

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY



CATALOG

2013-14
2014-15

Volume XVIII, August 2013

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 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, academic policies, 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.

1. 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 Disabilities Act of 1990 or any other applicable federal or state law or regulation.

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

A Publication of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry
August 2013

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

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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 44,000

students. At the present time, 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 the faculty of the School of Optometry is responsible for their own academic program and standards. Nevertheless, in all other respects, the professional school is 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 Universidades de Puerto Rico
- Asociación de Presidentes de Universidades de Puerto Rico
- Association of American Colleges
- Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
- 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
- Eastern 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 online 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.

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" (AGEO). 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 English. 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 AND VISION 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.

Our vision is to be 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 OF THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

1. Provide an educational program with competent and dedicated faculty.
2. Maintain academic and clinical programs that remain pertinent and accredited.
3. Maintain and fortify a bilingual environment (English/Spanish).
4. Provide lifelong lessons and supportive services to the profession in Puerto Rico, Latin America, the United States, and the rest of the world.
5. Promote the participation of the administration, faculty and student body of the school in professional scientific events; locally, nationally and internationally.
6. Recruit and retain a diverse student body.
7. Provide support services to current students.
8. Maintain the economic and fiscal viability of the school.
9. Maintain an organizational structure that facilitates efficient management.
10. Promote the school's presence in the community.
11. Continue development, maintain and improve a fiscal infrastructure, and acquire an adequate team for the school's academic and clinical programs.
12. Maintain an infrastructure of Computer Science and Telecommunications that facilitates processes of teaching, learning and administration.

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 encounter 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 realize 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.

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 in English 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 eye care 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 (ABS) examination during their third professional year/spring semester. Students are eligible to take Part II examination in December of their fourth year and Part III examination during their fourth year.

Students at Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry are required to pass Part I of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination in order to graduate 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

FUNCTIONAL GUIDELINES FOR DIDACTIC AND CLINICAL OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

To provide guidance to those considering optometry as a profession, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) has established functional guidelines for optometric education. The ability to meet these guidelines, along with other criteria established by individual optometric institutions, is necessary for graduation from an optometric professional degree program.

One of the missions of each school and college of optometry is to produce graduates fully qualified to provide quality comprehensive eye care services to the public. To fulfill this mission, each institution must ensure that students demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skill in the provision of optometric care.

Admission committees, therefore, consider a candidate's capacity to function effectively in the academic and clinical environments, as well as a candidate's academic qualifications and personal attributes.

The functional guidelines in optometric education require that the candidate/student possess appropriate abilities in the following areas: 1) observation; 2) communication; 3) sensory and motor coordination; 4) intellectual - conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; and 5) behavioral and social attributes. Each of these areas is described in this document.

In any case where a student's abilities in one of these areas are compromised, he or she must demonstrate alternative means and/ or abilities to meet the functional requirements. It is expected that seeking and using such alternative means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student. Upon receipt of the appropriate documentation, the school or college will be expected to provide reasonable assistance and accommodation to the student.

OBSERVATION ABILITIES

The student must be able to acquire a defined level of required knowledge as presented through lectures, laboratories, demonstrations, patient interaction and self-study. Acquiring this body of information necessitates the functional use of visual, auditory and somatic sensation enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities. Examples of these observational skills in which accurate information needs to be extracted in an efficient manner include:

Visual Abilities: (as they relate to such things as visual acuity, color vision and binocularity):

- Visualizing and reading information from papers, films, slides, video and computer displays
- Observing optical, anatomic, physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations and experiments
- Discriminating microscopic images of tissue and microorganisms
- Observing a patient and noting non-verbal signs
- Discriminating numbers, images, and patterns associated with diagnostic tests and instruments
- Visualizing specific ocular tissues in order to discern three-dimensional relationships, depth and color changes

Auditory Abilities:

- Understanding verbal presentations in lecture, laboratory and patient settings
- Recognizing and interpreting various sounds associated with laboratory experiments as well as diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

Tactile Abilities:

- Palpating the eye and related areas to determine the integrity of the underlying structures
- Palpating and feeling certain cardiovascular pulses

COMMUNICATION ABILITIES

The student must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients and their families, peers, staff, instructors and other members of the health care team. The student must be able to demonstrate established communication skills using traditional and alternative means. Examples of required communications skills include:

- Relating effectively and sensitively to patients, conveying compassion and empathy
- Perceiving verbal and non-verbal communication such as sadness, worry, agitation and lack of comprehension from patients
- Eliciting information from patients and observing changes in mood and activity
- Communicating quickly, effectively and efficiently in oral and written English with patients and other members of the health care team
- Reading and legibly recording observations, test results and management plans accurately
- Completing assignments, patient records and correspondence accurately and in a timely manner

SENSORY AND MOTOR COORDINATION ABILITIES

Students must possess the sensory and motor skills necessary to perform an eye examination, including emergency care. In general, this requires sufficient exteroception sense (touch, pain, temperature), proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) and fine motor function (significant coordination and manual dexterity using arms, wrists, hands and fingers).

Examples of skill required include but are not limited to:

- Instillation of ocular pharmaceutical agents
- Insertion, removal and manipulation of contact lenses
- Assessment of blood pressure and pulse
- Removal of foreign objects from the cornea
- Simultaneous manipulation of lenses, instruments and therapeutic agents and devices
- Reasonable facility of movement
- Injections into the eye, lids or limbs

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

Problem solving, a most critical skill, is essential for optometric students and must be performed quickly, especially in emergency situations. In order to be an

effective problem solver, the student must be able to accurately and efficiently utilize such abilities as measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, judgment, investigation, memory, numerical recognition and synthesis. Examples of these abilities include being able to:

- Determine appropriate questions to be asked and clinical tests to be performed
- Identify and analyze significant findings from history, examination, and other test data
- Demonstrate good judgment and provide a reasonable assessment, diagnosis and management of patients
- Retain, recall and obtain information in an efficient manner
- Identify and communicate the limits of one's knowledge and skill

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

The student must possess the necessary behavioral and social attributes for the study and practice of optometry. Examples of such attributes include:

- Satisfactory emotional health required for full utilization of one's intellectual ability
- High ethical standards and integrity
- An empathy with patients and concern for their welfare
- Commitment to the optometric profession and its standards
- Effective interpersonal relationships with patients, peers and instructors
- Professional demeanor
- Effective functioning under varying degrees of stress and workload
- Adaptability to changing environments and uncertainties
- Positive acceptance of suggestions and constructive criticism

Candidates with questions or concerns about how their own conditions or disabilities might affect their ability to meet these functional guidelines are encouraged to meet with an optometry school counselor prior to submitting an application.

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** General Grade Point Average (GGPA).*
- A minimum of 54 credit-hours as listed in the catalog in specific courses, approved with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50 or greater.
- An academic average score of **300** or better in the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT). **
- An interview.

*** Candidates with a GGPA below 2.50 but with a RGPA greater than 2.50 in specific required courses may also be considered for admission provided that it is granted by the Dean of the School.**

**** As an alternate option on OAT scores admission criteria, the School may consider candidates with an average score of 290 or higher in total science and reading comprehension combined. In special circumstances, the Dean of the School may reserve the right to consider for admission 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
GENERAL BIOLOGY	2	6
MICROBIOLOGY	1	3
GENERAL CHEMISTRY	2	6
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	1	3
CALCULUS	1	3
GENERAL PHYSICS	2	6
STATISTICS	1	3
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	1	3
ENGLISH	2	6
HUMANITIES	2	6
SOCIAL SCIENCES	2	6
BIOCHEMISTRY	1	3
RECOMENDED: SPANISH	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 1 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 June 1. 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 a 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. An interview via internet or phone 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, internet, 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:

Requirements	Percent
Grade Point Average (GPA)	25 percent
Required Course work Point Average (RGPA)	30 percent
Optometry Admission Test (OAT)	35 percent
Interview by the School Admission Committee	10 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 \$500.00 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 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 must 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 will evaluate 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 Doctor of 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 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year enrolled semester or 10 credits or more for 4th year enrolled semester.

Special Students: A student taking 14 credits or less for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year enrolled semester or 9 credits or less for 4th year enrolled student.

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 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, among others.

A dismissed student is no longer a student at the School of Optometry and loses all rights for appeal processes at the school. Dismissed students must reapply to school by filling out the readmission application and paying a \$31.00 fee on or before March 31. The application must be accompanied by a letter, stating any significant changes or academic efforts that might improve the outcome if the applicant is readmitted.

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 must 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, by the date indicated in the academic calendar of the subsequent semester. 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 making the necessary agreements to fulfill the requirements of the course in order to remove the Incomplete rests on the student.

STUDENT SERVICES AND POLICIES

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 REGISTRAR OFFICE

The Registrar's Office 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 OTHER 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 lose 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 Dean of Students.

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 "Leave of Absence" include, but are not limited to 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. 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

Special remedial courses may be offered during the summer session, limited up to seven credits by students unless authorized by Dean of Academics. 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 courses 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. The School is under no obligation to offer these courses

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.

- c. 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 by September 1st of that year.
- d. Information to other universities. The University will release student or alumni information to those universities to which they request admission.
- e. 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.
- f. Emergency cases. These are cases in which the health or security of a student, alumni or other person is in danger.
- g. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The university is obligated to give information to immigration service regarding certain foreign certain students or alumni.
- h. 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 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 optometry student meeting.
- **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.

- **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.
- **Private Practice Club-** Offers lectures and activities related to the private practice of Optometry. Sponsored by VSP.
- **Orientation Committee** - A volunteer group of second and third year students working along with the Department of Students Services in helping new students with their transition and moving to the island. The group has a fan page in Facebook. Their main activity is the Orientation Week which is held the week before beginning of classes.
- **CAO** - Canadian Optometry Students chapter. Provides information related to practice, financing and support mainly to Canadian students.

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Inter American University of Puerto Rico and the School of Optometry recognizes 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.
- **Best Thesis 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

Academic Information

Integrative teaching is emphasized in both the Academic Department (didactic teaching) and Patient Care Department (clinical instruction) in the new curriculum. The concept is to provide students with a clinical perspective in basic science concepts, thereby developing conceptually based clinical reasoning skills applicable to entry-level practice.

The Academic Department is no longer differentiated into a Basic Science Department and a Clinical Science Department. Hence, courses under this curricular structure are not be defined as purely basic science courses or clinical science courses. They are assembled and taught in one of the following three manners:

- as a conceptually-inclined courses with clinical relevance
- as a clinically-inclined courses with conceptual significance
- as a parallel-corresponding courses with equivalent conceptual and clinical relevance

Common denominators among courses in these categories are intended to facilitate the students' ability to develop clinical reasoning with a conceptual background. Based on this model, emphasis on concept and application varies depending on the course modality. Presentation of material will be cohesive and synchronized by either integrating or correlating basic and clinical concepts.

Conceptually inclined courses and clinically inclined courses require an integrative presentation, whereas parallel-corresponding courses are presented correlatively. Integrative presentations of conceptually inclined courses involve discussion of clinical associations that are pertinent to the predominant basic science topic taught. In the same manner, clinically inclined courses are taught providing basic

science concepts related to the clinical topic discussed to provide background comprehension.

Parallel-corresponding courses consist of proportioned presentations of health concepts related to primary ocular diseases and ocular diseases secondary to systemic conditions, with their respective clinical applications utilizing a complementary approach.

Elective courses also form part of the new curriculum. The purpose of these courses is for the optometric student to further enhance their knowledge in specific areas within optometry in order to encourage the students to apply for optometric residency programs. All these electives are to be offered in the spring term of the third year and all will be evaluated on a pass/no pass basis. The optometric third year student must enroll in five elective courses

Academic Department

Conceptually-Inclined Course with Clinical Relevance

1. Systemic Biomedical Science 1-3 - Opto SBS1-3
2. Applied Pharmacology 1, 2 - Opto APP 1, 2
3. Applied Optics 1-3 - Opto APO 1-3
4. Cultural Competency in Optometry 1, 2 - CCO1, 2
5. Cultural Competency Language Lab.1, 2 - CCL1, 2
6. Human Development and Aging - Opto HDA0
7. Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 1, 2 - Opto OAP1, 2
8. Perception of Light, Form, and Color - Opto LFC0
9. Ocular Motility and Binocular Vision - Opto MBV0
10. Epidemiology and Public Health - Opto EPH0
11. Review Seminar - Opto RVS0

Clinically-Inclined Courses with Conceptual Significance

1. Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1-4 - Opto PCO1-4
2. Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1-3 - Opto OCD1-3
3. Primary Care Contact Lenses - Opto PCL0
4. Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 1, 2 - Opto DVT1, 2
5. Vision research - Opto OVR0
6. Primary Care Low Vision - Opto PLV0
7. Geriatric Optometry - Opto GRO0
8. Pediatric Optometry - Opto PDO0
9. Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Optometry - Opto EBO0
10. Profession of Optometry and Ethics - Opto POE0
11. Practice Management - Opto PMT0

Elective Courses

12. Advanced Vision Therapy - Opto AVT0
13. Advanced Low vision - Opto ALV0
14. Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation - Opto NOR0
15. Advanced Electrophysiology - Opto AEP0
16. Sports Vision - Opto SSV0
17. Advanced Contact lenses - Opto ACL0
18. Advance Ocular Diseases - Opto AOD0

Parallel-Corresponding Courses with Equivalent Conceptual and Clinical Relevance

1. Ocular Diseases 1-3 - Opto ODS1-3
2. Advanced Ocular Diseases - Opto AOD0 (elective course)

The Patient Care Department also has changes in the new curricular structure. Students will enroll in Vision Screenings commencing the spring term of the first year. In addition, clinical clerkships have been added to the second year program. Clinical clerkships consist of student observations in third and fourth year interns

clinical rotations to observe intern/patient, doctor/patient and intern/doctor interactions. As students become more proficient in primary eye care procedure, they will be allowed to have limited participation in the examination.

The fourth year clinical program consists of a total of 25 credits, to be completed before the graduation date. It will be required of all fourth year clinic interns to provide primary eye care at the School main clinic and the in-house satellite clinics, as well as providing care in the School's secondary care clinics. In addition, they must complete part of their clinical education at IAUSO approved external clinic sites. These sites encompass all types of clinic practice scenarios; hospitals, private single and group optometric offices, ophthalmology offices, and optometric practices that provide secondary, specialized optometric service such as vision therapy, low vision, and specialty contact lenses.

Patient Care Department

1st year

1. Vision screenings - Opto VS01
2. Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1 - Opto OCD1

2nd year

3. Vision Screening and Clerkships - Opto VSC1
4. Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 2 - Opto OCD2
5. Clinical Clerkships - Opto CLK1
6. Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 3 - Opto OCD3

3rd year

7. Patient Care 1-3 - Opto PC01-03

4th year

8. Bayamon Main Clinic - Opto PC40
9. In- house Satellite Clinics (5) - Opto PC41-45
10. Local Externship Sites - Opto LE01-04
11. Externships Sites Abroad - Opto EA01-04

CURRICULUM FOR THE DOCTORATE IN OPTOMETRY

1st Year: Fall: Term 1 - 15 weeks

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto SBS1 Systemic Biomedical Sciences I	4	45	30	0	0
Opto APP1 Applied Pharmacology I	3	45	0	0	0
Opto APO1 Applied Optics I	4	52.5	15	0	0
Opto PCO1 Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry I	2	15	30	0	0
Opto CCO1 Cultural Competency in Optometry I	2	30	0	0	0
Opto CCL1 Cultural Competency Language Lab I (Optional)	(1)	0	(30)	0	0
Opto HDA0 Human Development and Aging	2	30	0	0	0
Opto OAP1 Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology I	2.5	30	15	0	0
Totals	19.5 (20.5)	247.5	90 (120)	0	0

1st Year: Spring: Term 2 – 15 weeks

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto SBS2 Systemic Biomedical Sciences 2	4	45	30	0	0
Opto APO2 Applied Optics 2	4	52.5	15	0	0
Opto PCO2 Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2	2	15	30	0	0
Opto VS01 Vision Screenings	0.5	0	0	30	0
Opto CCO2 Cultural Competency in Optometry 2	2	30	0	0	0
Opto CCL2 Cultural Competency Language Lab 2 (Optional)	(1)	0	(30)	0	0
Opto OAP2 Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 2	3	30	30	0	0
Opto APP2 Applied Pharmacology 2	3	45	0	0	0
Opto OCD1 Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1	1	0	30	0	0
Totals	19.5 (20.5)	217.5	135 (165)	30	0

1st Year: Term 3: Summer (June) – 25 days

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto LFC0 Perception of Light, Form and Color	4	45	30	0	0
Totals	4	45	30	0	0

Totals First year	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
	43 (45)	510	255 (315)	30	0

2nd Year: Fall: Term 1

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto SBS3 Systemic Biomedical Sciences 3	4	60	0	0	0
Opto APO3 Applied Optics 3	4	45	30	0	0
Opto PCO3 Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 3	5	30	90	0	0
Opto VSC1 Vision Screenings and Clerkship	1	0	0	30	30
Opto MBV0 Ocular Motility and Binocular Vision	4	45	30	0	0
Opto ODS1 Ocular Disease 1	4	60	0	0	0
Opto OCD2 Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 2	0.5	0	0	0	30
Totals	22.5	240	150	30	60

2nd Year: Spring: Term 2

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto PCO4 Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 4	5	45	60	0	0
Opto CLK1 Clinical Clerkship	1	0	0	0	60
Opto CSA0 Comprehensive Clinic Skills Assessment	0.1	0	0	0	0
Opto PCL0 Primary Care Contact Lenses	3	30	30	0	0
Opto ODS2 Ocular Diseases 2	4	60	0	0	0
Opto DVT1 Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 1	3	30	30	0	0
Opto EPH0 Epidemiology and Public Health	2	30	0	0	0
Opto OCD3 Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 3	0.5	0	0	0	30
Totals	18.6	195	120	0	90

Totals second year	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
	41.1	435	270	30	150

3rd Year: Summer: Term 1 (July) – 25 days

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto PC01 Patient Care 1	0.66	0	0	0	30
Opto OVR0 Vision Research	2	30	0	0	0
Totals	2.66	30	0	0	30

3rd Year: Fall: Term 2 – 15 weeks

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto ODS3 Ocular Diseases 3	4	60	0	0	0
Opto DVT2 Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 2	3	30	30	0	0
Opto PLV0 Primary Care Low Vision	3	30	30	0	0
Opto GRO0 Geriatric Optometry	1.5	22.5	0	0	0
Opto PDO0 Pediatric Optometry	1.5	22.5	0	0	0
Opto EBO0 Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Optometry	1	15	0	0	0
Opto POE0 Profession of Optometry and Ethics	1	15	0	0	0
Opto PCO2 Patient Care 2	4	0	0	0	180
Opto PBM0 Publishable Manuscript Submission	0.5	0	0	0	0
Totals	19.5	195	60	0	180

3rd Year: Spring: Term 3 – 15 weeks

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto ACL0 Advanced Contact Lenses	2	30	0	0	0
Opto AVT0 Advanced Vision Therapy	2	15	30	0	0
Opto ALV0 Advanced Low Vision	2	15	30	0	0
Opto NOR0 Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation	2	30	0	0	0
Opto AOD0 Advanced Ocular Diseases	2	30	0	0	0
Opto AEP0 Advanced Electrophysiology	2	15	30	0	0
Opto SSV0 Sports Vision	2	15	30	0	0
Opto PMT0 Practice Management	2	30	0	0	0
Opto RVS0 Review Seminar	1	15	0	0	0
Opto PCO3 Patient Care 3	4	0	0	0	180
Totals	17	135 - 165	60 - 120	0	180

Third year totals	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
	39.16	360 - 390	120 - 180	0	390

4h year

Course	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
Opto PC40 Patient Care Bayamón Clinic	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto PC41 In- House Satelite Clinics Rio Piedras Clinic	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto PC42 In- House Satelite Clinics Caguas Clinic	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto PC43 In- House Satelite Clinics Santurce Clinic	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto PC44 In- House Satelite Clinics Hato Rey Clinic	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto PC45 In- House Satelite Clinics Juana Diaz Clinic	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto LE01 Local Externships Sites Site 1	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto LE02 Local Externships Sites Site 2	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto LE03 Local Externships Sites Site 3	5	0	0	0	320
Opto LE04 Local Externships Sites Site 4	5	0	0	0	320

Opto EA01 Externships Sites Abroad Externship Site 1	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto EA02 Externships Sites Abroad Externship Site 2	2.5	0	0	0	160
Opto EA03 Externships Sites Abroad Externship Site 3	5	0	0	0	320
Opto EA04 Externships Sites Abroad Externship Site 4	5	0	0	0	320
Totals	*25	0	0	0	*1600

Note: Only 25 credits and 1600 hours are required for the 4th year program.

Fourth year totals	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
	25	0	0	0	1600

Program totals	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory / Demonstration hours	Screening hours	Clinic hours
	150.26	1305	645-765	60	2140
	Program Totals Hours 4150-4270				

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

First Year Fall Term

Opto SBS1 - Systemic Biomedical Sciences 1 - 4.0 credits

An organ-system based approach to the study of human histology, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, including that of the nervous system, leading to the study of abnormal development, injury, inflammation, and pathology of the organ and system. The discussion of systemic anomalies, include diagnostic characteristics and management. Emphasis will be given to those systemic conditions that have ocular manifestations. Through this course students will have a better understanding of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases as well as interdisciplinary referral protocols. The neurology portion of this course includes the study of the human nervous system with respective neurologic conditions affecting physical, reflexive, and sensory aspects of the human body. All neural tracts are studied with concomitant clinical context to teach students how to discern and use relevant information to manage neurological conditions. Laboratories include computer-based virtual human anatomy study, and diagnostic procedures.

Lecture: three hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto APP1 - Applied Pharmacology 1 - 3.0 credits

The initial portion of the course covers in detail the general principles of pharmacology: explanation of the principal areas of pharmacology, bioavailability of drugs, factors influencing drug response, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug delivery systems, and prescription writing. Subsequently, the course integrates the mode of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, side effects, contraindications, and drug interactions of the different systemic drug types with their respective clinical systemic and ocular applications and secondary or adverse effects. This course is divided according to the following topics: autonomic drugs, cardiovascular drugs, renal drugs, drugs that affect the smooth muscles, drugs that affect the central nervous system, drugs to treat blood diseases, drugs to treat inflammation, drugs that affect the endocrine system, chemotherapeutic drugs (anti-microbials, antifungals, antivirals, antiprotozoal, antihelminthic, cancer chemotherapeutics), dermatologic agents, drugs for gastrointestinal disease, disinfectants, antiseptics and sterilants, ophthalmic dyes, contact lens solutions, and important drug interactions. Clinical scenarios will be introduced to develop the student's patient management skills related to the use of systemic and ocular pharmacologic agents.

Lecture: Three hours weekly

Opto APO1 - Applied Optics 1 - 4.0 credits

The objectives of the applied optics I are to provide students with the fundamental concepts required for understanding refraction, reflection, ophthalmic lenses, and the human eye's optical system. This course covers geometrical optics, physical optics and simplified eye models to describe ametropias.

Lecture: three and one half hours weekly

Laboratory: one hour weekly

Opto PCO1 - Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1 - 2.0 credits

This course prepares first year students for their participation in vision screenings and clerkships during the second year of optometric education by teaching the theory and practical applications of basic introductory procedures in optometric patient care. Procedures include case history, visual acuity, color vision, and stereoacuity testing; pupil evaluation, cover test, and introductory concepts of retinoscopy. In addition, students will gain awareness of the professional and ethical principles of optometric patient care. Laboratory sessions will consist of the test procedures discussed in the didactic coursework.

Lecture: one hour weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto CCO1 - Cultural Competency in Optometry 1 - 2.0 credits

This course introduces the basics of multi-cultural principles and how these affect interpersonal dynamics. The diversity of cultural values and how these affect the provision of eye care are exposed through clinical scenarios. The course also trains the fundamentals of communications in both the Spanish and English languages in order to develop their bilingual abilities.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Opto CCL1 - Cultural Competency Language Lab 1 - 1.0 credit

Spanish speaking students with minimal or moderate basic knowledge in English are taught to develop reading, writing, speaking skills through didactic and laboratory teaching. Likewise, English speaking students with minimal or no knowledge in Spanish are taught basic conversational skills of the language.

Laboratory: two hours weekly (separate sessions for Spanish and English speaking students) each

Opto HDA0 - Human Development and Aging - 2.0 credits

A lecture course that encompasses the different stages in the human life cycle. It includes the psycho-motor, cognitive and emotional development from the newborn to the aging. This course will have a comprehensive focus in order to aid the students to understand and manage patients that are seen in every day clinical optometric practice.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Opto OAP1 - Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 1 - 2.5 credits

This course provides comprehensive knowledge of the microscopic anatomy of the normal human eye and the physiology of its cellular components that make up tissues and determine their functions. Topics include epithelium, connective tissue, muscle and neurons. In addition, associated microanatomical ocular anomalies that lead to disease and pathophysiologies are discussed throughout every major section of the course. Laboratory sessions provide support for the material.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Laboratory: one hour weekly

First Year Spring Term**Opto SBS2 - Systemic Biomedical Sciences 2 - 4.0 credits**

An organ-system based approach to the study of human histology, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, including that of the nervous system, leading to the study of abnormal development, injury, inflammation, and pathology of the organ and system. The discussion of systemic anomalies, include diagnostic characteristics and management. Emphasis will be given to those systemic conditions that have ocular manifestations. Through this course students will have a better understanding of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases as well as interdisciplinary referral protocols. The neurology portion of this course includes the study of the human nervous system with respective neurologic conditions affecting physical, reflexive, and sensory aspects of the human body. All neural tracts are studied with concomitant clinical context to teach students how to discern and use relevant information to manage neurological conditions. Laboratories include computer-based virtual human anatomy study, and diagnostic procedures.

Lecture: three hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto APO2 - Applied Optics 2 - 4.0 credits

This course examines the optics of the human visual system and its relation to corrective vision devices. Students will obtain knowledge of refractive error and its relation to accommodation, spherical and cylindrical correction, lens powers, and magnification. Additional material covers radiation and the eye, wavefront aberrations of the eye and optical image quality. Also magnification and field properties of optical instruments such as telescopes, microscopes and magnifiers among others.

Lecture: three and one half hours weekly

Laboratory: one hour weekly

Opto PCO2 - Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2 - 2.0 credits

This course prepares first year students for their participation in vision screenings and clerkships during the second year of optometric education by teaching the theory and practical applications of basic introductory procedures in optometric patient care. Procedures include pupil evaluation, cover test, extraocular muscle movement testing, keratometry, retinoscopy, and ophthalmoscopy. In addition, students continue to gain awareness of the professional and ethical principles of optometric patient care. Laboratory sessions will consist of the test procedures discussed in the didactic coursework.

Lecture: one hour weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto VS01 - Vision Screening - 0.5 credit

A patient care course where students, under the supervision of a clinical instructor, will practice on patients preliminary testing procedures learned in the Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1 course and those concurrently learned in Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2. A clinical presentation summarizing a patient experience of interest encountered during the semester must be submitted at the culmination of the course. Clinical performance is evaluated based on the level of skills in history-taking, examination procedures, record documentation, and attitude and professionalism documented on daily evaluations. Grading is on a Pass or Fail basis and is based on the clinical evaluations and the presentation.

Vision screenings: five to six hours of clinical exposure every other week

Opto CCO2 - Cultural Competency in Optometry 2 - 2.0 credits

This course further develops, through a series of didactic and laboratory activities the English/Spanish communication skills of students. The course discusses how ethnicity, national demographics, gender, religious believe, and language impact communication, interpersonal interactions and the quality of patient care. At the end of the course students will be capable of interacting efficiently and in a professional manner with teachers, health professionals, fellow students, and patients by identifying and bridging cultural differences.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Opto CCL2 - Cultural Competency Language Lab 2- 1.0 credit

Spanish speaking students with minimal or moderate basic knowledge in English are taught to develop reading, writing, speaking skills through didactic and laboratory teaching. Likewise, English speaking students with minimal or no knowledge in Spanish are taught basic conversational skills of the language.

Laboratory: two hours weekly (separate sessions for Spanish and English speaking students) each

Opto OAP2 - Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 2 - 3.0 credits

This course provides comprehensive knowledge of the microscopic anatomy of the normal human eye and the physiology of its cellular components that make up tissues and determine their functions. Topics include epithelium, connective tissue, muscle and neurons. In addition, associated microanatomical ocular anomalies that lead to disease and pathophysiologies are discussed throughout every major section of the course. Laboratory sessions provide support for the material.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto APP2 - Applied Pharmacology 2 - 3.0 credits

The initial portion of the course covers in detail the general principles of pharmacology: explanation of the principal areas of pharmacology, bioavailability of drugs, factors influencing drug response, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug delivery systems, and prescription writing. Subsequently, the course integrates the mode of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, side effects, contraindications, and drug interactions of the different systemic drug types with their respective clinical systemic and ocular applications and secondary or adverse effects. This course is divided according to the following topics: autonomic drugs, cardiovascular drugs, renal drugs, drugs that affect the smooth muscles, drugs that affect the central nervous system, drugs to treat blood diseases, drugs to treat inflammation, drugs that affect the endocrine system, chemotherapeutic drugs (anti-microbials, antifungals, antivirals, antiprotozoal, antihelminthic, cancer chemotherapeutics), dermatologic agents, drugs for gastrointestinal disease, disinfectants, antiseptics and sterilants, ophthalmic dyes, contact lens solutions, and important drug interactions. Clinical scenarios will be introduced to develop the student's patient management skills related to the use of systemic and ocular pharmacologic agents.

Lecture: three hours weekly

Opto OCD1 - Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1 - 1.0 credit

Development of metacognitive skills for the interpretation of clinical data and problem solving is essential for the evolution of the student into a clinician. These seminars are designed to better integrate all the knowledge acquired in courses presented in previous semesters in a clinical framework. As the seminars progress, so will be the complexity of the seminars, and more clinical examples will be used in order to better prepare the students for their final assessments of entry-level skills. The management options will be discussed within an evidence-based optometry framework.

Laboratory: two hours weekly: practice sessions

First Year Summer Term

Opto LFC0 - Perception of Light, Form and Color - 4.0 credits

Monocular sensory phenomena such as light detection, dark adaptation, scotopic and photopic vision, color vision, spatial and temporal vision. Gross electrical potentials. Clinical manifestations will be introduced as needed.

Lecture: three hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Second Year Fall Term

Opto SBS3 - Systemic Biomedical Sciences 3 - 4.0 credits

An organ-system based approach to the study of human histology, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, including that of the nervous system, leading to the study of abnormal development, injury, inflammation, and pathology of the organ and system. The discussion of systemic anomalies, include diagnostic characteristics and management. Emphasis will be given to those systemic conditions that have ocular manifestations. Through this course students will have a better understanding of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases as well as interdisciplinary referral protocols. The neurology portion of this course includes the study of the human nervous system with respective neurologic conditions affecting physical, reflexive, and sensory aspects of the human body. All neural tracts are studied with concomitant clinical context to teach students how to discern and use relevant information to manage neurological conditions. Laboratories include computer-based virtual human anatomy study, and diagnostic procedures.

Lecture: four hours weekly

Opto APO3 Applied Optics 3- 4.0 credits

This course presents the application of geometrical optics to the properties of ophthalmic lenses. Topics include: lens shapes, base curve, lens thickness, prismatic effects of lenses, lens design, frame materials and their nomenclature among others. Lensometry skills, eyewear design and dispensing techniques are part of the laboratory.

Lecture: three hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto PCO3 - Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 3 - 5.0 credits

A combination of lecture and clinical laboratory sessions evenly divided in two academic terms. The didactic portion includes the theory of instrumentation, description of procedures to assess functional vision, refractive state of the eye and ocular health, and methodology for case history-taking and patient communication. The remainder of didactic portion of the course is based on a comprehensive integration of concepts related to refractive errors and anterior and posterior ocular diseases, and to a lesser extent, concepts related to contact lenses, low vision, and vision therapy. Clinical laboratory sessions primarily consist of demonstrations, and repetitive hands-on practice on diverse human subjects to acquire proficiency in the clinical procedures that comprise a comprehensive primary-care optometric examination.

Lecture: two hours weekly first term

Laboratory: six hours weekly

Opto VSC1 - Vision Screening and Clerkship - 1.0 credit

A patient care course where students will have the opportunity to practice more advanced procedures in all types of patients under the supervision of a clinical instructor. They are evaluated on history-taking, examination techniques, record keeping, attitude and professionalism, and maintenance of patient logs. In addition, a literature review paper based on a condition of a patient encountered during the semester must be submitted at the culmination of the course. Those students not participating in screenings are assigned to clinic modules at the Bayamon main clinic and satellite health center clinic sites. Besides the expected level of clinical skills, they are expected to have an understanding of patient care, acquire effective patient communication skills, and begin to attaining ocular health assessment abilities. As the course progresses, students will have more participation during patient encounters. Grading is on a Pass or Fail basis, and is based on screening evaluations and the written paper.

Vision screenings: six hours of clinical exposure every other week

Opto MBV0 -Ocular Motility and Binocular Vision - 4.0 credits

Study of eye movements, including the structure, physiology, kinematics, neural control, and actions of extra ocular and intraocular muscles. The development and characteristics of normal binocular vision. Topics in binocular vision such as retinal correspondence, fusion, fixation disparity, stereopsis, localization and the horopter, are discussed. Included is the development and importance of visual-perceptual skills and inter-modal integrative skills.

Lecture: three hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto ODS1 - Ocular Diseases 1 - 4.0 credits

A three-term course where primary basic concepts related to all types of ocular pathologies are linked to their respective primary and/or secondary clinical applications. At the conclusion of each major topic integrative discussions and/or interactive clinical case presentations are held. The conceptual portion of the course exposes pathology fundamentals related to the anterior and posterior segment of the eye as well as all neurological aspects of the eye. These pathological concepts embrace epidemiology, etiology, heredity, and functionally-related mechanisms of anatomical, physiological, and sensory-motor eye components. Clinical applications presented correlatively with basic concepts covered include diagnostic work-up, differential diagnoses and final assessments, and primary and secondary managements such as drug prescribing, laser treatment, surgical care and its co-management, multi-disciplinary care, and treatment prognosis.

Lecture: four hours weekly

Opto OCD2 - Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 2 - 0.5 credits

Development of metacognitive skills for the interpretation of clinical data and problem solving is essential for the evolution of the student into a clinician. These seminars are designed to better integrate all the knowledge acquired in courses presented in previous semesters in a clinical framework. As the seminars progress, so will be the complexity of the seminars, and more clinical examples will be used in order to better prepare the students for their final assessments of entry-level skills. The management options will be discussed within an evidence-based optometry framework.

Clinic lecture: two hours weekly

Second Year Spring Term**Opto PCO4 - Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 4 - 5.0 credits**

A combination of lecture and clinical laboratory sessions evenly divided in two academic terms. The didactic portion includes the theory of instrumentation, description of procedures to assess functional vision, refractive state of the eye and ocular health, and methodology for case history-taking and patient communication. The remainder of didactic portion of the course is based on a comprehensive integration of concepts related to refractive errors and anterior and posterior ocular diseases, and to a lesser extent, concepts related to contact lenses, low vision, and vision therapy. Clinical laboratory sessions primarily consist of demonstrations, and repetitive hands-on practice on diverse human subjects to acquire proficiency in the clinical procedures that comprise a comprehensive primary-care optometric examination. Upon completion of the course, students will attain competence to perform comprehensive eye exams, reach proper diagnoses, and outline management plans for the majority of patients seen during the third year clinical program. Lecture: three hours weekly

Laboratory: four hours weekly

Opto CLK1 - Clinical Clerkships - 1.0 credits

The purpose of this clinical program is to provide students with patient care experience proportionate to the level of clinical skills learned in patient care courses taken to date. Students are assigned to clinic modules at the Bayamon main clinic and satellite health center clinic sites. Besides the expected level of clinical skills, they are expected to have an understanding of patient care, acquire effective patient communication skills, and begin attaining ocular health assessment abilities. As the level of clinical development increases, clinical instructors are encouraged to demand more participation during patient encounters. Clinical performance is evaluated based on the level of skills in history-taking, examination procedures, record documentation, and attitude and professionalism documented on daily evaluations. In addition, at the culmination of the clerkship students must submit a clinical case report of a patient encountered during the course of the clerkship. Grading is on a Pass or Fail basis, and is based on daily clinic evaluations and the clinical case report submitted.

Patient care: one day of clinic every other week

Opto PCLO- Primary Care 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.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto ODS2 - Ocular Diseases 2 - 4.0 credits

A three-term course where primary basic concepts related to all types of ocular pathologies are linked to their respective primary and/or secondary clinical applications. At the conclusion of each major topic integrative discussions and/or interactive clinical case presentations are held. The conceptual portion of the course exposes pathology fundamentals related to the anterior and posterior segment of the eye as well as all neurological aspects of the eye. These pathological concepts embrace epidemiology, etiology, heredity, and functionally-related mechanisms of anatomical, physiological, and sensory-motor eye components. Clinical applications presented correlatively with basic concepts covered include diagnostic work-up, differential diagnoses and final assessments, and primary and secondary managements such as drug prescribing, laser treatment, surgical care and its co-management, multi-disciplinary care, and treatment prognosis.

Lecture: four hours weekly

Opto DVT1 - Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 1 - 3.0 credits

Comprehensive review of normal and abnormal functional pediatric developmental features related to motor and visuo-motor skills, and cognition; and how all these factors influence child's vision. These concepts are systematically integrated within the clinical orientation of the course to help students develop efficient critical thinking skills. Clinical applications are primarily based on description of developmental visual findings, and treatment modalities relevant to clinical cases presented. The vision therapy portion of the course primarily embraces conceptual facts pertaining to oculomotor, accommodative, and non-strabismic binocular dysfunctions systemically intercalated into respective clinical-case applications. The laboratory component of the course provides a setting for discussion and practical experience related to diagnostic and treatment procedures.

Lecture: two hours weekly.

Laboratory: two hours weekly.

OPTO EPH0: Epidemiology and Public Health - 2.0 credits

This course is intended to provide students with the essentials aspects of scientific analysis of literature, application of the scientific method in research, public health and optometric principles to improve eye health and vision of the population. The course also pretends to study the epidemiology of eye diseases, and the management of conditions and systems from a population perspective. The course presents biostatistics methods and epidemiologic concepts and their applications useful to analyze statistical data in research. Levels of prevention, factors that affect access to healthcare and their impact in vision care of populations are also discussed. Analyze the importance of healthcare systems and finances for groups.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Opto OCD3 - Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 3 - 0.5 credits

Development of metacognitive skills for the interpretation of clinical data and problem solving is essential for the evolution of the student into a clinician. These seminars are designed to better integrate all the knowledge acquired in courses presented in previous semesters in a clinical framework. As the seminars progress, so will be the complexity of the seminars, and more clinical examples will be used in order to better prepare the students for their final assessments of entry-level skills. The management options will be discussed within an evidence-based optometry framework.

Clinic lecture: 2 hours weekly clinic discussions

Opto CSA0 - Comprehensive Clinic Skills Assessment - 0.1 credits

In order to become a primary eye care provider in the patient care program as a clinical intern, all candidates will have to satisfactorily perform a full visual assessment to a patient. The skills tested will be those that have been learned and practiced up to the end of the spring term of the second year. The skills evaluated will include but not be limited to those that are assessed for entry-level practice in the profession of optometry.

Third Year Summer Term

Opto OVR0 - Vision Research - 2.0 credits

The course embraces the development of research proposals for optometric research studies including the elements of statistical analysis. It also covers the scholarly activity involved in writing articles following standardized formats adopted in nationally recognized optometric journals. At the end of the course, students, will have the necessary skills to submit a research proposal and a publishable article.

Lecture: 30 hours

Opto PC01 - Patient Care 1 -0.66 credit

This is the first primary eye care practical course on actual patients for third year students. It primarily consists on providing supervised comprehensive eye examinations. In this stage of clinical development emphasis is primarily given to students' competence in clinical skills which includes patient's history, examination techniques, and record documentation. Some emphasis is also given to the correlation of basic concepts with clinical applications to enhance their capacity in clinical reasoning. Clinical sessions are held at the Institution's main clinic. In addition to weekly grand round sessions, students are assigned monthly to fourth year in-house clinic rotations to start exposing them to more advanced levels of patient care. Daily evaluations are submitted to assess their level of clinical development.

Main clinic: two days per week.

Third Year Fall Term

Opto ODS3 - Ocular Diseases 3 - 4.0 credits

A three-term course where primary basic concepts related to all types of ocular pathologies are linked to their respective primary and/or secondary clinical applications. At the conclusion of each major topic integrative discussions and/or interactive clinical case presentations are held. The conceptual portion of the course exposes pathology fundamentals related to the anterior and posterior segment of the eye as well as all neurological aspects of the eye. These pathological concepts embrace epidemiology, etiology, heredity, and functionally-related mechanisms of anatomical, physiological, and sensory-motor eye components. Clinical applications presented correlatively with basic concepts covered include diagnostic work-up, differential diagnoses and final assessments, and primary and secondary managements such as drug prescribing, laser treatment, surgical care and its co-management, multi-disciplinary care, and treatment prognosis.

Lecture: four hours weekly

Opto DVT2 - Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 2 - 3.0 credits

Course discussion primarily focuses on the integration of factual data such as natural history, etiology, and signs and symptoms with an organized clinical approach for the diagnosis and management of fixation disparity anomalies, suppression and amblyopia, strabismus and anomalous visual sensory-motor adaptation, aberrant visual perception, anomalous visual-motor and auditory-visual integration, aniseikonia, nystagmus and acquired brain injury. There is special emphasis on diagnostic techniques, clinical decision-making. Rehabilitative treatment modalities will be presented. In addition, the repercussion of these anomalies to learning achievements in the child as well as their sequela into adulthood is discussed. The laboratory component of the course provides a setting for discussion and practical experience related to diagnostic and treatment procedures.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto PLV0 - Primary Care 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.

Lecture: two hours weekly

Laboratory: two hours weekly

Opto GRO0 - Geriatric Optometry - 1.5 credits

Comprehensive review of normal and abnormal structural and functional features related to motor and visuo-motor skills, verbal communication, emotional processing, and cognition in the geriatric population. In addition, it describes variations and expected findings in the refractive status of geriatric patients. In addition, the relation between systemic and acquired neurologic conditions, pharmacology and their effects on the visual system associated to the geriatric population is covered. These concepts are systematically integrated within the clinical orientation of the course to help students develop efficient critical thinking skills to derive adequate management and treatment plans. Clinical applications are primarily based on description of geriatric examination techniques, proper assessment, and treatment modalities relevant to clinical cases presented.

Lecture: one and one half hour weekly

Opto PDO0 - Pediatric Optometry - 1.5 credits

Comprehensive review of normal and abnormal structural and functional pediatric developmental features related to motor and visuo-motor skills, verbal communication, emotional processing, and cognition; and how all these factors influence a child's vision. In addition, it describes variations and expected findings in the refractive status of infants and children according to age. Diagnosis, treatment and management of common ocular diseases are to be presented. Special populations, as pertaining to the pediatric population, are included as well. These concepts are systematically integrated within the clinical orientation of the course to help students develop efficient critical thinking skills to derive adequate management and treatment plans. Clinical applications are primarily based on description of pediatric examination techniques, proper assessment, and treatment modalities relevant to clinical cases presented.

Lecture: one and one half hour weekly

Opto EBO0 - Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Optometry - 1.0 credit

Interactive discussions of actual and sample clinical cases concerning all areas of optometry. It emphasizes the development of clinical thinking strategies to obtain an accurate clinical assessment. Evidence-based optometry will be the informative source for discussing management options. The course will develop the students' abilities to manage cases based on clinical scientific evidence to ensure the best outcomes.

Lecture: one hour weekly.

Opto POE0- The Profession of Optometry and Ethics- 1.0 credit

A web-based course that covers the development of optometry as a profession with its education, organizational, legislative, legal and ethical developments in the world, United States, and Puerto Rico.

Web based course

Opto PC02 - Patient Care 2 - 4.0 credits

This is the continuation of primary eye care practical course on actual patients for third year students. It primarily consists on providing supervised comprehensive eye examinations. In this stage of clinical development emphasis is primarily given to students' competence in clinical skills that include patient's history, examination techniques, and record documentation. Some emphasis is also given to the correlation of basic concepts with clinical applications to enhance their capacity in clinical reasoning. Clinical sessions are held at the Institution's main clinic. Also, in addition to weekly grand round sessions, once a month students are assigned to fourth year in-house clinic rotations to start exposing them to more advanced levels of patient care. Occasionally, students will provide domestic primary eye care services at geriatric home institutions, assisted living communities, and pre-scholar and scholar entities among others. Daily evaluations are submitted to assess level of clinical development. Pre requisite: All First and Second Year courses must have been approved.

Main clinic: one day per week
Grand rounds: half-a-day per week
In-house rotations: one day per month

Opto PBM0 - Publishable Manuscript Submission- 0.5 credit

In order to promote life-long learning and scholarly activities, must submit a publishable quality paper before February of the second term of the fourth year. This publishable paper must follow the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines and structure. The publishable quality paper must be an original experimental article, extensive literature reviews or case reports.
Recurrent until completion of requirement.

Third Year Spring Term

Opto RVS0 - Review Seminar - 1.0 credit

The purpose of this course is to enhance the preparation of our students for the first part of the entry level knowledge tests - National Boards Applied Basic Science. The course will comprise of material that has been covered during the previous years of optometric education in a concise manner to refresh important concepts relevant to clinical application of basic science concepts.

Lectures: 3 hours weekly for 2 weeks. Sessions are scheduled prior to National Boards examinations.

Opto PMT0 - 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, management and billing.

Lectures: two hours weekly

Opto PC03 - Patient Care 3 - 4.0 credits

Besides assuring students' competence in clinical skills, at this level of clinical development special emphasis is given to students' ability to correlate basic concepts with respective clinical applications to enhance their capacity in clinical reasoning. Sessions are held at the Institution's main clinic. Also, in addition to weekly grand round sessions, once a month students are assigned to fourth year in-house clinic rotations to start exposing them to more advanced levels of patient care. Domestic assignments continue for third year students during their spring term; to provide students with the expertise on the provision of domestic primary eye care services. Daily evaluations are submitted to assess level of clinical development.

Main clinic: one day per week.

Grand rounds: half-a-day per week.

In-house rotations: one day per month.

Elective Courses

The purpose of these courses is for the optometric student to further enhance their knowledge in specific areas within optometry in order to encourage the students to apply for optometric residency programs. All these electives are to be offered in the spring term of the third year and all will be evaluated on a pass/no pass basis. The optometric third year student must enroll in five elective courses

Opto AVT0 - Advanced Vision Therapy - 2.0 credits

This elective covers in more depth the treatment and management of complicated cases of binocular vision anomalies and visual-perceptual therapy. The course will include lectures, case presentations, and laboratory sessions to demonstrate and practice advanced therapeutic procedures.

Lecture: 1 hour weekly

Laboratory: 2 hours weekly

Opto ALV0 - Advanced Low Vision - 2.0 credits

This elective course covers in depth the assessment and management of complicated cases that require low vision rehabilitation. It will include eccentric viewing training techniques, advanced field enhancement equipment and training, advanced magnification equipment, and other techniques and equipment to manage complicated cases. The course will include lectures, case presentations, and laboratory sessions.

Lecture: 1 hour weekly

Laboratory: 2 hours weekly

Opto NOR0 - Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation - 2.0 credits

This elective course covers in depth the assessment and management of complicated cases that require neuro-optometric rehabilitation. This course will include assessment techniques for the different clinical manifestations of those patients with acquired brain injury, rehabilitation techniques, and conventional and non-conventional optical devices.

Lecture: 2 hours weekly

Opto AOD0 - Advanced Ocular Diseases - 2.0 credits

This elective course will cover in depth those cases of ocular diseases that are uncommon, yet of clinical importance and relevance. The course will include signs and symptoms of the conditions, differential diagnosis, diagnosis,, use of advanced diagnostic equipment, and treatment and management. Case discussions may be used to better illustrate the conditions.

Lecture: 2 hours weekly

Opto AEPO - Advanced Electrophysiology - 2.0 credits

This elective course will cover in depth the use of electrophysiologic testing, their importance and clinical relevance to specific cases. The course will include case discussions-

Lecture: 1 hour weekly

Laboratory: 2 hours weekly

Opto SSV0 - Sports Vision - 2.0 credits

This elective course covers the skills required for different sports, the evaluation techniques, treatment, and management of binocular, sensory-integrative anomalies that may interfere with sports performance. The course will also include the use of optical compensation to enhance vision in athletes and vision therapy procedures to enhance the athletic performance.

Lecture: 1 hour weekly

Laboratory: 2 hours weekly

Opto ACL0 - 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 also included.

Lecture: 2 hours weekly

Fourth Year

The fourth year program is strictly devoted to patient care. Primary eye care clinical training is primarily aimed towards developing students' capacity in critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills. In addition, students are trained in specialty eye care services such as pediatrics and vision training, specialty contact lenses, low vision rehabilitation, electrophysiological studies, and ocular prosthesis; all of which are offered at the Institution's main clinic.

Selection of clinic rotations is required to add up to 25 credits for the academic year. A total of 12.5 in one term and a total of 12.5 credits in the other term.

The Bayamon Clinic is a mandatory rotation for all fourth year interns. Of the remaining five (5) satellite clinics, rotation in four (4) of these clinics is mandatory. Each semester is composed of 20 weeks for a total of 40 weeks of clinical work for the academic year.

Evaluation is based on Pass/No Pass.

Patient Care 4 and 5 - 25 credits Total

Clinic sites are coded as follows:

Bayamón Main Clinic

Opto PC40 - Primary Eye Care Services and Specialty Clinics: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

The Bayamon main clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is composed of specialty clinic rotations: Specialty Contact Lenses, Binocular Vision / Vision Therapy, Pediatrics and Infants' Vision, Learning Disabilities / Visual-Perceptual Evaluation, Low Vision, Electrodiagnosis, and Primary Eye Care.

Satellite Clinics

Opto PC41 - Rio Piedras Clinic: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

The Rio Piedras Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Dr. Javier Antón hospital where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized.

Opto PC42 - Caguas Clinic: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

The Caguas Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Plaza SANOS Health Care Center where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized. Additional services provided in the Caguas Clinic are Vision Therapy / Binocular Vision, and Pediatrics / Infants' Vision.

Opto PC43- Santurce Clinic: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

The Santurce Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Dr. Gualberto Rabell hospital where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are

emphasized.

Opto PC44 - COSSMA Cidra Clinic: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

The COSSMA Cidra Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the COSSMA Building where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized.

Opto PC45 - Juana Diaz Clinic: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

The Juana Diaz Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Centro San Cristobal Health Center where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized.

Local Externships Sites

Opto LE01 - Externship site 1: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

Externship selection of four (4) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Opto LE02 - Externship site 2: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

Externship selection of four (4) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Opto LE03 - Externship site 3: 8 weeks: 5 credits.

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Opto LE04 - Externship site 4: 8 weeks: 5 credits.

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Externships Sites Abroad

Opto EA01 - Externship site 1: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

Externship selection of four (4) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Opto EA02 - Externship site 2: 4 weeks: 2.5 credits.

Externship selection of four (4) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Opto EA03 - Externship site 3: 8 weeks: 5 credits.

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Opto EA04 - Externship site 4: 8 weeks: 5 credits.

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

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.
- Pass NBEO - ABS part before graduation date or no later than 90 days after.
- 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 is 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.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
TUITION/ FEES		
Application		\$ 31.00 with application
Readmission		\$ 13.00 with application
Regular First Year	Fist and second semester	\$23,582.00
	Regular summer section	\$ 2,418.00
	Total first year	\$26,000.00
Regular Second Year		\$25,750.00
Regular Third Year	Fist and second semester	\$23,766.00
	Regular Summer section	\$1,734.00
	Total third year	\$25,500.00
Regular Fourth Year		\$25,500.00
Special students (14 credits or less in a regular semester or in non regular summer section courses)		\$1,500.00 per credits hour
Auditing Without Credit		50 % of regular cost per credit of special students
GENERAL FEES		
Graduation		\$200.00 with application
Students and Cultural Activities Fees		\$ 37.00 per semester
Laboratory		\$ 38.00 per course
Clinic Fee (per course requiring it)		\$ 200.00 per course, 3 rd to 4 th year \$38.00 per course, 1 st to 2 nd year
OTHER FEES		
General Fees		\$ 60.00 per semester \$ 50.00 per summer session
Late registration		\$ 50.00
Withdrawal or Changes in courses		\$ 6.00
Deferred Payment Arrangement		\$ 6.00
Overdue Deferred Payment		5 % of total principal owed
Removal of Incompletes		\$ 19.00

Center for Access to Information	\$ 40.00 per semester \$ 12.00 per summer session
Transcript of Credits	\$ 3.00 per copy
Infrastructure	\$ 79.00 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
Vehicles Access & Parking Fee	\$30.00 per semester \$10.00 per summer session

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
Tuition	\$26,000	\$25,750	\$25,500	\$25,500
Fees	\$888	\$ 702	\$ 874	\$ 874
Books	\$ 625	\$ 920	\$ 570	\$ 300
Room	\$ 6,325	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Board	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
Personal Expenses	\$2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,500
Equipment	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,200	\$ 950	\$ 450
Tablet PC	\$1,500	\$ 0	\$ 1,500	\$ 0
National Board	-	-	\$625	\$1,250
Transportation	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550	\$ 2,500
TOTAL	\$45, 638	\$45,422	\$44,969	\$44,474

* 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 (ATH) 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 requires 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 known 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

Vassilios Boulougoris, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from New England College of Optometry. Director of Dr. Gualberto Rabell Hospital Satellite Optometry Clinic. Associate Professor.

Iris Cabello, O.D.

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

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. Assistant Professor.

Jacqueline Deval, O.D.

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Dr. Gary Berman
Dr. Hieu Do
Drs. Richard Paskowski/ Weitz
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Dr. Thanh Truong
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Dr. Joseph Molinari
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Dr. Armanda Zeller
Dr. Lorie Logan

Dr. John Hsiao
Dr. James J. Thimons
Dr. Hugo Martinez
Dr. Victor Rosa
Dr. Noufal Mais
Dr. Omar Houchaimi

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**