

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | OPTOMETRY

Student Organizations & Committees

American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)

The American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) is committed to promoting the optometric profession, enhancing the education and welfare of optometry students, as well as enhancing the vision and ocular health of the public. Members raise money for community outreach and dedicate hundreds of hours in community service.

Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS)

The Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS) is built to help inform students about the opportunities and benefits of Federal Service Optometry. Whether it's a military career, employment with Veteran Affairs, residency with Indian Health Service, or any other information students are looking for, AFOS has the connections to answer questions and get students connected. Federal optometry can help students pay for school or jump start a career afterwards. Students may visit www.afos2020.org for more information or contact their local or national AOSA/AFOS liaisons.

Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK)

Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK)'s mission is to stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence, and the ethical practice of optometry; and to promote and provide financial support for worthy research projects relating to vision care and the eyes. Members represent scholastic excellence as honor students in the schools and colleges of optometry, as well as noteworthy professionals in the field—educators, scientists, and practitioners.

Class Representatives

Each class within UHCO has two representatives who serve as a point of contact for disseminating information to the class as well as a representative on behalf of the class when working with faculty and staff. These are members who are entrusted with decisions which impact their peers and are elected democratically by their peers at the start of each year.

Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO)

The Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO) is a not-for-profit evangelical organization of Christian optometrists, optometry students, and allied ophthalmic personnel committed to worldwide eye care missions and intraprofessional Christian fellowship. Members are given the opportunity to provide optometric and ophthalmic services for poor and needy persons in both the United States and foreign countries on a charitable basis and not for pecuniary profit. The FCO's goal is to help optometry students become established in the type of mission work which combines eye care and the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both in the workplace and on mission fields around the world. FCO holds meetings throughout the school year with worship and fellowship.

Graduation Banquet Committee

Students volunteer to spearhead the fourth-year graduate banquet where accolades are shared with the graduating class and faculty. These students orchestrate the entire event from booking the venue, fundraising, assembling a banquet team, to décor. They work with the Office of Optometry Relations to coordinate their efforts and ensure best practices.

National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) is the student extension of the National Optometric Association (NOA) and is a service organization dedicated to providing the delivery of effective and adequate eye care to minority and underserved communities. In addition, NOSA creatively markets the field of optometry in an effort to increase recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities into the profession.

Optometry Student Association (OSA)

The Optometry Student Association (OSA) is the student government at UHCO allowing the voices of the students to be heard. They also provide valuable services to our students including running the Snack Room, Note Service, Spring Banquet and Lounge Parties.

OSA Note Service

The OSA Note Service is organized to help students get the most out of their lectures and classes. By employing the best note takers in each class, the Service provides extra opportunities for students to earn cash and provides an extra helping hand to students with some of the most challenging coursework. Sign-up for the Service is at the beginning of each semester with class representatives.

Orientation Committee

Each spring, the Office of Optometry Relations (OOR) sends out requests to all OPT I students for Orientation Committee (OC) volunteers. The OC assists OOR in planning all aspects of the following fall's incoming student orientation, including planning social events, scheduling speakers, arranging exhibits, driving social media, assigning mentors/mentees, leading all day-of events and much more.

Spring Banquet Committee

Students volunteer to spearhead the spring banquet where scholarships are awarded and accolades are shared with the second- and third-year classes and faculty. These students orchestrate the entire event from booking the venue, fundraising, assembling a banquet team, to décor. They work with the Office of Optometry Relations to coordinate their efforts and ensure best practices.

Student Chapter, American Academy of Optometry (SAAO)

The mission of the SAAO is to serve as an extension of the American Academy of Optometry to the students at UHCO and to strive to uphold the mission & values of the AAO by promoting the art & science of vision care through life-long learning.

Student Optometric Practice Management Association (SOPMA)

The mission of the Student Optometric Practice Management Association (SOPMA) is to provide optometry students with the education, resources, and confidence necessary to pursue their individual goals as optometric professionals and to preserve the integrity of the profession. SOPMA hosts Saturday workshops with a variety of guest speakers from the industry to share insights, tips, and new developments in a modern practice with our members.

Student Public Health Vision Care Association (SPHVCA)

The Student Public Health Vision Care Association (SPHVCA) promotes health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on vision and eye health, through interdisciplinary partnerships. As members, students complete a training course through Prevent Blindness Texas which allows them to go out into the community and teach patients and industry professionals alike about issues such as early detection, prevention and simply making healthier choices. The goal of SPHVCA is to foster a relationship between optometrists and other health care advocates so that the overall health of the community is improved. All SPHVCA members also belong to the American Public Health Association (APHA).

Student Texas Optometric Association (STOA)

The Student Texas Optometric Association (STOA) serves as an open line of communication between the students at UHCO and the Doctors of Optometry in Texas. The STOA helps to spread the word about what changes are being made to the profession of optometry and what students can do to facilitate any changes that may need to be made in the future.

Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH)

Student Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) is a student-led volunteer organization that participates at vision screenings, health clinics, and in mission trips around the world. Members who attend the outreach opportunities are awarded points which they can cash in towards reimbursement for the international trips SVOSH takes.

Texas State Optical Student Organization (TSOSO)

The Texas State Optical Student Organization (TSOSO) is committed to strengthening the ties between TSO and the many UHCO graduates who open their own TSO practices, to providing more networking opportunities for TSO ODs and UHCO students and to keeping UHCO students well-informed of all TSO has to offer.