ojo (Inter American Eye Institute) through the main clinic located at the School campus. In its other five hospital-based satellite clinics Primary Eye Care Services are given. The fourth year curriculum includes the Optometry Clinic III and IV patient care courses, each one 20 weeks (100 work days) in length, for a total of 40 weeks or 200 work days. Fourth-year curriculum provides patient care experience through the School clinics and externship. The Externship Program allows fourth-year students to spend a portion of their final year of training (no more than 20 weeks) in a variety of patient care environments, local or abroad.

- Opto 6005- Optometry Clinic I
- Opto 6040- Optometry Clinic II
- Opto 7000- Optometry Clinic III
- Opto 7005 -Optometry Clinic IV

CURRICULUM FOR THE DOCTORATE IN OPTOMETRY

Four-Year Sequential and Courses Description:

<i>Biology Track</i>	<i>Optics Track</i>	<i>Vision Science Track</i>	<i>Clinical Science Track</i>	<i>Diseases Track</i>	<i>Specialized Track</i>	<i>Clinic Practice Track</i>
17 credits	15 credits	10 credits	19 credits	24 credits	19 credits	51 credits

<i>REQUIRED COURSES</i>	<i>CREDITS</i>	<i>HOURS OF LECTURES</i>	<i>HOURS OF LABORATORY</i>	<i>HOURS OF SCREENING</i>	<i>HOURS OF CLINIC</i>
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First Year First Semester						
REQUIRED COURSES						
Opto 4003	Human Physiology	4	45	30	0	0
Opto 4007	Human Anatomy and Neuroanatomy	7	90	30	0	0
Opto 4010	Theoretical Optics	5	60	30	0	0
Opto 4015	Public Health Optometry	2	30	0	0	0
Opto 4020	The Profession of Optometry	1	15	0	0	0
ELECTIVES*						
Opto 4029	English Communication Skills	2.5				
Opto 4030	Conversational Spanish	2.5				
Opto 4025	Critical Sc. Thinking	1	15	0	0	0
Total Electives		6	75	30	0	0
Total Semester with 1 elective credit		20	240	90	0	0
Total Semester with 2.5 elective credits		21.5	270	105	0	0
First Year Second Semester						
Opto 4040	Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	6	75	30	0	0
Opto 4045	General Pharmacology	3	45	0	0	0
Opto 4050	General Pathology	4	45	30	0	0
Opto 4055	Optics of the Eye and Instrument	4	45	30	0	0
Opto 4060	Primary Eyecare I	2	15	30	0	0
ELECTIVES*						

Opto 4065	Professional Communication	1	15	0	0	0
Opto 4034	English Communication Skills II	2.5	30	15	0	0
Opto 4035	Conversational Spanish II	2.5	30	15	0	0
Total Electives		6	75	30	0	0
Total Semester With 1 elective credit		20	240	120	0	0
Total Semester with 2.5 elective credits		21.5	255	135	0	0
REQUIRED COURSES						
	CREDITS	HOURS OF LECTURES	HOURS OF LABORATORY	HOURS OF SCREENING	HOURS OF CLINIC	
Second Year First Semester						
Opto 5000	Ocular Pharmacology	3	45	0	0	0
Opto 5005	Anterior Ocular Diseases	3	45	0	0	0
Opto 5010	Ocular Motility	4	45	30	0	0
Opto 5015	Ophthalmic Optics	3	30	30	0	0
Opto 5020	Visual Perception I	4	45	30	0	0
Opto 5025	Primary Eyecare II	4	30	60	60	0
Totals		21	240	150	60	0
Second Year Second Semester						
Opto 5030	Clinical Medicine and Systemic Diseases	3	45	0	0	0

Opto 5035	Posterior Ocular Diseases	3	45	0	0	0
Opto 5040	Visual Perception II	2	30	0	0	0
Opto 5045	Clinical Optics	3	30	30	0	0
Opto 5050	Basic Contact Lenses	3	30	30	0	0
Opto 5055	Primary Eyecare III	6	45	90	60	0
Totals		20	225	150	60	0

Third Year First Semester

REQUIRED COURSES		CREDITS	HOURS OF LECTURES	HOURS OF LABORATORY	HOURS OF SCREENING	HOURS OF CLINIC
Opto 6000	Ocular Therapeutics	3	45	0	0	0
Opto 6005	Optometry Clinic I	5	0	0	48	192
Opto 6010	Low Vision	3	30	30	0	0
Opto 6015	Pediatric Optometry & Vision Therapy I	3	30	30	0	0
Opto 6020	Advanced Contact Lenses	2	30	0	0	0
Opto 6025	Optometric Research	1	15	0	0	0
Opto 6030	Case Analysis	1	15	0	0	0
Totals		18	165	60	48	192

Third Year Second Semester

Opto 6035	Practice Management	2	30	0	0	0
Opto 6040	Optometry Clinic II	5	0	0	48	192

Opto 6045	Clinical Laser	2	30	0	0	0
Opto 6050	Pediatric Optometry & Vision Therapy II	3	30	30	0	0
Opto 6055	Neuro-Optometry	2	30	0	0	0
Opto 6060	Geriatric and Special Population	2	30	0	0	0
Totals		16	150	30	48	192
Fourth Year First and Second Semester						
Opto 7000	Optometry Clinic III	20	0	0	0	800
Opto 7005	Optometry Clinic IV	20	0	0	0	800
Totals		40	0	0	0	1600
TOTAL CURRICULUM CREDITS AND HOURS						
Totals	Credits	Hours of Lectures	Hours of Laboratory	Hours of Clinic	Hours of Screening	Total Contact Hours
	155 (158)	1275 (1320)	600	2166 (2188.50)	216	4272

The fourth year program is strictly devoted to patient care. It is a twelve-month program that normally begins in late May or early June, immediately after third year final examinations. During the fourth year each student must complete successfully forty weeks of clinical care experiences. These experiences are completed at in-house clinical sites which are mandatory and external clinical sites in Puerto Rico, continental United States and other parts of the world all under clinical supervision.

Each semester of the fourth year is six months in length. The first semester is from June to mid October, second semester is from October to May of the following year. Since rotations occur in variable lengths, student may often complete more or less that 20 weeks in any six month semester. Fourth year clinic grades are determined each week. A student who successfully completes 20 weeks and receives 20 passes as grades would have passed the clinic rotations. Non-passing weekly grades must be repeated. ***A student who does not successfully complete all 20 credits will receive an "I" incomplete until 20 credits are completed.***

Students will be allowed twelve months to complete the 40 credits.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive the degree of Doctor of Optometry (OD), the candidate must:

- ✘ Pass all courses comprising the curriculum for the degree of Doctor of Optometry, as specified in the Catalog for the year in which the student enters the School, with an overall grade point average of 2.00 or better.
- ✘ Submit to the faculty advisor a publishable research manuscript which must also be approved by the Dean for Academic Affairs
- ✘ Transfer Students must complete at least two years in studies at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry.
- ✘ Receive all passing grades in fourth year, completed externship and in-house rotations before graduation date.
- ✘ Receive the recommendation of the faculty of the School after motion to that effect is passed by the faculty.
- ✘ Signed clearance and graduation documents. (If awarded financial aid in any academic period, an exit interview is required by the Financial Aid Office. You will find all information at www.optonet.inter.edu, linking Financial Aid Process).
- ✘ Submission of all available National Board Scores to the Register of the School.
- ✘ Pay graduation fee. **All students are required to pay graduation fee, even if the student do not attend the graduation ceremony.**

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

The distinctions of honor student will be based on the cumulative general point average criteria as following:

- ▶ 3.25 to 3.49- Cum Laude (with honors)
- ▶ 3.50 to 3.74- Magna Cum Laude (with high honors)
- ▶ 3.75 to 4.00- Summa Cum Laude (with the highest honors)

These distinctions are awarded only to students who have completed satisfactorily at least 50 percent of the academic credits required for the degree at Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry. This distinctions award will not apply to transfer student with less than fifthly percent of the credits of the academic program.

OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION/ALUMNI

The Office of Continuing Education offers monthly educational and clinical courses and workshops for optometrists and other health professionals wishing to expand their knowledge and skills. It also publishes a newsletter called PRISMA. The newsletter is distributed free of charge to all optometrists and interested professionals. Its includes information about continuing education courses, alumni association activities, information on the School's events, and articles of interest related to the profession. The Director of Continuing Education is also a liaison between the faculty and administration of the School and the Alumni Association.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

There are currently one residency program at the School in *Primary Eyecare*. The Primary Eyecare Residency emphasizes advanced post-doctorate training to develop proficiency in primary eye care optometry, gain experience within multi-disciplinary clinical setting, and obtain training in pre-and post ophthalmic operative care. This program will also provide the resident with experience in teaching and research.

The Primary Eyecare Residency is sponsored by the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

The main objective of this office is the search and acquisition of external funding to support the School's services. The office is in charge of identifying external funding sources, developing an annual plan of activities, and coordinating fund-raising events. This office also supports the Alumni Association's fund-raising activities.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Opto-4003-Human Physiology- 4 credits

Function of the body's major systems. Physiology of the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, digestive and reproductive systems. Three hours lecture; two hours lab. First semester, first year.

Opto 4007-Human Anatomy and Neuro-Anatomy - 7.0 credits

The anatomy and histology of the major organ systems of the human body, including the nervous system, are presented in a correlative fashion. The anatomical and histological elements of the different organs that compose the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular, endocrine, digestive, respiratory, integumentary, reproductive, and nervous systems of the human body are presented. Six hours of lecture and two hours of lab. First semester, first year.

Opto 4010-Theoretical Optics- 5.0 credits

The fundamental principles of physical and geometrical optics will be presented to provide basic knowledge needed in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of refractive conditions, which can be presented to the optometrist by patients seeking primary eyecare. The geometrical optics of single refracting surfaces, prisms, mirror, thick lenses and thin lenses will be introduced. Special attention to the characteristics of the electromagnetic spectrum (wave optics) to explain such phenomena as diffraction, interference and polarization. Interaction of light and matter will be discussed to explain absorption, emission and fluorescence. Presentation of the theory of operation of lasers. Four hours of lecture, two hour of lab. First Semester, First Year.

Opto 4015- Public Health Optometry- 2.0 credits

The epidemiology of clinical anomalies, the biostatistics of ocular conditions, the systems, regulations, and socioeconomic factors affecting the delivery and quality of optometric services, and the role of the optometrists in community health maintenance. Two hours lecture. First semester, First-year.

Opto 4020- The Profession of Optometry- 1.0 credit

The development of optometry as a profession with its education, organizational, legislative, legal and ethical developments in the world, United States, and Puerto Rico. One hour lecture First semester, first year.

Opto 4025 - Critical Scientific Thinking- 1.0 credit

Application of critical thinking and the scientific method to research questions in basic and clinical sciences. Discussion of formats for optometric journals and principles of scientific writing. One hour lecture. First semester, first year.

Opto 4029 - English Communication Skills I - 2.5 credits

Improvement of reading, writing, and speaking skills in the English language for students with previous basic knowledge. Students will be evaluated and assigned into groups in their English language competence. Two hours of lecture and one hour of lab. First semester, first year.

Opto 4030- Conversational Spanish I- 2.5 credits

Development of basic conversational communication skills in Spanish for students with minimal knowledge of the language. Understanding of basic Spanish language through direct association of thinking with the word sounds. Students will be evaluated and assigned into groups based in their Spanish language competence. Two hours of lecture and one hour of lab. First semester, first year.

Opto 4034 - English Communication Skills II - 2.5 credits

Improvement of reading, writing, and speaking skills in the English language for students with previous basic knowledge. Two hours of lecture and one hour of lab. Second semester, first year.

Opto 4035- Conversational Spanish II- 2.5 credits

Development of communication skills for students with previous knowledge of Spanish. Vocabulary includes optometric language necessary during the eye examination and patient management intervention. Two hours of lecture and one hour of lab. Second semester, first year.

Opto- 4040- Ocular Anatomy and Physiology- 6.0 credits

Gross microscopic anatomy and physiology of the eye are presented as correlative structure. Topics include adnexa, tears, cornea, crystalline lens, uvea, retina, blood supply, and intra ocular pressure. Five hours of lecture; two hours lab. Second semester, first year. Prerequisites: Opto 4007.

Opto 4045-General Pharmacology- 3.0 credits

A primary course that introduces the student to the fundamental principles of drug effects on the body organs and systems, including the eye. Details of drug action and interaction, clinics, and possible side effects of drugs, which are of common and current use today. Three hours lecture. Second semester, first year. Prerequisites: Opto 4003, Opto 4040.

Opto 4050- General Pathology- 3.0 credits

Basic histopathological concepts. General pathological processes and diseases of the major organ systems. Three hours lecture and two hours laboratory. Second semester, first year. Prerequisites: Opto 4007, Opto 4003.

Opto 4055-Optics of the Eye and Instruments- 4.0 credits

The optics of ophthalmic instruments will be presented. The eye will be studied as a physiological optical element of the visual system. Detailed studied of the eye's optical components from a geometrical, physical and physiological optics approach will be presented. There will be an in depth study of how the eye's optical components contribute to the quality of the retinal image and become an element in the etiology of ametropia. Three hours of lecture, two hour of lab. Second semester, first year. Prerequisite: Opto 4010.

Opto 4060-Primary Eyecare I- 2.0 credits

Introduction to basic optometric procedures and terminology including case history, visual acuity measures, color vision, external examination, stereopsis test, pupils evaluation, cover test and basic concept of retinoscopy. One hour lecture, two hours of lab. Second semester, first year.

Opto 4065- Professional Communication- 1.0 credits

Development of communication skills with patients, eyecare professionals, other health professionals, teachers, other personnel, and the general public. One hour lecture. Second semester, first year.

Opto 5000- Ocular Pharmacology- 3.0 credits

Study of visual and ocular manifestations and side effects of pharmaceutical agents, used for varies purposes, direct and side effects of those in ophthalmic drugs used as diagnostic, cycloplegic, mydriatic, miotic, anesthetic, hygienic, disinfectant and therapeutic purposes. Three hours lectures. First semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 4045.

Opto 5005 - Anterior Ocular Diseases- 3.0 credits

Diseases, abnormalities and anomalies of the anterior segment of the eye, its components, appendages and functionally related mechanisms, with emphasis on their practical clinical detection, measurement, etiology, epidemiology, heredity, sequelae, prognosis and related counseling. Three hours lecture. First semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 4040.

Opto 5010- Ocular Motility- 4.0 credits

Study of the monocular and binocular eye movements, including the molecular structure, physiology, electro physiology, neural control, and actions of the extra ocular muscles. Functional entity and neurology of the basic eye movement systems perceptual and clinical significance are discussed. The accommodation process, the pupillary reflexes, and adnexal musculature of the eye, are discussed. Three hours lecture and two hours laboratory. First semester, second year. Prerequisites: Opto 4003, Opto 4040.

Opto 5015- Ophthalmic Optics- 3.0 credits

The design, construction, fabrication, and adaptation of spectacles, including the optical, mechanical, physical and bio-reactive properties of ophthalmic materials. Two hours lecture and two hours laboratory. First semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 4055.

Opto 5020- Visual Perception I- 4.0 credits

Monocular sensory process including dark adaptation, scotopic and photopic phenomena, temporal and spatial perception, and color vision. Gross electrical potentials. Introduction to photometry. Three hours of lecture and two hours laboratory. First semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 4040.

Opto 5025 - Primary Eye Care II- 4.0 credits

Instrument theory, observation techniques, and psychophysical methods and procedures applicable to clinical tests and measurements enabling optometrists to analyze the performance of the visual system and to determine appropriate corrective measures. Repetitive use of optometric instruments and of techniques of test, measurements and observations on varied human subjects to attain reliability and validity of findings. Basic visual health assessment procedures. Two hours lecture, four hours lab. First Semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 4060.

Opto 5030- Clinical Medicine and Systemic Diseases- 3.0 credits

Discussion of the basic principles of assessment of the illnesses with which an optometrist should be familiar. Topics include cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, endocrine diseases, immunologic diseases, renal diseases, neurological diseases, infectious diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, hematopoietic diseases, reproductive diseases, muscle-skeletal disease, and other systemic diseases and common medical emergencies. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques are also covered. Three hours lecture. Second semester, second year. Prerequisites: Opto 4007, Opto 4050.

Opto 5035- Posterior Ocular Diseases- 3.0 credits

Diseases, abnormalities and anomalies of the posterior segment of the eye, its components, appendages and functionally related mechanisms, with emphasis on their practical clinical detection, measurement, etiology, epidemiology, heredity, sequelae, prognosis and related counseling. Three hours lecture. Second semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 5005

Opto 5040-Visual Perception II- 2.0 credits

Study of the development and characteristics of normal binocular vision. Concepts of binocular vision as depth perception, perceived space, the horopter, retinal correspondence, fusion, fixation disparity and stereopsis are discussed. Topics on visual-motor integration and visual memory are covered. Two hours lecture. Second semester, second year. Prerequisites: Opto 5010, Opto 5020.

Opto 5045- Clinical Optics- 3.0 credits

The clinical aspects of preparing, verifying and dispensing of ophthalmic material in a clinical practice. Two hours lecture and two hours laboratory. Second semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 5015.

Opto 5050- Basic Contact Lenses- 3.0 credits

Materials design, fabrication, modification, and functional analysis of contact lenses of all types, with techniques and criteria for fitting, evaluating, adapting, monitoring, and maintaining them, and for counseling concerning their use in various clinical circumstances. Two hours lecture and two hours laboratory. Second semester, second year. Prerequisites: Opto 4040, Opto 5015, Opto 5025.

Opto 5055- Primary Eye Care III- 6.0 credits

Includes advanced visual health assessment techniques and basic procedures in contact lenses, low vision, and vision therapy. Three hours lecture and six hours laboratory. Second semester, second year. Prerequisite: Opto 5025.

Opto 6000- Ocular Therapeutics- 3.0 credits

A study of the diagnosis, treatment, and management of eye diseases. Emphasis is on the selection of appropriate regimen, pharmaceutical dosage, and duration, techniques of administration, contraindications, and interactions with other ocular and systematic medications. Three hours lecture. First semester, third year. Prerequisites: Opto 5000, Opto 5035.

Opto 6005- Optometry Clinic I- 5.0 credits

Students will provide complete primary eye care examinations under the supervision of clinical faculty. Emphasis will be on the accuracy of patient's history, examination techniques, recording of findings and efficient performance of vision screenings. Assignment will be principally in the school's primary care clinics. Minimum of 21 hours of supervised clinical care per week, including Grand Rounds and screenings. First semester, third year. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first and second year course work required.

Opto 6010- Low Vision- 3.0 credits

A study of the etiology, epidemiology, definition, signs and symptoms of low vision and blindness, including methods of examination, determination of prognosis, selection of appropriate therapy, treatment, and counseling and interdisciplinary coordination. Two hours lecture and two hours laboratory. First semester, third year. Prerequisites: Opto 4055, Opto 5055.

Opto 6015- Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy I- 3.0 credits

Techniques for the examination of infant, pre-school and school aged children. Description of the most common ocular and systemic conditions in these ages groups and their visual presentations. The etiology, epidemiology, symptoms, signs and course sequelae of anomalies of ocular motility, accommodation and non-strabismic anomalies of binocular vision. Relation of these anomalies to learning achievement. Analytical, diagnostic testing, training and rehabilitation techniques for these conditions. Two hours lecture; two hours of lab. First semester, third year. Prerequisite: Opto 5040.

Opto 6020- Advanced Contact Lenses- 2.0 credits

The fitting of specialty contact lenses using advanced procedures for the correction of astigmatism, irregular corneas, presbyopia, and aphakia. Orthokeratology and the correction of ocular trauma with cosmetic lenses are included. Two hours lecture. First semester, third year. Prerequisite: Opto 5050.

Opto 6025- Optometry Research- 1.0 credit

Application of descriptive and inferential statistics to optometric research with emphasis on experimental design and critical analysis of published articles. A research proposal must be submitted and approved by a faculty advisor and course instructor. First semester, third year.

Opto 6030- Case Analysis- 1.0 credit

A study of various theoretical patient management problems and actual clinical cases related to all areas of clinical care. Cases will be reviewed for the purpose of evaluating the data including an analysis of the patient's signs and symptoms, synthesizing the available information, and formulating possible treatment options. One hour lecture. First semester, third year. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all first and second year course work required.

Opto 6035- Practice Management- 2.0 credits

Economic and sociological aspects of optometry and vision care needs and services, with specific attention to the analysis of community demands, doctor-patient and inter professional relationships, and practice modes and management. Two hours lecture. Second semester, third year.

Opto 6040- Optometry Clinic II- 5.0 credits

Students will provide complete primary eye care examinations under the supervision of clinical faculty. Emphasis will be on the evaluation and differential diagnosis of the patient's conditions, assuming accuracy of the patient's case history, examination techniques, and efficient performance of vision screenings. Minimum of 21 hours of supervised clinical care including Grand Round and screenings. Second semester, third year. Prerequisite: Opto 6005.

Opto 6045 -Clinical Laser- 2.0 credits

Basic background knowledge of the nature of laser, its clinical indications, surgical procedures, post-operative care, in laser therapy for the anterior and posterior segments of the eye. Students will have “hands-on” experience in anterior segment laser procedures performed on model eyes. Two hours of lecture. Second semester, third year. Prerequisites: Opto 5035, Opto 5000.

Opto 6050- Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy II- 3.0 credits

The etiology, epidemiology, symptoms, signs and course sequelae of amblyopia, strabismus and its adaptations, fixation disparity, aniseikonia, nystagmus, visual perception, visual-motor and auditory-visual integration and visually related cognitive dysfunctions. Relation of these anomalies to learning achievement. Diagnostic and rehabilitative techniques for treatment of these conditions. Two hours lecture; two hours lab. Second semester, third year.

Opto 6055- Neuro-Optometry- 2.0 credits

Diagnosis and management of neuro-eye diseases. Differential diagnosis and management of neurological diseases that have ocular manifestation. Specialized testing and pupil anomalies on neurological disorder are covered. Two hours lecture, second semester, third year. Prerequisites: Opto 4007, Opto 5035.

Opto 6060- Geriatric Optometry and Special Populations- 2.0 credits

Epidemiological, psychosocial and ocular changes that occur in the aging patients. Examination techniques including those used in nursing home and other non-traditional settings. Similar consideration to special populations such as physically and mentally impaired patients. Two hours lecture, second semester, third year. Prerequisite: Opto 6010.

Opto 7000- Optometry Clinic III- 20 credits

Students will provide comprehensive primary eye care in the School’s clinical program. Patients will be diagnosed, treated or referred. Students may also select advanced primary care clinical rotations in contact lenses, low vision, vision therapy and prosthetic eye clinics. Minimum of 20 weeks (each consisting of 5 days) of clinic. Term one of the fourth year consists of six months and starts immediately after completion of the third year. Prerequisites: Opto 6040, successful completion of all first, second and third year course work required.

Opto 7005 - Optometry Clinic IV- 20 credits

Students will provide comprehensive primary eye care in the School’s clinical program. Patients will be diagnosed, treated or referred. Students may also select advanced primary care clinical rotations in contact lenses, low vision, vision therapy and prosthetic eye

clinics. Minimum of 20 weeks (each consisting of 5 days) of clinic. Term two of the fourth year consists of six months and starts immediately after completion of term one. Prerequisites Opto 7000, successful completion of all first, second and third year course work required.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
TUITION/ FEES	
Application	\$ 31.00 with application
Readmission	\$ 13.00 with application
Regular Student 1st year	\$ 25,500.00 annual
2nd, 3rd yr	\$ 25,000.00 annual
Summer	\$ 1,500.00 per credit hour
Special Students (14 credits or less)	\$1500.00 per credit hour
Auditing Without Credit	50 % of regular cost per credit of special students
GENERAL FEES	
* Medical Plan	According to Contract
Pharmacy Plan (optional fee)	According to Contract
Graduation	\$200.00
Students and Cultural Activities Fees	\$ 37.00 per semester
Laboratory	\$ 38.00 per course
Clinic Fee (course requiring it)	\$ 200.00 per course, 3rd to 4th year \$38.00 per course, 1st to 2nd year
OTHER FEES	
General Fees	\$ 30.00 per semester \$ 25.00 per summer session
Late registration	\$ 50.00
Withdrawal or Changes in courses	\$ 6.00
Deferred Payment	\$ 6.00
Overdue Deferred Payment	5 % of the amount due
Removal of Incompletes	\$ 19.00
Access Information Center Fees	\$ 25.00 per semester \$ 12.00 per summer session
Transcript of Credits	\$ 3.00 per copy
Infrastructure	\$ 64.00 per semester \$ 40.00 per summer session

Construction, Improvements and Maintenance	\$ 63.00 per semester \$ 31.00 per summer session
Charge made by IUPR or company contracted by University for processing checks received from students	\$ 26.00 per check returned
Identification Card Replacement	\$ 7.00 with application
Academic Evaluation Fee	\$ 10.00 with application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>It is mandatory that all registered students must have a medical plan.</i> ● <i>Students with private medical plan must present evidence in order not to be charged for the Inter American University of Puerto Rico medical plan.</i> 	

The Inter American University School of Optometry reserves the right to revise tuition and fee rates as well as other charges under the following circumstances:

- When increases in compensation, operational or capital expenditures occur.
- When budget projections indicate probable increases in compensation, operational or capital expenditures.
- When, after careful consideration of any specific situation, the administration of the University decides that adjustments to tuition and fee rates or other charges are reasonable and justified.

In all cases, a revision of the tuition and fee rates and/or other charges must be announced at least fifteen (15) days before the date payments are due.

ESTIMATED TOTAL COSTS OF OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

ITEMS	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR
<i>Tuition</i>	\$25,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
<i>Fees</i>	\$ 702.00	\$ 702.00	\$ 874.00	\$ 874.00

<i>Books</i>	<i>\$ 625.00</i>	<i>\$ 920.00</i>	<i>\$ 570.00</i>	<i>\$ 300.00</i>
<i>Room</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>\$ 4,100.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,100.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,100.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,100.00</i>
<i>Personal Expenses</i>	<i>\$2,100.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,100.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,300.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,500.00</i>
<i>Equipment</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,200.00</i>	<i>\$ 950.00</i>	<i>\$ 450.00</i>
<i>Tablet PC</i>	<i>-\$2500.00</i>	<i>\$ 0</i>	<i>\$ 0</i>	<i>\$ 0</i>
<i>National Board</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$625.00</i>	<i>\$625.00</i>	<i>\$625.00</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>\$ 1,550.00</i>	<i>\$ 1,550.00</i>	<i>\$ 1,550.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>

* The University reserves the right to revise or change charges and fees whenever considered necessary or desirable.

The total cost of tuition, fees and other charges or the balance that is not covered under an agreement for deferred payment, is due to at the moment of registration. Payments may be made by means of cash, money order, certified check or manager's check, credits cards, ATM (ATM) drawn to the order of Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS

Upon student registration, 50% of all tuition and student fees must be paid. Through formal application, a student may arrange for deferral of the remaining 50%. This deferred payment is due in 3 equal installments of 30 days each.

There is a charge for arranging deferred payment. Overdue deferred payment fees are imposed as a penalty. An official contract will be given to the students stipulating the payments terms. Each student is responsible for making the periodic payments stipulated in the contract.

Students who do not fulfill their financial obligations within the time stipulated will be suspended from classes, will receive a grade of "W", lose the right to deferred payment arrangements in the future and may be suspended from the University. These penalties, however, do not relieve them of the obligation to pay the debts they have incurred.

DEBTS

When students or former students of the University are in debt to the University for any cause other than that of deferred payment, they lose their rights to receive University services. This applies whether or not students may have been granted a payment plan or have initiated payment procedures.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid has the commitment of financing the student's education by establishing a budget for each academic year. This includes the following expenses: Tuition, Room, Board, Equipment, Books, Personal Expenses, Transportation and other fees.

FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to receive federal financial aid:

- ▶ United States Citizen, national, U.S. permanent resident or eligible non citizen
- ▶ Be enrolled as a Half Time student or More:
 - Enrolled in 10 credits or more in any of the academic semesters
- ▶ Not be in default in any previous student loans
- ▶ Maintain satisfactory academic progress

All students will be eligible to receive financial aid if they demonstrate their inability to cover their educational cost. Students are entitled to receive one or a combination of the following awards:

FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

- **Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans**
This loan is need-based. The federal government pays the interest while the students is in School and during grace period before repayment begins
- **Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans**
This loan is available to all students. The terms are the same as the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan except that the borrower is responsible for the interest that accrues before repayment.
- **Health Professional Students Loans**

This subsidized loan is available to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. The loan interest is 5% fixed. (Parental financial data are required)

- **Loans for Disadvantage Students**

Long term, low-interest (5%) loan for eligible students who meet federal definition of “disadvantage background” (parental financial data is required).

- **Grad PLUS Loan**

This is a low rate loan for graduate students, have a fixed interest rate of 8.5%. More importantly, education loans interest are deductible. You can take up to 10 years to repay. Grad PLUS require a basic credit check, but are not made based on income or asset require no collateral.

- **Federal State Grants**

Some amounts of federal and state grants are available.

- **Alternative Loans**

These loans provide supplemental funding when other financial aids do not cover costs. Alternative loans, also know as private loans, help bridge the gap between the actual cost of education and the limited amount the government allows you to borrow in its programs. Alternative loans are offered by private lenders (banks or other financial in institutions) and there are no federal forms to complete, inline federal loans for these private loans may set credit criteria and consider borrowers credits score.

LIMITS

Maximum time for completion of the optometry program while being eligible for federal loans is six academic years for a full-time student and eight academic years for a part-time student. Students must pass courses at the rate of at least 75 percent of the courses attempted to be eligible for federal loans the next semester.

FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

FULL- TIME FACULTY

Angel F. Romero, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Residency in Vision Therapy, SUNY University of New York. Director of Clinical Science and Chief of the Hato Rey Secondary Care Module. Professor of Pediatric and Vision Therapy. Assistant Professor.

Arthur J. Afanador, O.D., Ph.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D) from Southern College of Optometry; Doctorate in Vision Science (Ph.D.), University of California at Berkeley. Director of Electrodiagnostic Clinic. Professor of Ocular Anatomy and Physiology and Visual perception. Full Professor.

Damaris Pagán, O.D., MP.H.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Director of of Patient Care and professor of The Public Health Optometry Course. Master in Public Health, University of Puerto Rico.

Dick Robles, B.S.

Bachelor in Science (B.S.) from University of Puerto Rico. Chief of Optical Dispenser, professor of Clinical Optics. Instructor.

Gustavo Díaz, M.D.

Doctor in Medicine (M.D.) and Ophthalmologist from University of Havana Medical School. Director of Second Year Screening Program, professor of Anterior and Posterior Segment Ocular Diseases. Assistant Professor.

Iris Cabello, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Associate Dean for Students Affairs. Assistant Professor.

Jacqueline Deval, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Director of Rio Piedras Clinic and Director of the Externship Program. Assistant Professor.

John Mordi, BSc. Optom., M.Sc., Ph.D

Bachelor in Optometry (B.Sc.) from University of Benin, Master in Optometry (M.Sc.) from University of Manchester, Doctor in Vision Science (Ph.D.), State University of New York, College of Optometry. Director of Basic Science, professor of Ocular Motility, and Binocular Vision. Associate Professor.

José Díaz Nazario, M.D.

Doctor in Medicine (M.D.) from the School of Medicine at the Universidad Central del Caribe. Residency on Cytogenetics from the Mayo Clinic at Minnesota. Specialty on Anatomy and Clinical Pathology from The University of Puerto Rico Medical Science Campus and further training on Clinical Cytogenetics from the University of

Illinois in Chicago. Professor of Human Pathology, General Pharmacology and Human Physiology. Assistant Professor.

Juan Galarza, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Residency in Hospital/Low Vision from Illinois College of Optometry. Director of the School's Residency Program, professor of Low Vision and Primary Eyecare. Assistant Professor.

Juan Morales, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Professor of Theoretical Optics, Optics of the Eye and Instrument and Ophthalmic Optics. Instructor.

Manuel Conde, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Fellowship in Primary Eye Care, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, professor of Contact Lenses. Assistant Professor.

Mayra Rullán, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from New England College of Optometry, Residency in Hospital-Base Optometry, Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, professor of Ocular Therapeutic and Neuro-Optometry. Associate Professor.

Nilda Lorente, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Chief Primary Eye Care Clinic in Caguas. Clinical Instructor.

Vassilios Boulougoris, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from New England College of Optometry. Director of Dr. Gualberto Rabell Hospital Primary Eyecare Clinic. Professor of Primary Eyecare and Clinical Laser. Associate Professor.

Yvette Mercado, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Professor of Geriatric and Special Population. Assistant Professor.

Neisha Rodriguez, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Chief

Primary Eye Care Clinic in Hato Rey.

PART-TIME FACULTY

Alexander Franquiz, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Carelis Roman, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Instituto Politécnico Nacional (México). Clinical Faculty.

Carmen Fernández, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Doris Antúnez, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (OD) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Germán Muñiz, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

María A. Hernández, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Lourdes Díaz, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Luis Aramburu, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Residency in Rehabilitation of Optometry, State University of New York. Clinical Faculty.

Margaret Matos, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Professor of Contact Lenses.

María Robles, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (OD) from Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Professor of Practice Management.

Rubén Román, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty

Walter Ramírez, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Professor of Primary Eyecare. Clinical Faculty.

Luis Ruiz, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (OD) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Luis Lugo, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (OD) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

AFFILIATE PROFESSORS

Dr. Margaret Matos
Dra. Carmen Fernández
Dr. Michael Haynes/ Dr. Greg Blahnick
Dr. Gary Chrycy
Dr. Eugenio Bird
Dr. Thomas Ledesma
Dr. Harry Hamburger
Dr. Ben Lu
Dr. William Marcolini
Dr. Kenneth Eakland
Dr. Gary Berman
Dr. Hieu Do
Drs. Richard Paskowski/ Weitz
Dr. Roger Páez
Dr. Mario Caballero
Dr. Thanh Truong
Dr. Joseph Presson
Dr. Steve Hintzman
Dr. Julio Rojas/ Dr. Louis Lu

Dr. Joseph Molinari
 Dr. Harry Scott
 Dr. Hiram Quiñónez
 Dr. Paul Ajaimian
 Dr. Mark Gotlieb
 Dr. Wilfredo Cruz
 Dr. Cesar Quiñónez/ Dr. Victor Quinonez
 Dr. María Robles
 Dr. Regina Portocarrero
 Dr. Armanda Zeller
 Dr. Lorie Logan
 Dr. John Hsiao
 Dr. James J. Thimons
 Dr. Hugo Martinez
 Dr. Victor Rosa

ACADEMIC CALENDARS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-11

The Academic Affairs Office reserves the right to make changes in the following calendars without previous notice, for administrative reasons or weather problems.

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR FIRST SEMESTER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011 FOR FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS

(2011-11, part of term O)

June 4, 2010		"Disbursement Memo"
<u>August 2010</u>		
9-10	Monday-Tuesday	Registration for 2 nd and 3 rd year students
10	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees not included)
10	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from all courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees included)
11	Wednesday	First day of classes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year
11	Wednesday	Last day to pay tuition and fee
12-18	Thursday-Wed	Late Registration and class changes
17	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 75% of tuition cost
17	Tuesday	Cancellation of courses to students who have not paid registration
24	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 50% of tuition cost
31	Tuesday	Last day for faculty to enter the AW to the "InterWeb Roll book"

September 2010

- 1 Wednesday Last day for the Administration to do registration changes
- 2 Thursday Initial Accreditation of aid to students
- 3 Friday Second accreditation and refund process*
- 6 Monday **Holiday: Labor Day and Santiago Iglesias Pantín**
- 7-8 Tuesday-Wednesday Check delivery to students & Direct Deposit

October 2010

- 12 Tuesday **Holiday: Columbus Day**
- 13 Wednesday Last day to remove incomplete from summer or previous semester

November 2010

- 11 Thursday **Holiday: Veterans Day**
- 19 Friday **Holiday: Discovery of Puerto Rico**
- 25-27 Thursday-Saturday **Thanksgiving recess**

Optometry School
 Academic Calendar 2011-11
 Part of Term 0
 (1st, 2nd and 3rd year students)
 Page 2

December 2010

- 1 Wednesday Last day of classes
- 1 Wednesday Last day for partial or complete withdrawal with W
- 2-3 Thursday-Friday Study days
- 6 Monday Final examinations start
- 13 Monday Final examinations end
- 15 Wednesday Last day to enter grades to the "InterWeb Roll book"
- 23 Dec to Jan 9 **Administrative Christmas recess**

** After this date, there will be accreditation every Tuesday and Thursday, and Friday there will be an accreditation and Refund Process until June 24, 2011. Check delivery will be made not later than three (3) days after refund.

*** Once the student finishes the board examination, he/she must report back to the scheduled duties the day after the board exam was taken.

March 28, 2010

Agustín Echevarría, J.D.
 Vice President for Academic and
 Student Affairs and Systemic Planning

Luis R. Esquilín, CPA
 Vice President for Financial Affairs,
 Administration and Services

**INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY**

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER
OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011 FOR
FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS**

(2011-31, part of term O)

October 1, 2010		"Disbursement Memo"
<u>January 2011</u>		
10	Monday	Holiday: Eugenio Maria de Hostos
11	Tuesday	Resume of administrative recess
11-12	Tuesday-Wednesday	Registration
13	Thursday	Last day to pay tuition and fee
14	Friday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees not included)
14	Friday	Last day for withdrawal from all courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees included)
17	Monday	Holiday: Martin Luther King
18	Tuesday	First day of classes
19-25	Wednesday - Tuesday	Late Registration and class changes
24	Monday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 75% of tuition cost registration
26	Wednesday	Cancellation of courses to students who have not paid Registration
31	Monday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 50% of tuition cost
<u>February 2011</u>		
7	Monday	Last day for faculty to enter the AW to the "InterWeb Roll book"
8	Tuesday	Last day for the Administration to do registration changes
9	Wednesday	Initial Accreditation of aid to students
10	Thursday	Second Accreditation of aid to students
11	Friday	Third Accreditation and refund process*
14-15	Monday-Tuesday	Check delivery to students & Direct Deposit
21	Monday	Holiday: Presidents Day and Puerto Ricans Governors Day
<u>March 2011</u>		
8	Tuesday	Last day to remove incomplete from previous semester
10-14	Thursday- Monday	NBEO Study recess for part I (ABS)
15-16	Tuesday-Wednesday	NBEO Part I (ABS) ***
22	Tuesday	Holiday: Abolition of Slavery in Puerto Rico

for


Academic Calendar 2011-31
Part of Term 0
(1st, 2nd and 3rd year students)
Page 2

April 2011

18 Monday Holiday: José de Diego
19-23 Tuesday - Saturday Easter Recess

May 2011

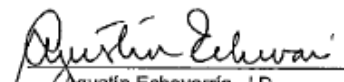
16 Monday Last day of classes for 1st and 2nd year students
16 Monday Last day for partial or complete withdrawal with W for 1st and 2nd year students
17-18 Tuesday - Wednesday Study days for 1st and 2nd year students
19-26 Thursday - Thursday Final examination period for 1st and 2nd year students
20 Friday Last day of classes for 3rd year students
23-27 Monday-Friday Final examination period for 3rd year students
31 Monday Holiday: Memorial Day

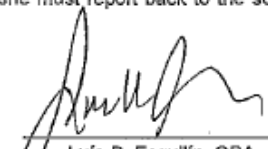
June 2011

1 Wednesday Last day to enter grades to the "InterWeb Roll book"

** After this date, there will be accreditation every Tuesday and Thursday, and Friday there will be an accreditation and Refund Process until June 24, 2011. Check delivery will be made not later than three (3) days after refund.

*** Once the student finishes the board examination, he/she must report back to the scheduled duties the day after the board exam was taken.


Agustín Echevarría, J.D.
Vice President for Academic,
Student Affairs and Systemic Planning


Luis R. Esquillín, CPA
Vice President for Financial Affairs,
Administration and Services

March 26, 2010

**INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY**

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR FIRST SEMESTER
OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011 FOR
FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS**

(2011-11, Part of Term 1)

June 4, 2010		"Disbursement Memo"
<u>June 2010</u>		
3-4	Thursday - Friday	Registration of fourth year students
4	Friday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees not included)
4	Friday	Last day for withdrawal from all courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees included)
7	Monday	Begin fourth year clinic
8-11	Tuesday - Friday	Late registration and class changes
14	Monday	Cancellation of courses to students who have not paid registration
15	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 75% of tuition cost
22	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 50% of tuition cost
29	Tuesday	Last day for faculty to enter the AW to the "Interweb Roll book"
<u>July 2010</u>		
5	Monday	Holiday-Independence Day
30	Wednesday	Last day for the Administration to do registration changes
6	Tuesday	Initial accreditation of aid to students
8	Thursday	Second accreditation of aid to students
9	Friday	Third accreditation and refund process**
12-13	Monday-Tuesday	Check delivery to students & Direct Deposit
19	Monday	Holiday: Luis Muñoz Rivera
26	Monday	Holiday: Common Wealth of Puerto Rico
27	Tuesday	Holiday: José Celso Barbosa
29-30	Thursday- Friday	NBEO Part I study day***
<u>August 2010</u>		
2	Monday	NBEO Part I study days***
3-4	Tuesday- Wed	NBEO Part I ***

Optometry School
Academic Calendar 2011-11
Part of Term 1
(Fourth year students)
Page 2

September 2010

6 Monday Holiday: Labor Day and Santiago Iglesias Pantín

October 2010

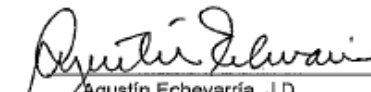
12 Tuesday Holiday: Columbus Day

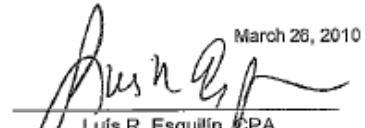
18 Monday Last day to remove incomplete from previous semester

22 Friday Last day first semester fourth year clinic

** After this date, there will be accreditation every Tuesday and Thursday, and Friday there will be an accreditation and Refund Process until June 24, 2011. Check delivery will be made not later than three (3) days after refund.

*** To be excused from the School duties (clinic) the student must present evidence of NBEO exam to the Director of Patient Care and Module Chief at least 1 month before the board exam. Once the student finishes the board examination, he/she must report back to the scheduled duties the day after the last board exam was taken.


Agustín Echevarría, J.D.
Vice President for Academic and
Student Affairs and Systemic Planning

March 26, 2010

Luis R. Esquilin, CPA
Vice President for Financial Affairs,
Administration and Services

**INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY**

Academic Calendar for Second Semester
of the Academic Year 2010-2011 for
Fourth Year Students

(2011-31, Part of Term 1)

Sept.3, 2010		"Disbursement Memo"
<u>October 2010</u>		
25	Monday	Registration fourth year clinic
25	Monday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees not included)
25	Monday	Last day for withdrawal from all courses with a refund of 100% of tuition cost (fees included)
26	Tuesday	Start second semester fourth year clinic
27-29	Wednesday- Friday	Late registration and class changes
<u>November 2010</u>		
1	Monday	Cancellation of courses to students who have not paid registration
2	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 75% of tuition cost
9	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawal from individual courses with a refund of 50% of tuition cost
11	Thursday	Holiday: Veterans Day
16	Tuesday	Last day for faculty to enter the AW to the "Interweb Roll book"
17	Wednesday	Last day for the Administration to do registration changes
18	Thursday	Initial accreditation of aid to students
19	Friday	Second accreditation and refund process**
19	Friday	Holiday: Discovery of Puerto Rico
22-23	Monday-Tuesday	Check delivery to students & Direct Deposit
25-27	Thursday- Saturday	Thanksgiving recess
29	Monday	Part II (PAM) study day recess
30	Tuesday	NBEO Part II (PAM) ***
<u>December 2010</u>		
17	Friday	Last day of fourth year clinic
20	Monday	Start Christmas recess for fourth year student
23 Dec to Jan 9		Administrative Christmas Recess

Handwritten initials/signature

Optometry School
 Academic Calendar 2011-31
 Part of Term 1
 (Fourth year students)
 Page 2

January 2011

10	Monday	Holiday: Eugenio Maria de Hostos
11	Tuesday	Resume of administrative recess
12	Wednesday	Re- start fourth year clinic
17	Monday	Holiday: Martin Luther King

February 2011

21	Monday	Holiday: Presidents Day and Puerto Ricans Governors Day
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March 2011

8	Tuesday	Last day to apply for graduation
10-14	Tuesday- Monday	NBEO Part I study recess
15-16	Tuesday-Wednesday	NBEO Part I (ABS) ***
22	Tuesday	Holiday: Abolition of Slavery in Puerto Rico
29-31	Tuesday-Thursday	NBEO Part II (PAM) & NBEO CSE study day recess
31	Thursday	Last day for delivery senior thesis to the Director of Thesis

April 2011

1-3	Friday-Sunday	NBEO CSE ***
4	Monday	NBEO Part II (PAM) ***
18	Monday	Holiday: José de Diego
19- 23	Tuesday - Saturday	Easter Recess

May 2011


27	Friday	Last day fourth year clinic
30	Monday	Holiday: Memorial Day
31	Wednesday	Last day to enter grades to the "Interweb Rollbook"

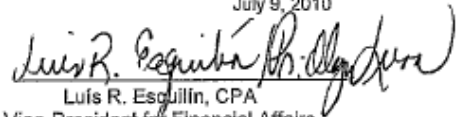
June 2011

2-3	Thursday - Friday	Registration fourth year program
6	Monday	Last day to pay tuition for the first semester 2011-2012 for 4 th years students
6	Monday	Begin first semester of clinic for 2011-2012 academic year for 4 th year students

** After this date, there will be accreditation every Tuesday and Thursday, and Friday there will be an accreditation and Refund Process until June 24, 2011. Check delivery will be made not later than three (3) days after refund.

*** To be excused from the School duties (clinic) the student must present evidence of NBEO exam to the Director of Patient Care and Module Chief at least 1 month before the board exam. Once the student finishes the board examination, he/she must report back to the scheduled duties the day after the last board exam was taken.


Agustín Echevarría, J.D.
Vice President for Academic and
Student Affairs and Systemic Planning

July 9, 2010

Luis R. Esquillín, CPA
Vice President for Financial Affairs,
Administration and Services

THE OPTOMETRIC OATH

With full deliberation I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I will practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I will uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I will provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I will place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I will hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I will advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I will strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I will share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I will do my utmost to serve my community, my country and human-kind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.

I hereby commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this, my solemn oath and obligation.

*Adopted by the Association of Schools and Colleges
of Optometry and the American Optometric Association*