

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | OPTOMETRY

The University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) seeks individuals who desire academic challenges and have the personal qualifications to complete our rigorous four-year post-baccalaureate professional degree program. UHCO admits 104 students annually each fall. Four academic years and two summer terms comprising 177 semester credit hours of study are required to complete the program successfully. Patient encounters in our on-site

University Eye Institute will approximate 1,500 (plus many more during vision screenings, externships, and other events) per graduate as he/she completes family practice, pediatric, sight enhancement, cornea & contact lens and ocular diagnostic rotations.

## First-Year Curriculum

First-year courses encompass a broad range of material including human anatomy, neuroanatomy, community health, geometric optics, ocular anatomy, physiology, pathology, primary-care optometry and ophthalmic optics. All midterm exams occur during three separate exam weeks. Quizzes and homework assignments occur throughout the semesters.

Fall Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO5111	Optics I Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5133	Advanced Human Anatomy Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5134	Neuroanatomy Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5171	Clinic Practicum I	1	0	3
OPTO5233	Advanced Human Anatomy	2	2	0
OPTO5271	Optometry I	2	2	0
OPTO5314	Optics	3	3	0
OPTO5320	Vision Science I	3	3	0
OPTO5334	Human Neuroanatomy and Physiology	3	3	0
OPTO5344	Advanced Human Physiology and Molecular Biology	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>		20	16	12
Spring Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO5112	Optics II Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5135	Ocular Anatomy Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5172	Clinic Practicum II	1	0	3
OPTO5194	Ophthalmic Optics Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5221	Vision Science II	2	2	0
OPTO5272	Optometry II	2	2	0
OPTO5282	Community Health Optometry	2	2	0
OPTO5315	Optics II	3	3	0
OPTO5331	General Pathology and Medicine	3	3	0
OPTO5335	Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>		19	15	12

## Second-Year Curriculum

Laboratories and lectures during the second year build upon previous knowledge and introduce new topics such as general and ocular pharmacology, anterior ocular diseases, sensory and motor aspects of vision, epidemiology, advanced diagnostic techniques, contact lenses, pediatrics, clinical skills and primary-care optometry.

Fall Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO6132	Medical Laboratory Procedures	1	0	3
OPTO6163	Primary Optometry Lab	1	0	3
OPTO6173	Clinic Practicum III	1	0	3
OPTO6190	Ophthalmic Optics Lab	1	0	3
OPTO6219	Vision Science III	2	2	0
OPTO6234	Ocular Pathology I	2	2	0
OPTO6311	Optics III	3	3	0
OPTO6363	Primary Optometry	3	3	0
OPTO6434	General Pharmacology	4	4	0
<b>Totals</b>		18	14	12

Additionally, second-year students prepare for their competency examinations during the fall semester. All students are required to demonstrate clinical techniques prior to their clinical rotations in the spring semester. After passing the competency examinations, a White Coat Ceremony is held. Students are presented with lab coats with the College of Optometry's emblem to signify their move into direct patient care.

Spring Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO6151	Pediatric Optometry I Lab	1	0	3
OPTO6174	Contact Lens Lab	1	0	3
OPTO6224	Perception	2	2	0
OPTO6291	General Clinic II	2	1	8
OPTO6312	Optics IV	3	3	0
OPTO6333	Ocular Pharmacology & Therapeutics	3	3	0
OPTO6335	Ocular Pathology II	3	3	0
OPTO6351	Pediatric Optometry I	3	3	0
OPTO6374	Contact Lens I	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>		21	18	14

Following their second-year studies, students participate in an intensive, seven-week summer clinical rotation. This experience builds confidence and skills in the application of clinical techniques, which are necessary for success in the third year.

## Third-Year Curriculum

Third-year clinical practice focuses on specialty contact lenses, the assessment and management of vision problems in children, geriatric vision and ocular disease. Lecture and laboratory courses cover advanced topics in pediatric optometry, glaucoma, contact lenses, rehabilitative optometry, retinal and neurological disease, ophthalmic lasers, refractive surgery, environmental optometry, primary care optometry and practice management.

Summer Semester			Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab	
OPTO7493	General Clinic IIIA	4	2	18	
OPTO7150	Developmental Optometry	1	1	0	
	*Electives	2	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>		7	3	18	
Fall Semester			Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab	
OPTO7152	Pediatric Optometry II Lab	1	0	3	
OPTO7131	Clinical Medicine	1	1	0	
OPTO7230	Glaucoma	2	2	0	
OPTO7252	Pediatric Optometry II	2	2	0	
OPTO7361	Geriatric Optometry	3	3	0	
OPTO7336	Ocular Pathology III	3	3	0	
OPTO7375	Contact Lens II	3	3	0	
OPTO7494	General Clinic IIIB	4	0	16	
	*Electives	1	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>		20	14	19	
Spring Semester			Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab	
OPTO7120	OPT III Rounds/ Case Discussion	1	1	0	
OPTO7130	Ophthalmic Lasers, Refractive Surgery, & Surgical Techniques Lab	1	0	2	
OPTO7162	Vision Rehabilitative Lab	1	0	2	
OPTO7253	Pediatric Optometry III	2	2	0	
OPTO7262	Rehabilitative Optometry	2	2	0	
OPTO7330	Ophthalmic Lasers, Refractive Surgery & Surgical Techniques	3	3	0	
OPTO7337	Ocular Pathology IV	3	3	0	
OPTO7383	Practice Management I	3	3	0	
OPTO7495	General Clinic IIIC	4	0	16	
	*Electives	1	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>		21	14	20	

## Fourth-Year Curriculum

Fourth-year study begins as soon as the third academic year is completed and is comprised of three semesters: Summer, Fall & Spring. Two terms are devoted to external clinical rotations, and one is spent at UHCO in advanced seminars and clinical practice.

Rotation A - Externships I - Primary Care (Summer, Fall or Spring)			Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab	
OPTO8990	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20	
OPTO8991	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20	
<b>Totals</b>		18	0	40	
Rotation B - Externships II - Medical Care (Summer, Fall or Spring)			Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab	
OPTO8992	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20	
OPTO8993	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20	
<b>Totals</b>		18	0	40	
Rotation C - Specialty Clinic / Didactic Semester (Summer, Fall or Spring)			Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab	
OPTO8338	Rounds and Recent Developments	3	3	0	
OPTO8384	Practice Management II	3	3	0	
OPTO8696	General Clinic IV	6	0	20	
	*Elective	3	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>		15	6	0	

Fourth-year externships provide experience working in multidisciplinary healthcare settings, increase the number and diversity of patient care experiences and broaden awareness of the many factors affecting healthcare delivery in our society. Externship sites are located not only in Houston but throughout Texas, the U.S. and the world.

Advanced seminars during the fourth-year campus term cover topics such as practice management and administration, primary-care diagnosis and treatment, new developments in optometry and clinical rounds. Students spend their clinic time in specialty clinics: pediatrics, medical eye care, specialty contact lenses, vision rehabilitation and advanced primary-care practice.

(This curriculum information is subject to change. For the most updated information, please visit [http://www.opt.uh.edu/future-students-residents/programs/doctor-of-optometry/curriculum/.](http://www.opt.uh.edu/future-students-residents/programs/doctor-of-optometry/curriculum/))