UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE



Kentucky College of Optometry
CATALOG
2026-2027

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Letter from the Dean . . .



Welcome to the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry!
We are so excited to have you here at KYCO and on our campus in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The class entering in 2026 marks a meaningful milestone for us as our tenth class admitted. What began with a bold vision has grown into a strong, mission-driven program, and we are incredibly proud of how far we have come—and even more excited about where we are going.
At KYCO, our mission is to develop leaders in therapeutic optometry through innovative education and a commitment to caring for the underserved. You will not just learn this mission—you will live it. Every day in our clinics, outreach efforts, and communities, you will see firsthand the difference you can make. This work is about more than vision. It is about independence, dignity, and the lives you will impact one patient at a time.
We are proud of the outcomes our students continue to achieve. Over the past four years, our students have consistently met or exceeded the national average on the first-time pass rate for NBEO Part I. That success reflects the dedication of our students, the strength of our curriculum, and the commitment of our faculty and staff to preparing you well—not just for boards, but for the patients you will serve.
We also continue to grow and strengthen our clinical program. By expanding our clinical footprint, we are increasing access to care in our region while also creating more opportunities for you as student clinicians. You will gain meaningful, hands-on experience caring for patients with real needs, in settings that challenge you to grow and prepare you for practice.
Just as important as what you will learn is who you will become—and who you will become it with. The connections you build here—with your classmates, faculty, staff, and patients—will shape your experience and stay with you long after graduation. Find your place. Support one another. Lean into this community. You are stronger together.
Your faculty and staff are deeply committed to your success. We are here to support you—academically, professionally, and personally. There will be challenging moments along the way, and during those times, I encourage you to take care of yourselves, stay connected to one another and to your loved ones, and reach out. We will be here to listen, to guide, and to help you navigate whatever comes your way.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to be your dean. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

When my door is open, please come in.

Welcome to KYCO—we are so glad you are here.
Sincerely,



Renée E. Reeder, OD, FAAO, FBCLA, FSLS, FIACLE, FNAP, DiplAAO
Dean, University of Pikeville- Kentucky College of Optometry

Letter from the Dean 3
KYCO Academic Calendar 6
Mission 7
Goals & Objectives 7
Accreditation Statement 8
Notice of Non-Discrimination 9
Admissions Information 10
Requirements for Admission 11
Application 12
Academic Admission Requirements 13
Academic Prerequisite Requirements 13
Functional Standards 14
Transfer Admissions Policy 16
Re-Application Procedures 14
Readmission 17
Accommodations 17
Admission Interview Process 20
Notice of Acceptance 20
Professionalism/ Integrity 20
Tuition, Fees, Refunds 21
Tuition 22
Matriculation Fee 22
Transcript Fee 22
Tuition Refund Policy 24
Financial Aid 24
Scholarships and Grants 25
Debt Counseling 26
Student Loans 26
Satisfactory Academic Progress 29
Return of Title IV Funds 30
Academic Information & Policies 30
Academic Advising 31
Student Course Load 31
Course Credit 31
Reporting of Final Grades 31
Grading System 32
Auditing 32
Incomplete 32
Withdrawal 33
Determination of Grade Point Average 33
Student Grievances and Appeals of Final Grade 33
Academic Support and Progression 34
Academic Concern 34
Academic Enhancement 34
Academic Probation 34
Remediation 35
Repeat 35
Academic Dismissal 35
Appeal Process 36
Reinstatement 37

Board Preparation and Academic Gatekeeping 37
Academic Distinctions 38
Good Standing 38
Dean's List 38
Scholastic Honors 38
University Academic Integrity Policy 39
KYCO Artificial Intelligence (AI) Academic Integrity Policy 40
Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) 43
Confidentiality of Grades 44
Submission of Grades 44
Inspection and Review of Records 45
Amendments to Student Record 45
Retention of Records 45
Withholding Grades/Transcripts 45
Transcript of Record 45
Graduation Requirements 46
Student Responsibility for Graduation 46
KYCO Curriculum Class of 2030 First Year 47
KYCO Curriculum Class of 2029 Second Year 48
KYCO Curriculum Class of 2028 Third Year 49
KYCO Curriculum Class of 2027 Fourth Year 50
Course Descriptions 51 - 60
Personnel 61
KYCO Administration 63
KYCO Faculty (Full-Time) 65
KYCO Faculty (Part-Time) 67
KYCO Contact Information 69

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2026-2027

This table is an overview of the academic year.
Day-by-day schedules will be distributed and are subject to change without notice.

Summer 2026	Description
May 11, 2026	Summer Semester Begins (Classes of 2027, 2028)
May 25, 2026	Memorial Day (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028)
June 8, 2026	Mini-Summer Semester Begins (Class of 2029)
June 18-20, 2026	Optometry's Meeting – Phoenix, AZ (Classes virtual and Clinics operate normally, no lab)
June 19, 2026	Juneteenth Observance (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029)
July 3, 2026	Independence Day Observance (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029)
July 9-12, 2026	National Optometric Association – St. Louis, MO (Classes and Clinics operate normally)
August 5 & 6, 2026	NBEO Part 1 (Non-Targeted, Classes and Clinics operate normally)
August 7, 2026	Summer Semester Ends (Class of 2027, 2028, 2029)
Fall 2026	**Description**
August 11-14, 2026	1st year Orientation (Class of 2030)
August 17, 2026	Fall Semester Begins (Classes of 2027, 2028,2029, 2030)
September 7, 2026	Labor Day (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030)
September 30-October 3, 2026	Fall Break – AAO (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030)
November 25-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030)
December 1 & 3, 2026	NBEO Part 2 (Targeted, Class of 2027 no clinic on registered test day)
December 11, 2026	Last day of clinics (Class of 2027 and 2028)
December 14, 2026	Fall Semester Ends (Classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030)
Spring 2027	**Description**
January 6, 2027	Spring Semester Begins (Classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030)
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030)
March 3-7, 2027	SECO International – Atlanta, GA (Classes and Clinics operate normally)
March 8-12, 2027	Spring Break (No Classes or Clinics – Classes of 2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030)
March 15-18, 2027	NBEO Part 1 (Targeted – No Classes or Clinics - Class of 2028)
March 20, 2027	White Coat Ceremony – Class of 2029
March 26, 2027	Good Friday (No Classes or Clinics 2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030)
April 6, 2027	Non-targeted Part II and TMOD (classes and clinics operate normally)
April 9, 2027	UPIKE Research Day
April 15-17, 2027	KOA spring conference (2027*, 2028, 2029, 2030 Online Classes ONLY, No Clinics)
April 15-17, 2027	Hillbilly Days (UPIKE Campus closed.)
April 27, 2027	Clinic Orientation (Class of 2029)
April 29, 2027	Externship Orientation (Class of 2028)
April 30, 2027	Spring Semester Ends (Classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030)
May 5-7, 2027	Capstone Graduation Activities (Class of 2027)
May 8, 2027	Health Professions Commencement (Class of 2027)

*Class of 2027 students on 4th year EXTERNAL clinical rotations are subject to the schedule of their clinical sites during those semesters. Students on 4th year INTERNAL clinical rotations will follow the academic calendar during that semester.

Revised February 10, 2026.

KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

The Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) is the 22nd school of optometry in the United States and the first in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The four-year Doctor of Optometry program is designed to provide a strong foundation in the biomedical and vision sciences, integrated with progressive clinical training.

KYCO continues to invest in its facilities and state-of-the-art equipment to support student learning and patient care. This includes the integration of emerging technologies, such as AI-supported patient simulation, to enhance student development in history taking, clinical decision-making, test selection, and treatment planning. These tools complement hands-on clinical experiences and help prepare students for the evolving demands of modern optometric practice.

The curriculum includes a comprehensive sequence of courses in the basic and clinical sciences, including anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, optics, and vision science. As students' progress, they engage in applied clinical coursework covering areas such as ocular disease, contact lenses, binocular vision, low vision, and primary eye care. Laboratory and clinical skills courses are integrated throughout the program to reinforce diagnostic techniques, patient assessment, and clinical reasoning.

A distinguishing feature of the program is its partnership with the University of Pikeville–Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM), which strengthens students' understanding of systemic health and reinforces the role of the optometrist as a primary eye care provider within a broader healthcare team. This interdisciplinary exposure is particularly important in a region where access to care remains a significant challenge and where the prevalence of chronic and ocular disease is high.
Through an expanding clinical network, students gain experience caring for diverse and often medically complex patient populations. These experiences are designed to build clinical competence, reinforce critical thinking, and prepare graduates to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care in a variety of settings.

Graduates of KYCO are prepared to enter the profession with the knowledge, clinical skills, and professional judgment necessary to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

MISSION

The Kentucky College of Optometry's mission is to develop leaders in therapeutic optometry through innovative education and a commitment to caring for the underserved.

Goals & Objectives

1) Leaders In Therapeutic Optometry

Develop leaders in therapeutic optometry through an integrated curriculum that includes diverse clinical experiences and opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional growth.
Objectives:

- Develop ophthalmic surgical and laser skills.
- Promote, facilitate, and reward faculty professional development and scholarly activity.
- Provide faculty with direct research support such as time, space, equipment, and funding.
- Promote collaborative and mentoring relationships for research and scholarly activity with other entities of higher learning, including the main University of Pikeville campus and the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Pursue research which addresses the healthcare needs of Appalachia.
- Develop, support, and promote student research and scholarship.
- Encourage student leadership development through organized optometry and student

organizations and faculty mentorship.

2) INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

Implement innovative educational programs that use state-of-the-art technology and prepare graduates for the ever-expanding practice of optometry.

Objectives:

- Recruit and retain exceptional faculty.
- Promote faculty mentoring for every student.
- Integrate advanced technologies into the educational process.
- Continue to incorporate virtual learning technologies into the educational strategies.
- Support the development of critical thinking skills.
- Foster a culture of lifelong learning and educational curiosity.
- Encourage faculty to maintain quality lecture and laboratory materials that evolve with the ever-changing profession.
- Develop cultural competency through education and community experiences.
- Maintain academic support and intervention services for every student.

3) PATIENT CARE

Provide accessible, patient-centered, high quality, therapeutic eye care within integrated clinical systems.

Objectives:

- Emphasize the application of evidence-based clinical standards of care.
- Provide a safe, secure, and confidential clinical environment.
- Document the Kentucky College of Optometry's impact on the vision care of the region.
- Provide a wide range of patient experiences within integrated clinical systems.
- Develop and enhance clinical proficiency.
- Provide quality care, regardless of ability to pay.
- Maintain community-based eye care services.

4) SERVICE

Promote service to the profession, to the community, and to the underserved in Appalachia and beyond.

Objectives:

- Immerse faculty and optometry students in the delivery of care in rural clinical settings.
- Foster an understanding and appreciation of diversity and cultural sensitivity.
- Plan and implement an infrastructure for disaster relief initiatives.
- Serve as a knowledgeable vision care resource to the broader community.
- Emphasize active participation in service, non-profit, faith-based, and professional organizations.
- Promote student and faculty leadership in service and mission activities.
- Deliver patient care consistent with the University of Pikeville's faith-based tradition.
- Encourage graduates to pursue opportunities in medically underserved areas.

Accreditation

Kentucky College of Optometry is part of the University of Pikeville, which was established in 1889 as a small Presbyterian college located in Pikeville, Kentucky. The University of Pikeville is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of the University of Pikeville may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

The University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry is an accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141—Telephone (314) 991-4100. The ACOE is the specialized accrediting body for optometry that provides quality assurances concerning educational preparation of members of the optometric profession.

Notice Of Non-Discrimination

The University of Pikeville does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age or disabilities in its programs, activities, hiring, or the admission of students.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies under Title IX:

Beth Kingery
Title IX Coordinator
Executive Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs
University of Pikeville
Loughlin Cottage
147 Sycamore Street
Pikeville, KY 41501
bethkingery@upike.edu
606-218-5344

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding other non-discrimination policies:

Lindsey Wertz
Assistant Vice President for Operations and Human Resources
University of Pikeville
147 Sycamore Street
Pikeville, KY 41501
lindseywertz@upike.edu
606-218-5942

If either individual is unavailable, inquiries concerning any non-discrimination policy may be directed to the other individual.

~ Admissions Information ~

Admissions

To apply to the University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO), you must first submit an application through OptomCAS, the Optometry Centralized Application Service (www.optomcas.org). This service streamlines the application process and opens for application submission on July 1st of each year. Applications should be completed, and all required material submitted by March 31st. Any application not received by this deadline will not be reviewed by the admissions committee. In addition to the OptomCAS applications, candidates must also complete the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) or other pre-health professions entrance examination (MCAT or DAT). Entrance examinations are designed to measure general academic ability and understanding of scientific information. Information about the OAT, registration, samples tests, and instructions can be found at www.opted.org. University of Pikeville Optometric Scholars (OSP) may waive their OAT requirement by maintaining a 3.7 science GPA. The admissions committee will review the submitted application, OAT test scores, academic performance, exposure to the optometry profession and letters of evaluation to select highly qualified students for each class.

Requirements For Admission

Applicants will be considered for admission when the following criteria are accomplished:

- Successful completion of a minimum of 90 semester hours of college coursework from an accredited institution of higher learning
- A grade of C or better must be achieved in all prerequisite courses.
- A recommended minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale*
- A recommended minimum science grade point average of 2.80 on a 4.00 scale
- A recommended minimum overall Optometry Admission Test score of 300 or above the 50 percentiles on other entrance examinations made available to the University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry
- Two letters of recommendation from sources in the following combination:
    - A health care provider letter (preferably an O.D. who is a member of the American Optometric Association). This letter is required along with one of the following:
        - Pre-health care professional advisor or committee member
        - A Science faculty member.

*In exceptional cases the strength of the overall application may warrant consideration of a lower GPA or OAT score.

A candidate may apply while in the process of completing prerequisites; however, all requirements must be completed prior to matriculating. All courses must be completed within 10 years of the first day of classes for the student entering. However, the applicant can furnish evidence to the Admissions Committee of command of current knowledge in topics which do not meet the 10-year criteria.

Questions or for additional information contact:
University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry
Attention: Admissions Office
147 Sycamore Street
Pikeville, KY 41501
Telephone: (606) 218-5251
kycoadmissions@upike.edu

Application

Below is a checklist of all required materials necessary for a completed Admissions Application to the University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) program. Based on the submitted application and information, applicants will be invited for a virtual or an on-site interview. All application materials must be received by the Kentucky College of Optometry by the March 31st deadline each year. Admission to the Kentucky College of Optometry is done on a rolling basis; therefore, early application is highly recommended. The Admissions Office will email the applicant to acknowledge that a complete application has been received. Once the application has been processed, the Admissions Office will send an email regarding application status.

Application Checklist

Students applying to the Kentucky College of Optometry must utilize the Optometry Centralized Application Service, known as OptomCAS. The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) is a non-profit education association representing the interests of optometric education. Its membership encompasses twenty-three schools and colleges of optometry. This service is designed to streamline your application process and can be found at: www.optomcas.org

Completed OptomCAS Application and Fee Official Transcripts

Submit all transcripts from undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate programs attended only through OptomCAS.

Tip: Request transcripts be sent to OptomCAS early in the application process to ensure receipt prior to the application deadline.

Letters of Evaluation

Letters of Evaluation are also submitted through OptomCAS. Although OptomCAS allows up to four letters of recommendation to be entered into the online application, KYCO only requires two letters of recommendation.

Official Entrance Examination Report

Students are required to take an entrance examination (OAT, MCAT, or DAT). There are certain instances where the test requirement may be waived for UPIKE students in the Optometric Scholars Program. Information can be found at: http://www.ada.org/en/oat Make sure to designate the Kentucky College of Optometry as an official OAT or other examination score recipient.

Tip: Often candidates will seek to re-take the OAT, which requires a 90-day wait. It is advisable to plan for a possible re-take of the OAT prior to the deadline of the application process.



Academic Admission Requirements

Applicants will be considered on the basis of academic performance represented by coursework grades, course load, academic trends and degree of course difficulty, and scores on the components of the Optometry Admissions Test. In addition, the applicant review will include consideration of the non-academic qualifications such as positions of leadership held, volunteer activities in optometric or other healthcare-related services, extra-curricular activities, communication skills (as demonstrated in the personal statement and interview), and letters of evaluation, in no particular order of preference or weight. At KYCO, the admissions committee considers many factors in selecting students for our program. While we do evaluate academic performance, grade point average (GPA), the results of the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT), or other entrance examination, performance in prerequisite courses, number of college credits completed and degree status, we also evaluate other non-academic qualifications including:

- Character
- Motivation
- Dedication to Service
- Leadership
- Interpersonal Skills
- Genuine Interest in Optometry
- Work and Extracurricular Activities

An important component of gauging these non-academic qualifications is through our interview process.

ACADEMIC PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

The Kentucky College of Optometry requires completion of the prerequisites listed or the equivalents of these courses from any accredited college or university. Applicants must have completed 90 or more credit hours of undergraduate work; however, preference for admission will be given to those with an earned bachelor's degree. If you have questions about the applicability of your coursework, please email kycoadmissions@upike.edu.

The prerequisites or equivalents are as follows:

Required Courses	Number of Courses
Biology with Laboratory	2 Semesters (or 3 quarters)
Inorganic/General Chemistry with Laboratory	2 Semesters (or 3 quarters)
Organic Chemistry with Laboratory	1 Semester (or 2 quarters)
General Physics with Laboratory	2 Semesters (or 3 quarters)
Calculus or College Mathematics	1 Semester (or 2 quarters) 2 Semester (or 3 quarters)
Psychology	1 Semester (or 2 quarters)
English	2 Semester (or 3 quarters)

Additional Requirements for Student Entering Without a Bachelor's Degree	Number of Courses
Humanities may include: Art Foreign Language History Literature Philosophy Theology	2 Semesters (or 3 quarters)
Behavioral & Social Sciences may include: Accounting Anthropology Communication Economics Geography History Political Science Psychology Sociology	2 Semesters (or 3 quarters)

Recommended elective courses include:
Although not required, the following additional courses are recommended:
Human Anatomy, Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Computer Science, Ethics, Genetics, Histology, Embryology, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Physiology, and Statistics.

Functional Standards

Applicants and students must meet the following ASCO Functional Guidelines for Didactic and Clinical Optometric Education which were approved by the ASCO Board of Directors on March 20, 1998, and revised March 31, 2009. https://optometriceducation.org/future-students/resources/functional-guidelines/
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 communication 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 skills 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 adnexa of the eye or limbs

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Qualitative 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 is 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 conditions or disabilities might affect their ability to meet these functional guidelines are encouraged to meet with an optometry school counselor before submitting an application.

Transfer Admissions Policy

The University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) endorses the concept of student continuity at a single institution for the duration of the professional degree program. This is most often in the best interest of the student.

However, personal circumstances may warrant that a student enrolled in one optometric institution may seek to transfer to another school or college of optometry.

Any individual wishing to transfer to the Kentucky College of Optometry must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must:
    a. Make a formal application to the Kentucky College of Optometry through OptomCAS.

b. Meet all admissions requirements for the Kentucky College of Optometry which include submitting official transcripts of all college courses taken, NBEO scores (if taken), and letters of evaluation.
c. Be in good standing at the transferring institution as documented by a letter from the dean or designee from the transferring institution.
d. Supply a written statement outlining reasons for the transfer request.
e. Complete an on-campus personal interview.

2. The Kentucky College of Optometry will not consider transfer requests from students that have been dismissed from other schools or colleges of optometry.
3. The Kentucky College of Optometry will only consider dismissed students during the competitive admissions process for a traditional four-year course of study.

All completed transfer requests will be evaluated by a faculty-led, Kentucky College of Optometry Committee to assign credit for courses taken (a maximum of 50 credit hours can be accepted). Upon full approval of a transfer request, the student will be notified in writing of their standing at KYCO. Any additional requirements will be requested at this time and must be completed prior to matriculation. Before being permitted to enter clinical rotations, the transferring student must complete and pass a clinical proficiency examination administered by the KCYO faculty.

Note: All decisions regarding transfer applications are made by the Dean's office. Decisions will be based on many factors that include, but are not limited to academic records, circumstances leading to the transfer request, available space in the optometric class, and the current KYCO admissions standards.

Re-Application Procedures

Re-applicants must submit the following for consideration of admission:

- Completed online OptomCAS application - www.optomcas.org
- OAT, MCAT, or DAT scores

Please note that official academic transcripts from each college or university attended and letters of recommendation must be sent directly to OptomCAS, as part of the central application process. This includes transcripts for any coursework completed since the last application was submitted as well as updated letters of recommendation.

Once all updated materials have been received, students who are determined to be academically competitive will be invited for an interview with the Admissions Committee.

Readmission

Following a leave of absence or semester audit, a student must submit a written request to return to the Office of the Dean. Students must notify the Dean at least two (2) months prior to the start of the semester that they wish to be enrolled.

Accommodations

The University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Optometry is committed to providing students with disabilities equal access to all of its programs and services by providing reasonable accommodations, as governed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, §504, and KYCO policy.
All applicants and students should be familiar with KYCO's Functional Standards. If a current or newly admitted student has historically been provided accommodation in school, they may wish to consider applying for reasonable accommodation at KYCO.

If a student receives a new diagnosis from a licensed medical professional or psychologist while studying at KYCO, and if reasonable accommodations are recommended by this provider, he or she may also wish to apply for accommodations at the University.

Requesting a Reasonable Accommodation under ADA

Issues related to Academic Integrity; ADA policies and other individual requirements would follow the KYCO policies and regulations. To be granted accommodations under Section 504 and ADA, students with disabilities must provide current and comprehensive documentation concerning the precise limitations resulting from the disability and the accommodations requested to address those limitations. No allowances will be made retrospectively to your notification.

To submit an initial request for accommodations to the Disability Resource Center (DRC), use this URL: **https://upike-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/**

All documents received are kept confidential under FERPA guidelines. No information is released and/or discussed without the consent of the individual.

Note: Disability-related information submitted to other offices on campus (e.g., Admission, Student Affairs, Housing, Financial Aid, Athletic Coaches, etc.) **may not** automatically be forwarded to the Disability Resource Center. This could delay the processing of accommodation.

Students do not have to discuss their diagnoses with their faculty members, unless they choose to. Students will be notified by the Disability Resource Center, in writing, when a final decision is made to grant or deny a request for reasonable accommodation.

UPIKE/ KYCO reserves the right to verify the information provided by a student and to request additional information, as necessary, until a decision is reached by the Disability Resource Center.

Appropriate Documentation of a Disability

In order to be recognized as eligible for accommodations through KYCO, a student with a disability must provide documentation on letterhead, signed by the appropriate licensed educational, mental health, or medical professional who is not related to the student and is licensed/certified in the area for which the diagnosis is made.

1. For learning disabilities in particular, documentation must be provided by a licensed/certified Educational Diagnostician, Educational Psychologist, or Professional Counselor. This information and documentation will assist the Disability Resource Center in determining appropriate requests and reasonable accommodation.
2. Verification should be received by the Disability Resource Center directly from the appropriate evaluating authority.
3. This process is mandatory unless waived in writing in advance by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.
4. The University of Pikeville Disability Resource Center reserves the right to determine what, if any, accommodation should be offered.

All documentation must provide the following information:

- Date of the evaluation
- Specific description of the precise limitations resulting from the disability
- Prognosis for any change in limitations
- The evaluator's rationale for the recommended accommodation(s)
- Date of the re-evaluation

Types of Accommodations

Accommodation is evaluated and granted on a case-by-case basis. However, the University of Pikeville historically has provided the following reasonable accommodation to students who have been approved, in advance, to receive them:

- Extended time to take an examination.
- The ability to take a written examination in a quiet environment.
- Special classroom seating
- Assistive listening device, e.g. FM system
- The University of Pikeville Disability Resource Center will notify the instructor of record, Office of Student Affairs, and Assessment Coordinator of students who have been approved for testing accommodation and their needs at the beginning of each semester.
- In exceptional circumstances, additional accommodations may be approved by the Dean in conjunction with the Disability Resource Center.

Behavioral Concerns

- The ADA does not excuse the inappropriate behavior of students. For example:
- A student is not qualified for accommodation if they cannot comply with the College's Code of Ethics or if they pose a serious risk of harm to others.
- An institution may discipline a student with a disability for engaging in misconduct if it would impose the same discipline on a student without a disability.
- Misconduct due to not taking prescribed medication does not have to be accommodated.

Admission Interview Process

Candidates who have successfully met the required admissions selection criteria may receive an invitation to an interview. Interviews will be conducted both in-person and virtually. In-person interviews will allow the candidates to visit our campus, participate in a tour, meet campus leaders, and meet students, faculty, and staff. Interviews conducted virtually will be held on Zoom. Interviews are designed to give faculty additional time to assess both academic and non-academic qualifications.

If selected for an interview, candidates will receive communication from our admissions team. Once a date and time have been agreed upon, candidates are expected to communicate with our admissions team if for any reason they cannot attend or have chosen not to attend their designated interview time.

Notice Of Acceptance

Applicants may be notified of his or her acceptance as early as the week following their interview at Kentucky College of Optometry. Upon receipt of the letter of acceptance, applicants have a certain time period to either accept or decline their place in the entering class. Those who accept the offer of admission must do so by submitting a matriculation form, along with a seat deposit. Our seat deposit is $1,000 and it is applied to the first-year tuition. The first half is due initially, and the second half is due by March 31st of the year of matriculation. This seat deposit is non-refundable; therefore, accepted students are advised to send a deposit only after they have made a final decision about attending KYCO. Students must notify the Office of Admissions at (606) 218-5251 or at kycoadmissions@upike.edu if they wish to relinquish a reserved place in the entering class.

Professionalism/ Integrity

Prospective students seeking admission to KYCO are expected to demonstrate professionalism and integrity throughout the application and matriculation process. Any intentional misrepresentation, falsification, or omission of requested application and matriculation information is reason for rejection or dismissal. KYCO reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant for any reason it deems sufficient. Further, matriculation will be denied to applicants who have failed to maintain a good record of scholastic performance and personal conduct between the time of their acceptance and their matriculation at KYCO.

~ Tuition, Fees, Refunds~

Tuition

Tuition for the Kentucky College of Optometry will be $49,950 for the year 2026-2027. The cost of attending a four-year Doctor of Optometry program varies greatly from school to school. For KYCO, the cost of attending is inclusive of many benefits not provided at other institutions such as optometric equipment, iPad, and electronic textbooks, all part of the KYCO Advantage.

Tuition is billed by semester. Tuition payments are due at the time of invoicing unless special payment arrangements have been made with the University of Pikeville Business Office. Tuition payments for students with financial aid are processed by the University of Pikeville Business Office.

Tuition is subject to change annually. The University reserves the right to change the tuition and fees schedule without advance notice and to make such changes applicable to current and future students.

FEES

Matriculation Fee

A non-refundable fee of $1,000 is payable to KYCO after a student is accepted to confirm their placement in the entering class. This fee is then credited toward payment of tuition upon enrollment.

Transcript Fee

The University of Pikeville charges a fee for each transcript requested. Please allow up to two business days for all methods of processing.

- eTranscript processing: $10 per copy
- Paper Transcript – Pick-Up: $10 per copy (all copies picked up will be stamped "Issued to Student")
- Standard Domestic Mail: $12 per copy ($10 copy fee plus $2 standard mail fee)
- International Mail: $13 per copy ($10 copy fee plus $3 standard mail fee)

Expedited processing:

- FedEx Overnight Domestic: $35 ($10 copy fee plus $25 overnight fees)
- FedEx International Priority: $50 ($10 copy fee plus $40 international fees)
- FedEx Rush Delivery: Additional rates based on destination

Insurance Fee

All KYCO/KYCOM students are required to have health insurance while enrolled at the university. UPIKE provides insurance for those students who do not have a qualifying health insurance plan. The insurance fee will be added to each student's account each term and removed if the student provides documentation to the third-party insurance company that they have an active plan that qualifies. The fee are as follows:

- Continuing Students - $5,660/year, which is billed at $2,830 in the fall and the spring.
- Incoming Students - $4,931/ year, which is billed at $2,124 in the fall and $2,807 in the spring.

Tuition Refund Policy

Tuition is billed by semester for enrolled students. No part of the tuition will be refunded to a student who withdraws for any reason after the fourth week of the beginning of an academic semester for first-year, second-year, third-year, or fourth-year optometry students. For first-year students, the first week of the semester, for tuition purposes, consists of the required orientation program. A withdrawal is defined as a student dropping to zero hours in each semester. Students receiving financial assistance are strongly encouraged to meet with the Office of Student Financial Services before withdrawing or taking a Leave of Absence to discuss the financial consequences.

A tuition refund, if applicable, requires prior written notification of withdrawal from the institution. A

withdrawal affects both a student's bill at the University, as well as any financial aid the student may have received. Tuition refund from the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Optometry will be prorated as follows:

- 100 percent during the first week of an academic semester;
- 75 percent during the second week of an academic semester;
- 50 percent during the third week of an academic semester;
- 25 percent during the fourth week of an academic semester; and
- 0 percent after the fourth week of an academic semester.

~ Financial Aid~

Financial Aid

Financial aid will be processed through the Office of Financial Aid. Financial aid counseling and assistance is provided to optometry students in all aspects of financial aid and options available to help fund their education.

Although the Office of Financial Aid assists KYCO students with funding for their education, students are primarily responsible for securing this financing. This means such things as supplying personal or family documentation and ensuring that a student qualifies for loans by having a favorable credit report. All documents requested must be received before financial assistance will be processed.

Upon admission to KYCO, all students should contact the Office of Financial Aid. The office will assist students with their borrowing needs, advise them of the financial aid application process, and familiarize them with the types of assistance available. The Office of Financial Aid will periodically share financial aid and debt counseling information specifically for optometry students. Students may also schedule an individual appointment at any time to review these items.

During schooling, most students are required to live at a modest level. The federal agencies that make funds available for borrowing do so with the understanding that students who receive financial loans should maintain modest living costs. Financial aid that is offered under federal programs cannot exceed the KYCO standardized student budget. Funds are allowed for a student's educational costs and for reasonable, approved personal living costs while he or she receives an education. Students must manage their financial aid funding prudently to make it work comfortably.

Every student applying for federal financial aid must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that the Office of Financial Aid can assess aid eligibility. The FAFSA should be filed as soon after October 1st as possible each academic year. Additional documents may be required as determined by the Office of Financial Aid. Students may complete the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling as well as check the status of their loans through UPIKE Self-Service.

The University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Optometry students will be kept informed of any changes or updates regarding financial aid through their university email, printed materials, and/or the financial aid website for the University of Pikeville.

Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid and are awarded based upon academic performance, financial need, or other criteria specifically outlined. Scholarships are disbursed each semester and may have minimum GPA requirements to be eligible for disbursement. Contract scholarships normally require a service commitment after graduation for a specific number of years. Please note that if a student signs a service commitment scholarship while enrolled, he or she may not be able to participate in certain state or federal loan repayment programs after graduation. To be eligible to participate in most loan repayment programs, prior commitments must be fulfilled by service or repayment plan.

Students are responsible for researching external scholarship opportunities and should provide the University of Pikeville with a copy of the scholarship payment information if one is awarded. These scholarships will be added to the student pending financial aid when information is provided.

Military Health Professions Scholarships (HPSP)

The United States Military offers competitive scholarships for full tuition and required fees plus a monthly stipend through the Air Force, Army, and Navy. HPSP scholarship recipients are commissioned as officers and are required to serve in the military for a specific period, depending upon the number of

years the recipient received the HPSP scholarship. Applications and additional information are available online or directly from local Army, Navy, and Air Force recruitment offices, which are located throughout the United States.

Debt Counseling

The University of Pikeville Office of Financial Aid offers a variety of information to assist in locating additional financial aid resources and adapting new financial skills. Information conveyed may include, but is not limited to budgeting tips, loan repayment strategies, scholarship opportunities, and financial calculators.

All University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Optometry students who receive loans are required to complete an Entrance Loan Counseling Session before the loan will be disbursed. This will be an online loan counseling session designed to help the borrower understand their rights and responsibilities as they pertain to loan borrowing. First time Kentucky College of Optometry student borrowers must also complete a Master Promissory Note.

Federal Direct Loan Exit counseling is also required for all graduating students that have received loan funds while attending the University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry. The purpose of the exit interview is to review repayment schedules, as well as repayment options available to students. If a student has not completed the required exit counseling, a hold will be placed on the student's graduation, and they will be unable to receive their diploma.

Students will be advised of the impact of defaulting on a student loan. Default is the failure of a borrower to make an installment payment when due or to meet other terms of the promissory note. If this happens, it is reasonable to conclude that the borrower no longer intends to honor the obligation to repay. Defaulted loans are reported to national credit agencies, thus affecting credit ratings and future ability to borrow money. KYCO encourages students to borrow responsibly, budget prudently and limit living costs.

Loan Repayment Programs are programs sponsored by national, state, and local governments and some private organizations, where professionals are recruited to practice in designated professional shortage areas. Participants may be provided with living stipends and funds to repay educational loans. Individual programs and contract information should be consulted for specific time commitments, as well as possible benefits.

Student Loans

Federal Direct Loans

The primary loan source for students is the Federal Direct Loan program. The following are maximum borrowing amounts for this program:

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan:

- Annual limit $40,500 - $47,167 (legacy students)
- Annual limit $50,000 (non-legacy students)
- Repayment begins 6 months after graduation, withdrawal or if you drop below half-time enrollment
- Fixed rates
- Origination fee may be deducted from your loan prior to each disbursement
- Not based on financial need
- Cumulative debt – $224,000 (legacy students, includes all loans)
- Cumulative debt – $200,000 (non-legacy students, includes only graduate loans)

Federal Graduate Plus Loan (legacy students only):

- Cost of education less financial aid per year
- Student should borrow direct unsubsidized loan first
- Credit-based - no adverse credit history
- May require a cosigner
- Fixed rates
- Not based on financial need

The amount a student can borrow is based on criteria defined by U.S. Department of Education, the KYCO standardized student budget, and student's level of federal loan indebtedness.

Alternative Loans

Alternative loans are private loans made through private lending institutions (banks, credit unions, or other private educational lenders) and are not part of the federal government guaranteed loan programs and are not based on financial need. They are typically credit-based and may require a cosigner. Interest rates may vary (possibly without a cap) based upon the lender as well as credit eligibility. With some lenders students who qualify without a cosigner may lower their interest rate and/or origination fee if a cosigner is added to the loan. Interest is typically not subsidized and begins accruing upon disbursement; however, the borrower may have the option to pay the interest during enrollment or to allow it to accrue. The loan amount may be up to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid. Loan fees may be deducted from the loan proceeds prior to disbursement. It is recommended that students do careful research on lenders before deciding to choose the loan that best suits their needs. Borrowing from an alternative loan program should only be used when all other federal loan options have been exhausted.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) For Financial Aid Policy

KYCO complies with the federal requirement that all students who receive financial assistance from Federal Student Aid funds must maintain satisfactory academic progress toward attainment of their degree. Federal regulations require that all students who receive any federal or state financial assistance make measurable academic progress toward a degree at the University of Pikeville. Progress is determined by length of program, hours attempted versus hours earned (passing rate), and grade point average (GPA).

Length of Program: The time frame in which a student must complete their degree cannot exceed more than 150% of the published length of the student's program of study. KYCO students must complete their program within six years. A KYCO student may need additional time to complete the curriculum due to academic or personal situations, fellowships, or other circumstances. Certain circumstances, such as an approved leave of absence may be excluded from the maximum six-year time frame allowed for financial aid eligibility. The Office of Financial Aid will notify students who are ineligible for continued assistance and will provide them with information regarding their repayment status. Students who are beyond the six-year maximum time may consult with the Office of Financial Aid for other funding options.

66.67% Passing Rate: In order for a UPIKE student to be on-track to graduate with a degree from the University of Pikeville at an acceptable rate, the student must successfully complete at least 66.67% of all credit hours attempted. Successful completion is defined as completing the course with a grade of A, B, C or P. Please note that courses attempted but withdrawn from (received a W) will count against the passing rate.

Grade Point Average (GPA): Satisfactory Academic Progress GPA requirements for a UPIKE student ensures the student is maintaining a satisfactory academic level to be successful in their academic

endeavors. The minimum acceptable grade point average for KYCO students is 2.3.

SAP Progressions

Financial Aid SAP Warning: Students that do not meet the GPA or Passing Rate criteria their first semester/term will be placed on Financial Aid SAP Warning. Students are still eligible for financial aid during this term but must bring the GPA and/or Passing Rate up at the end of the semester/term you are on Warning.

Financial Aid SAP Suspension: If while on Warning, the GPA and/or Passing Rate does not improve to the required level, you will be placed on SAP Suspension. While on SAP Suspension, you will be ineligible for Federal, State, or institutional aid.

How to regain financial aid eligibility: Student must graduate or take courses at their own expense until they improve their GPA or Passing Rate.

Improve GPA: Student must raise GPA above minimum requirement by taking courses at their own expense. Once this is achieved student is required to notify the Office of Student Financial Services they have reached the minimum GPA requirement for further financial aid processing. Students may not use hours earned off campus to improve their UPIKE GPA.

Improve Passing Rate: Student must take the next semester's courses at their own expense and meet the minimum requirement of passing at least 67% of the attempted credit hours. Once the classes have been taken and passed successfully, the student must notify the Office of Financial Aid for further financial aid processing.

Student's Right to Appeal a SAP Suspension: If you, as a student, have had an extenuating circumstance that has prevented you from completing the minimum standards set within the UPIKE Satisfactory Academic Progress policy, you have the right to appeal the decision with the UPIKE Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee. The appeal must be submitted in writing and must explain the following items:

A. What extenuating circumstance (i.e. death, personal injury, or illness, etc.) caused you fail to meet the minimum requirement of Satisfactory Academic Progress?
B. What has changed to explain how you can now make the minimum requirements and be in satisfactory progress for the next evaluation period (i.e. What is your academic plan of action? And include an academic plan).
C. Submit documentation necessary to prove that the circumstance was beyond your control.

If the appeal is denied, the student will not be eligible to receive any institutional, state, or federal financial assistance. The student will be required to pay for classes at their own expense or through a private loan. Students receiving a denial will be informed by email.

If an appeal is approved, the student will be informed by email. The student will be placed on financial aid probation and may be placed on an SAP Academic plan for more than one term. After the probated term, the student will be monitored again and must meet the minimum standards of SAP or completing the SAP academic plan successfully that was designed for the student upon SAP appeal approval.
SAP Academic Plans are designed on a student-by-student basis. Academic plans will be approved by the Academic Standards Committee or by the KYCO Dean.

Return of Title IV Funds

As a requirement set forth by the Department of Education, the Office of Student Financial Services is required to return a percentage of federal financial aid that was disbursed to students who have withdrawn or taken a Leave of Absence from the University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry prior to competing 60% of the semester. The amount of aid returned is determined by the following formula:
Number of calendar days attended ÷ Total calendar days in the semester = % of aid "earned"
Earned aid is kept on the student account. Any "unearned" aid must be returned to its source or be repaid by the student. Federal loans, scholarships, grants, private loans, and any other aid may be reduced or completely removed from the student's account based on this calculation.

Academic Information & Policies

All students at the University of Pikeville - College of Optometry are responsible for and expected to be familiar with the academic policies and procedures outlined in this catalog. The Kentucky College of Optometry is committed to the success of each student enrolled. The professional Doctor of Optometry program is a four-year program. The primary responsibility to sustain academic achievement and maintain good academic standing lies with the student; however, the Kentucky College of Optometry will facilitate academic support measures and set policies and procedures to assist students with academic and clinical difficulties. It is understood that there may be times when students fail to perform academically to the standards desired by the faculty, administration, and national boards. Each situation is unique and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with an emphasis on early intervention support, when possible.

Academic Advising

The KYCO Office of Student Affairs provides advising services. The Office of Student Affairs staff and faculty work with students to facilitate their success in optometry school. Students who are struggling in their courses are required to meet with student affairs and course directors. Resources including time management, planning, and tutoring, study skills assessments, and individual advising sessions are available to help students in their academic success.

Student Course Load

A normal load for any semester of enrollment is expected to be a full-time student (4 or more semester credit hours).

Course Credit

Academic credit is awarded in terms of semester credit hours. The Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) utilizes this formula to determine a credit hour:
15 hours lecture = 1 credit
30 hours of lab = 1 credit
45 hours of clinic care = 1 credit
The basis for awarding credit is consistent with the guidelines of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) [Lauren, Barbara (2006) *The Registrar's Guide: Evolving Best Practices in Records and Registration*, page 24.]

Reporting Final Grades

Student tests, quizzes, and lab scores are posted in the learning management system (i.e. Canvas) throughout the term. Final term course grades will not be posted until they become official in UPIKE Self-Service.

Reporting of Board Scores

All students are required to release their board examination scores directly to the institution in order to be eligible for graduation. Students who are unsuccessful on the board examination will be subject to review by the Academic Standards Committee.

Grading System

Kentucky College of Optometry uses a plus/minus (+/-) letter system of grading as indicated below:

Percentage	Grade	Quality Points	Definition
93.00 - 100%	A	4.00	Excellent Performance
90.00 – 92.99%	A-	3.70	
87.00 – 89.99%	B+	3.30	Good Performance
83.00 – 86.99%	B	3.00	
80.00 – 82.99%	B-	2.70	
77.00 – 79.99%	C+	2.30	Satisfactory Performance
73.00 – 76.99%	C	2.00	
70.00 – 72.99%	C-	1.70	Below Standard
67.00 – 69.99%	D+	1.30	
63.00 – 66.99	D	1.00	
60.00 – 62.99%	D-	0.70	
Below 60%	F	0	
	AU	N/A	Audit
	H	N/A	Honors – Exceeds expected clinical performance based on student level in the program
	I	N/A	Incomplete – Must be resolved according to definition below
	P	N/A	Pass – Demonstrates satisfactory performance based on student level in the program
	W	N/A	Withdrawal – Authorized withdrawal from the program before the end of the semester

Auditing (AU)

Permission for course auditing may be granted by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and the instructor of record (course director) for a period not to exceed one semester. Auditors may be assessed a reduced tuition fee. With audited classes, no credit is granted, and a designation of "AU" will be assigned on the transcript. Financial Aid is not available to students auditing.

Incomplete (I)

This status is applied only when the work of the course is substantially completed, and the student is passing at the time of the Incomplete. When an Incomplete is assigned, the KYCO Office of Student Affairs will maintain information regarding the reason for the Incomplete, as well as stipulations for course completion. A grade of "I" may also be assigned due to personal illness, hospitalization, or leave of absence approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or designee of the Dean. "I" grades must be resolved according to the deadlines set by the instructor of record but may not exceed 60 days after the Incomplete was given. Otherwise, the "I" grade may be converted to a grade of "F" if those deadlines or

alternate conditions set forth by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs have not been met, unless the student was given prior written exception by the instructor of record.

Withdrawal (W)

A student may withdraw from KYCO at any time. A student may not withdraw from a single course and must withdraw from an entire semester. A student considering withdrawal should consult with the Academic Affairs and KYCO Office of Student Affairs for guidance. This status is given automatically when the student, with the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (or another designee of the Dean), officially withdraws from the program. Withdrawal must be stated in writing and exit forms completed through the KYCO Office of Student Affairs to avoid forfeiture of refunds and ineligibility for future readmission. A grade of "W" will be entered into the student's transcript. Failure to complete exit documentation will result in grades of "F" for current courses and suspension of college services, as outlined below in the Academic Dismissal section. A "W" (Withdrawal) may also be assigned due to an extended leave of absence approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Determination of Grade Point Average

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated and recorded at the conclusion of the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The GPA represents the total quality points earned divided by the total semester hours attempted. Letter grades are assigned quality points according to the above scale then multiplied by the semester hours of credit for each individual course and adding these individual course values for a summative total. Students are expected to maintain term and cumulative grade point averages of at least 2.30.

Student Grievances and Appeals of Final Grade

Students should first attempt to resolve disputes concerning grading, course work, clinic or other academic policies at the level at which the dispute occurred (instructor of record, clinical preceptor, course director, etc.) A student may appeal a grade if they believe it is in error.

The initial appeal to a final grade must be made in writing to the course director within five (5) business days of the final grade being officially posted in UPIKE Self-Service. If the course director is unavailable to change a grade, or if a student wishes to appeal a decision the student must contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in writing who will review the case and make a final decision within five (5) business days. All official communications about grade appeals will be sent to students by electronic mail (with delivery confirmation) so that a record of delivery exists, and appropriate faculty members will be similarly notified. No grade appeal, under any circumstance, will be accepted from a third party, including students' parents. This policy conforms to the privacy requirements outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). See the section on "Student Educational Records and Student Confidentiality" below for more information about FERPA. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs' decision is final.

Below Standard Didactic and/or Clinical Performance

At the end of each semester, the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) will review the performance of any student receiving a grade below 73.00%. The ASC may require meetings with the students in the 70 – 72.99% range but will meet with students scoring below 70%. Following the discussion, the Academic Standards Committee, which is composed of four voting faculty members, two deans representing academic and clinical affairs, and a representative from student affairs. The ASC recommendation may include but is not limited to an academic warning, probation, remediation, repeating the course, semester or academic year, or dismissal from the program. The ASC Chair in conjunction with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will notify each individual about their recommendation

Academic Support and Progression

Early Intervention Process

Academic Concern

A student is placed on Academic Concern after failing one block exam (course average below 73%) during a semester. This is an early support step—not a disciplinary action—and does not appear on the transcript.

Students on Academic Concern will:

- Meet with the Course Director (or designee)
- Meet with Student Affairs
- Work with a Learning Specialist to develop a personalized study plan, including a study skills assessment and progress monitoring

Academic Enhancement

A student is placed on Academic Enhancement after failing two block exams or a midterm in a course. This status may apply to no more than two courses in a semester and does not appear on the transcript. Enhancement occurs concurrently within the same semester and is designed to provide timely support while the course is still in progress.

Enhancement activities are assigned by the Course Director and may include:

- Targeted assignments or review exercises
- Practice assessments
- Required review sessions

These activities are designed to be focused and manageable (no more than the equivalent of one weekend of work).

Students struggling in more than two courses will undergo a formal academic review.

Academic Standards Committee Review and Outcomes

At the end of each term, the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) reviews student performance and determines appropriate academic actions when needed.

Academic Warning

An Academic Warning may be issued for a grade of C− or if a student is determined ineligible for or does not a pass a board exam.

- This is not recorded on the transcript
- The student remains in good academic standing

Academic Probation

A student may be placed on Academic Probation if academic performance falls below expectations. This may occur when:

- GPA is below 2.30
- Multiple low grades are earned
- Remediation has been required

While on probation, students must:

- Attend all classes
- Limit extracurricular involvement
- Follow all assigned academic support requirements
- Not hold office or leadership positions in student organizations
- Not travel for external events, including meetings, conferences, or other activities

Removal from Academic Probation
To return to good standing, students must:

- Earn a semester and cumulative GPA of 2.30 or higher
- Receive no grades of C− or lower
- Meet all probation conditions

Remediation

Remediation may be required for students who earn a C− or lower in a course. The goal of remediation is to help the student demonstrate competency in the material.
To be eligible for remediation, a student must have passed at least two of the four block examinations in the course.

- Full remediation: for course averages below 70%
- Selective remediation: for course averages between 70–72.99%

Remediation plans are created by the Course Director and may include:

- Faculty meetings and review sessions
- Independent study
- Lab or clinical assignments
- Additional assessments

Key points:

- Remediation must be completed within three weeks of the next term
- A minimum score of 73% is required to pass
- Students are placed on Academic Probation during the next term

If remediation is successful:

- The transcript will reflect a passing grade (C or Pass)
- The original grade remains but is not included in GPA

Failure to complete or pass remediation may lead to additional academic action, including repeating coursework or dismissal.

Repeat

Depending on academic performance, students may be required to repeat:

- A course: after significant exam failure within that course
- A semester: if two courses have final averages between 70–72.99%
- A full academic year if:
    - Two or more courses are below 70%, or
    - GPA is below 2.3 for two consecutive semesters

Academic Dismissal

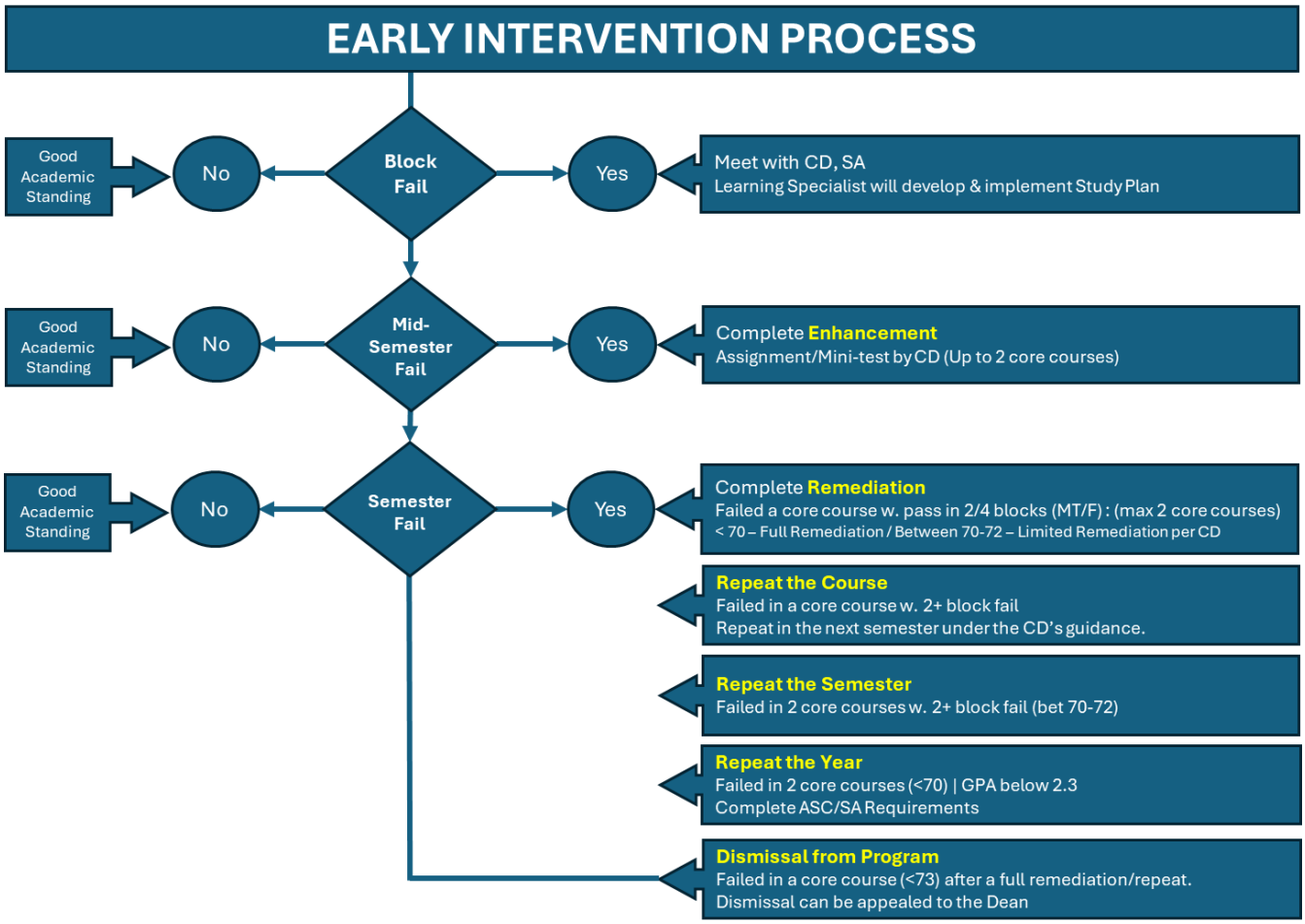
A student may be dismissed from the program if the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) determines that their academic performance does not meet the requirements for continued enrollment or is unlikely to improve with additional support.
A student will be considered for dismissal if any of the following occur:

- A semester or cumulative GPA of 2.0 or below
- More than one course grade of C− or lower in a single semester
- A semester GPA below 2.30 after having been issued an Academic Warning, placed on Academic Probation, or after previously repeating a year
- A failing grade (F) in any course while on Academic Probation
- Repeated failure in the same course

Students who are dismissed will receive formal written notification from the ASC.
Students may appeal a dismissal decision to the Dean within ten (10) business days, as outlined in the Catalog Appeals Process.
Students who are dismissed must complete all required exit procedures through the Office of Student Affairs. Failure to do so may result in delays in services such as transcript release. Financial aid may also be affected.
These policies are designed to:

- Identify challenges early
- Provide structured support
- Help students succeed in the curriculum and on board examinations

Students are encouraged to seek help early and stay engaged with faculty and Student Affairs throughout their academic journey.



Appeal Process

The appeal process is initiated by contacting the Dean within ten (10) business days of the date of the letter. Appeals will only be heard in the following cases: alleged errors in process; the penalty of the decision is excessive; or discovery of new information. The KYCO Office of Student Affairs will serve as the student's guide through this appeal process. The Dean will consider such factors as, but not limited to, the student's overall prior academic performance, clinical proficiency, ability to meet the obligations and demands of the profession, et cetera, to determine what is in the best interest of the student. Among other options, the Dean may require the student to 1) repeat a portion of the academic year in which the failure(s) were received; 2) repeat the entire academic year in which the failure(s) were received; 3) repeat

one or more academic years, to achieve necessary competency; 4) engage regularly with student affairs and/or thrive 5) enroll in supplemental coursework; or 6) engage in study skills/test prep program; . The requirements for reinstatement may also stipulate that the reinstated student meets higher academic standards than students completing the coursework for the first time. The Dean's ruling is final and there are no further avenues for appeal. It is important to note, these appeals are not legal in nature; therefore, legal representation is not allowed. However, upon request, a personal advisor may be permissible.

Reinstatement

A student dismissed for academic reasons may appeal to the Dean for reinstatement as described above. Any reinstated student shall remain on academic probation for the semester of reinstatement and must meet all policy and specific requirements outlined for re-enrollment, including maintenance of a minimum GPA of 2.30 in the first semester of reinstatement unless maintenance of a higher minimum GPA is established by the Dean. Only the grade received on the final attempt will be used in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average; however, the student's transcript will show all attempts and will indicate that the course was repeated. It is the policy of KYCO that the professional curriculum will not be modified to accommodate a remedial plan, nor does the College support a reduced class load. Reinstated students are subject to all fees and are charged the normal tuition rate for repeating previously completed courses.

Board Preparation and Academic Gatekeeping

Board preparation is an essential component of academic progression. All third-year students must meet the following requirements to demonstrate readiness for national board examinations.

Supplemental Coaching Requirements

All third-year students must participate in the supplemental board preparation program coordinated by Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. This includes:

- Attendance at required study halls
- Participation in supplemental coaching sessions, including weekends
- Completion of required practice examinations

Students must pass the post–supplemental coaching examinations, or at least two of four, with a score of 60% or higher.

Failure to meet these expectations may result in an Academic Warning, referral to conduct and ethics, and/or additional review.

NBEO Part I (ABS) Eligibility – March

To register for the March administration, students must achieve a minimum score of 60% on the KYCO Model Exam.

Students who do not meet this requirement must:

- Postpone the exam to a later administration
- Continue required spring coursework, including Capstone III
- Participate in an approved supplemental coaching program

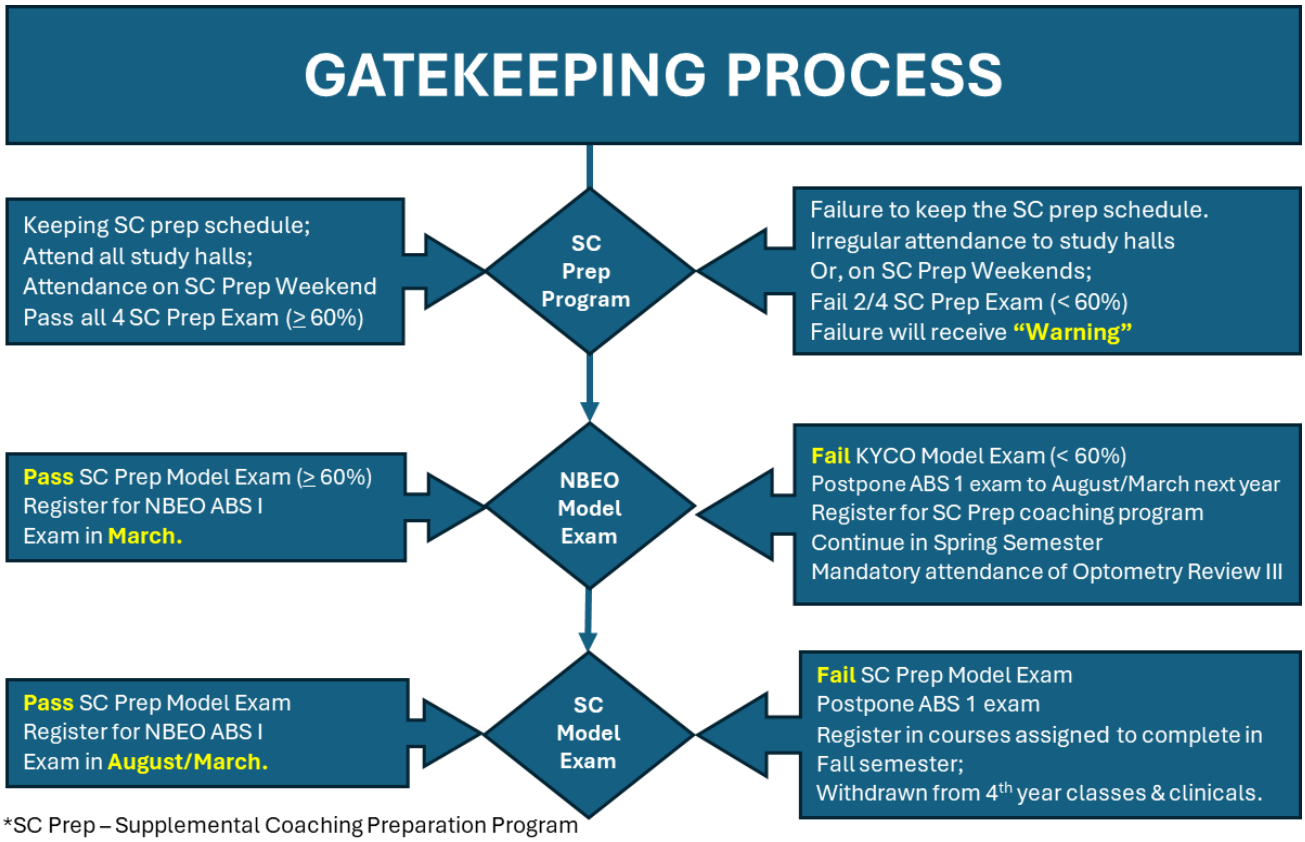
Students who are deemed not prepared for the examination and choose to sit for the NBEO Part I (ABS) anyway will have their case forwarded to the Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee.

NBEO Part I (ABS) Eligibility – August

Students who pass the Supplemental Coaching Model Exam may register for the August administration.

Students who do not meet this requirement may:

- Have adjustments made to fourth-year coursework or clinical assignments
- Be required to complete assigned remedial coursework



Academic Distinctions

Good Standing

To remain in good academic standing, the minimum standard is a semester and cumulative GPA of 2.30. A student who maintains this standard and is not on probation or subject to professional or clinical misconduct, is considered to be in good standing.

Dean's List

The Dean's list recognizes students whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher. Recipients of this distinction will be recognized by the Dean following the semester in which they qualified. The semester final grades from each Dean's List recipient are annotated and the student's permanent academic record at Kentucky College of Optometry. Students who earn a grade of 'F', 'W', or 'I' during the semester are excluded from consideration for the Dean's List. Students on academic probation will also not be eligible. Students whose annual grade point average is 3.50 or higher are also eligible to apply for membership in the Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Society.

Scholastic Honors

Graduation honors, Cum Laude (3.50 GPA), Magna Cum Laude (3.70 GPA), or Summa Cum Laude (3.90 GPA), will be bestowed upon Kentucky College of Optometry graduates who meet the established academic qualifications. These graduation distinctions are awarded to Kentucky College of Optometry graduates who have achieved above average and superior academic performance. Additionally, the graduating class Valedictorian and Salutatorian will hold, respectively, the highest and second-highest overall cumulative grade point average in the class. In the case of a valedictorian tie, a co-valedictorian award will be granted to the tying individuals, and a salutatorian designation will also be assigned for that

graduating class. In the case of a salutatorian tie, a co-salutatorian award will valedictorian award.be granted, in addition to the normally assigned.

University of Pikeville Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity

The University of Pikeville is an academic community, and like all other communities, it can function properly only if its members adhere to clearly established goals and values. Essential to those goals and values is the commitment to the principles of truth and academic integrity. In order to articulate fully its commitment to academic integrity and to protect members of its community from the results of dishonest conduct, the University of Pikeville has adopted the following policies to address cases of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

1. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise and/or claiming such material as one's own work product. The unauthorized receipt of or attempt to obtain answers or assistance during an examination or other gradable activity or event from another student or from an unauthorized device (phone, tablet, computer, etc.).
2. **Plagiarism:** Intentionally or knowingly taking AI (Artificial Intelligence) or another person's ideas, work, or words as one's own without properly documenting or crediting the original source in any academic exercise and/or using these ideas, words, or statements in a paper or presentation without properly documenting or crediting the original source.
3. **Fabrication:** The deliberate falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
4. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another individual violates any provision of this policy.
5. **Unauthorized Acquisition of Materials:** The unauthorized receipt or attempt to obtain unauthorized examination questions/answers either for personal use or distribution to others.
6. **Unauthorized Assistance:** Attempting to give answers, receive answers, or assistance to another student during an examination or other academic exercise without authorization.
7. **Academic Falsification:** Any attempt to falsify grades and/or data results.
8. **Academic Interference:** Any attempt to interfere with another student's outcome on an academic exercise or clinical performance.
9. **Failure to Report:** Failing to report known violations of the Academic Integrity Policy.
10. **Unapproved Collaboration:** Collaborating on any assignments such as homework, notes, take-home exams, draft papers, or projects in which the instructor does not allow collaboration.

If a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is determined to have occurred, sanctions will be imposed upon the individual consistent with the nature, circumstances, and severity of the offense. Possible sanctions may include the following actions:

1. A written and/or verbal warning.
2. The requirement of additional academic integrity training.
3. A grade reduction for academic exercise.
4. The assignment of an "F" or zero for the academic exercise.
5. A failing grade in the course with the inability to withdraw.
6. Dismissal from the university (automatic for repeat substantiated incidents of academic dishonesty); or
7. Other sanctions deemed appropriate by individual colleges.

All cases will be addressed through the procedure outlined in the University Catalog and the Student Handbook.

KYCO Artificial Intelligence (AI) Academic Integrity Policy

1. Purpose and Guiding Principles

The primary goal of this policy is to support the responsible and ethical integration of AI while safeguarding the independent development of a student's foundational science knowledge, critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and professional ethics. AI use must reflect the institutional core values of accountability, excellence, and respect.

Consistent with its responsibility to prepare graduates for an AI-enabled profession, the institution is also committed to cultivating responsible AI literacy. This policy is therefore intended to govern the appropriate use of these tools rather than categorically discourage their use.

2. Definitions and Scope

This policy applies to all enrolled students, including professional (OD), graduate, and resident learners, in all didactic, laboratory, clinical, and research settings. For purposes of this policy, the following terms apply:

- **Generative AI:** Tools that produce new text, images, code, or other content in response to user prompts (e.g., large language model chatbots and image generators). Unless stated otherwise, references to "AI" in this policy mean generative AI.
- **Device-Embedded and Clinical Decision-Support AI:** AI functions integrated into diagnostic instruments, imaging systems, or the electronic health record (e.g., OCT segmentation, automated visual field analysis, fundus image grading, IOL/refractive calculators). Use of such clear, standard-of-care technology during training is not restricted by this policy and is governed by clinical protocols.
- **Assistive AI:** AI-based tools used as disability accommodation (e.g., speech-to-text, text-to-speech, screen readers). Use of approved assistive AI under an established accommodation is governed by Section 3 and the institution's disability services process, not by Faculty discretion.
- **Embedded Productivity AI:** Routine AI features built into common software, such as spelling/grammar correction, predictive text, and search summaries. Faculty should specify in the syllabus whether such features are permitted; where a course or assessment limits AI to "spelling and grammar only," this category is what is intended.

3. Faculty Authority and Responsibilities

- **Faculty Discretion:** The use of AI is permitted only at the discretion of the individual Faculty. Faculty have the authority to define acceptable use in their course syllabi for specific courses or assignments.
- **Default Status:** Unless explicitly authorized by the faculty, the use of AI tools for assignments, assessments, or clinical documentation is strictly prohibited and considered a violation of academic integrity.
- **Educational Use:** Faculty may leverage AI to enhance teaching, such as generating clinical templates, creating practice case scenarios, and building differential diagnosis exercises.
- **Faculty Accountability:** Faculty are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and relevance of any AI-assisted course content and must abide by FERPA when using AI for grading or handling student records.

- **Syllabus Statement:** Each course syllabus must include an explicit AI-use statement specifying whether and how AI may be used for that course's assignments and assessments. In the absence of a statement, the default status above applies.
- **Accommodations Exception:** Nothing in this policy limits a student's right to use assistive AI authorized as a disability accommodation through the institution's disability services process. Such use does not require individual Faculty permission and is not, by itself, a violation of this policy.

4. Acceptable vs. Prohibited Student Use

Based on synthesized institutional standards, the following guidelines apply:

Generally Acceptable (with Permission)	Strictly Prohibited
Brainstorming: Exploring new topics, ideas, or potential counterarguments.	**Plagiarism:** Submitting AI-generated content as your own original work.
Refinement: Taking suggestions from AI to improve your own existing writing.	**Bypassing Learning:** Using AI to substitute for original research or critical thinking.
Accessibility: Support for students with disabilities (e.g., speech-to-text). Assistive AI authorized as a disability accommodation does not require Faculty permission (see Section 3).	**High-Stakes Exams:** Intellectual content for candidacy, thesis, or dissertation must be produced independently.
Study Aids: Creating flashcards or summaries from the provided PPTs. Copyrighted course materials may not be uploaded to open or public AI platforms; use only Faculty-provided or institutionally approved secure tools (see Section 7).	**Exam Responses:** Writing answers to quiz, homework, or exam questions, including any use during proctored, secured, or board-style assessments (e.g., ExamSoft-delivered exams) beyond functions expressly authorized by the proctor.

5. Clinical Use and Patient Privacy (HIPAA/FERPA)

- **Patient Privacy:** Students must never input Protected Health Information (PHI), identifiable ocular imaging, or personally identifiable information (PII) into public AI tools.
- **Clinical Documentation:** Students are generally prohibited from using generative AI to complete histories and physicals (H&Ps) or other patient records. All clinical notes must reflect genuine clinical observations and be authored directly by the student.
- **Clinical Workflow:** In training environments, students should independently develop their own management plans before using AI to refine wording or explore systemic connections.
- **Secure Platforms:** Only institutionally approved, secure AI platforms may be used in connection with any clinical or confidential data, to protect data security.
- **Device-Embedded Clinical AI:** The restrictions in this section apply to generative AI. AI integrated into diagnostic instruments, imaging systems, or the electronic health record as standard-of-care technology (see Section 2) is permitted as part of clinical training and is governed by applicable clinical protocols and supervision.
- **Ambient and Scribe Documentation Tools:** AI tools that draft documentation from recorded patient encounters may be used only where institutionally approved, with appropriate patient

consent, and under the supervision of the attending faculty. The student remains responsible for reviewing, correcting, and authoring the final record.

6. Transparency, Citation, and Accountability

- **Disclosure:** If AI tools are used for drafting or research, students must disclose the specific tools and how they were utilized. Disclosure must use the standard format designated by the Faculty or the Office of Academic Affairs (for example, a brief AI-use statement identifying the tool, version, and nature of assistance) and be included with the submitted work.
- **Citation:** Any content produced or assisted by AI must be treated as a source and properly cited according to institutional (AMA) guidelines, which now provide specific conventions for citing generative AI. {**Example:** ChatGPT (version GPT-4). OpenAI; 2026. Accessed July 22, 2026. https://openai.com/}
- **Verification:** Students are fully responsible for the accuracy, reliability, and ethical quality of their final work product. This includes correcting AI "hallucinations," biased data, or fabricated citations, as these tools are known to be inaccurate in medical contexts.

7. Copyright and Intellectual Property

- **Protection of Materials:** Students must not upload proprietary lecture notes, exam questions, or other course materials into open AI platforms. These materials are the copyrighted property of the faculty and the institution.

8. Violations and Consequences

- **Academic Misconduct:** Unauthorized use of AI or failure to provide proper attribution will be treated as academic dishonesty.
- **Penalties:** Sanctions may range from a failing grade on the assignment to dismissal from the program, depending on the severity and frequency of the violation. Professionalism violations in the clinic, such as falsifying records via AI, are considered particularly grave.
- **Determination of Violations:** Allegations must be supported by a reasonable, good-faith review of the available evidence. The output of an AI-detection tool is not, by itself, sufficient to establish a violation, as such tools are known to produce false positives; detector results may inform, but do not solely determine, a finding.
- **Due Process and Appeals:** Alleged violations are adjudicated under the institution's existing academic integrity procedures, including the student's right to notice, to respond, and to appeal. This policy supplements, and does not replace, those procedures.

9. Governance, Review, and Professional Standards

- **Ownership and Review:** This policy is maintained by the Office of Academic Affairs, with an effective date and a scheduled annual review to keep pace with evolving technology.
- **Alignment with Institutional and Professional Standards:** This policy is to be read consistently with University of Pikeville policy, applicable ACOE accreditation standards, ASCO guidance, and the professional expectations of the AOA Code of Ethics and the Optometric Oath. Where a conflict exists, the more protective standard governs.
- **Research Integrity:** In scholarly research work, AI may not be used to fabricate or falsify data, manipulate images, or assume authorship. Permitted AI assistance must be disclosed consistently with Section 6 and applicable journal and institutional research-integrity standards.

Version: August 17, 2026

Student Educational Records & Confidentiality

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy

The University of Pikeville's policy with respect to its student educational records adheres to the requirements and regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Education records are records that are directly related to a student, maintained by an educational agency or institution, or by a party acting for the agency or institution. Record means any information maintained in any way, including, but not limited to handwriting, video, audio tape, computer media, film, print, microfilm and microfiche.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99), is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA places limitations on the disclosure of personally identifiable information maintained by University of Pikeville with respect to students and limits access to educational records; including the right to inspect and review; right to consent to disclosures, with certain exceptions; the right to obtain copies; the right to seek amendment or correction of such records through informal and formal internal procedures; and the right to place a statement in such educational records explaining any information which the student believes to be inaccurate or misleading.

In accordance with FERPA regulations, the University of Pikeville holds certain information to be "directory information," and therefore, subject to disclosure without prior consent from the student. Unless written objection is received no later than 30 days from the commencement of the academic year, the University of Pikeville designates the following items as directory information:

- Student's Name
- Address
- Electronic mail address (UPIKE only)
- Telephone listing.
- Date and place of birth.
- Photographs
- Major field(s) of study
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment Status (full-time; part-time, undergraduate, graduate, professional)
- Most recent previous school attended.
- Degrees awarded.
- Classification/Grade Level
- Name of the undergraduate, graduate, and/or professional school attended.
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports.
- Weight and height of athletes
- Honors and awards received.

Educational records may be disclosed to school officials (administrators, staff, faculty, coaches, individuals and/or organizations to whom the University has contracted or are conducting studies on behalf of the University for services, studies, or research) who have a "legitimate educational interest" in the student without prior consent of the student. "School official" is defined by the Department of Education as the following:

- Person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff)
- Person or company with whom the University has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using University employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent)
- Person serving on the Board of Trustees; and/or
- Student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" if a review of a student's record is necessary to fulfill the official's professional responsibilities to the University. School officials may have legitimate educational interests in both students who are currently enrolled and those who are no longer enrolled. If a significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individual is determined, university personnel may disclose information from education records to any person, including parents, whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. University personnel must maintain a record of the significant threat that formed the rational basis for the disclosure.

Other exceptions to education records include: sole possession records, records created and maintained by a law enforcement unit for a law enforcement purpose, employment records (unless contingent on attendance), medical records made and maintained in the course of treatment and disclosed only to those individuals providing treatment, records that only contain information about a student after he or she is no longer a student at the University of Pikeville (i.e. alumni records).

Objections must be in writing, signed and dated by the student, and be directed to the University of Pikeville Registrar's Office. Complaints regarding alleged violations of rights accorded students by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be directed to: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-8520. For additional information: http://www.aacrao.org.

Confidentiality of Grades

Grades of individual students, in any identifiable format, may not be published or posted. This prohibition includes the listing of grades by social security number or UPIKE ID number. This does not preclude the posting of the grade distribution for a course by the instructor as long as grades are not identified by student. All persons with access to grades must not divulge individual student grades to anyone either verbally or in written form.
School officials with legitimate educational interests may have access to educational records, without the student's consent, if the record is needed in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities. School officials are identified as: a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position, a person or company with whom the University has contracted, a person serving on the Board of Trustees, a student serving on an official committee, or assisting another school official in performing their tasks.

Submission of Grades

Instructors submit grades to the University Registrar electronically using UPIKE Self-Service. Supplemental grades such as 'I' (Incomplete) grades must be submitted on an official *Incomplete Grade Request* and/or *Request for Grade Change* form. The instructor and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs must sign grade changes before submission to the Registrar's Office.

Inspection and Review of Records

Students may inspect and review their education records upon written request to the University Registrar. The University Registrar will comply as soon as possible. Under the law this must be done within forty-five (45) business days after the request. The student has the right to review and inspect their official records, files, and data, including all materials incorporated in their cumulative record, except the following:

- confidential evaluations and letters of recommendation filed before January 1, 1975.
- evaluations and recommendations after January 1, 1975, if the student has waived their right to see them;
- financial records and statements of their parents;
- those documents classified by the law as non-educational.

Amendments to Student Record

The student may request an amendment to the educational records if they believe they are inaccurate or misleading. An amendment of the educational record does not pertain to the grades assigned by faculty. The student should write to the University Registrar to request the amendment. The request must clearly identify the portion of the record they want changed, specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading.
If the University does not amend the record as requested, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Retention of Records

The University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Optometry adheres to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers standards for the retention of records. Details on the length of time each document is maintained are available from the Registrar's Office.
Complaints regarding alleged violations of rights accorded students by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be directed to:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

Withholding Grades/Transcripts

The College will withhold term grade reports, enrollment verifications, and/or transcript requests should any student have "unmet official college business". Such unmet official college business may include, but not be limited to, unpaid fines, overdue library books, or failure to complete assigned requirements, such as completion of course surveys. Students who wish to appeal a course grade should contact the instructor of record in writing within one week after grade reports have been issued.

Transcript of Record

In order to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the policies of the University of Pikeville Registrar's Office, transcripts may only be requested through an online process. Requests for transcripts must be made electronically via the University of Pikeville's web page (www.upike.edu). From the home page, the search bar is located in the upper-right. Type the word Transcript. Read and follow the instructions. You must create an account or use an existing account in order to request a University of Pikeville transcript.

The University will exercise the right to withhold the transcript of any student with outstanding financial obligations to the University.
All questions regarding this process may be directed to the Registrar's Office at (606) 218-5260 or registrar@upike.edu.

Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from Kentucky College of Optometry, with a Doctorate of Optometry, all students must:

- Successfully complete the 165.49 (subject to change) credit hours of Optometry curriculum;
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.30 or higher, without unresolved failing grades or probationary status*.
- Fulfill all didactic and clinical requirements with six years of enrollment;
- Release all board scores to the College
- Settle all financial obligations to the University of Pikeville;
- Receive recommendation for graduation from the ADAA, ADCA, and Director of Student Affairs and Academic Excellence, upon approval of the Dean, for satisfactory completion of above requirements and demonstration of the readiness required to morally and professionally practice optometry.

*The status of any student receiving a failing grade, placement on academic, clinical, or professional conduct probation, during the last semester of enrollment, will be reviewed by the Academic Standards Committee to determine course of action and effect on graduation.

Student Responsibility for Graduation

The ultimate responsibility for fulfilling graduation requirements rests with the individual student. Students must apply for graduation. Diplomas are presented at the yearly commencement exercises and only after all financial obligations to the University have been met. Graduating students are required to attend. Any request for non-attendance must be made to the Director of Student Affairs.

2026-2027 KYCO CURRICULUM

First Year: Fall Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	513	Clinical Skills I: Basic Optometric Theory and Techniques Lab	1.0
OPT	514	Clinical Skills I: Basic Optometric Theory and Techniques	3.0
OPT	515	Principles of Optics	4.5
OPT	516	Gross Anatomy, Histology and Radiographic Techniques	4.5
OPT	517	Genetics, Biochemistry and Metabolism	3.5
OPT	518	Leadership in Health Care and Personal Development	2.0

Total Credit Hours 18.5

First Year: Spring Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	522	Clinical Skills II: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques Lab	1.0
OPT	524	Clinical Skills II: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques	2.5
OPT	525	Visual Optics	3.5
OPT	526	Ocular Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry & Histology	5.0
OPT	528	Neuroanatomy & Neurosciences	3.5
OPT	529	Medical Physiology	3.0

Total Credit Hours 18.5

2026-2027 KYCO CURRICULUM

Second Year: Summer Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	601	Clinical Skills III	0.5
OPT	607	Pharmacology I	1.5
OPT	609	Immunology & Microbiology	2.0
OPT	615	Concepts of Monocular Vision and Perception	3.0
OPT	620	Epidemiology and Research Methodology	1.5
OPT	630	Optometry Capstone I	1.0

Total Credit Hours 9.5

Second Year: Fall Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	611	Clinical Skills IV: Advanced Optometric Theory & Techniques, Refractive Management & Ocular Health Assessment	2.0
OPT	612	Clinical Skills IV: Advanced Optometric Theory & Techniques, Refractive Management & Ocular Health Assessment Lab	1.0
OPT	613	Clinical Internship I: Introduction to Patient Care	1.5
OPT	616	Glaucoma Diagnosis & Management	2.6
OPT	617	Pharmacology II	3.0
OPT	618	Pathology & Disease Processes	3.0
OPT	619	Anterior Segment Disease & Ocular Pharmacology I	3.5

Total Credit Hours 16.6

Second Year: Spring Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	622	Basic Contact Lenses	3.0
OPT	623	Clinical Internship II	0.8
OPT	627	Anterior Segment Disease & Ocular Pharmacology II	3.2
OPT	628	Posterior Segment Disease	3.5
OPT	629	Ophthalmic Optics	3.0
OPT	631	Binocular Vision & Motility	3.5

Total Credit Hours 17.0

2026-2027 KYCO CURRICULUM

Third Year: Summer Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	712	Advanced Contact Lenses	3.0
OPT	713	Clinical Internship III	4.0
OPT	714	Strabismus, Amblyopia & Oculomotor Rehabilitation	3.0
OPT	715	Advanced Topics in Ocular Disease Management	2.0
OPT	717	Inter-Professional Clinical Case Analysis & Management	1.5
OPT	718	Optometry Capstone II	1.0

Total Credit Hours: 14.5

Third Year: Fall Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	721	Gerontology & Low Vision Rehabilitation	3.0
OPT	723	Clinical Internship IV	4.0
OPT	724	Pediatric Optometry	3.0
OPT	725	Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease, Neurological Disorders & Acquired Brain Injury	3.2
OPT	726	Clinical Medicine for Optometrists	2.2
OPT	727	Ophthalmic Laser Surgery	1.5

Total Credit Hours: 16.9

Third Year: Spring Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	730	Integrated Case-Based Learning	1.5
OPT	732	Advances in Optometry & Ocular Imaging	2.0
OPT	733	Clinical Internship V	4.0
OPT	734	Ophthalmic Surgery: Injections, Radiofrequency, and Periocular Surgery	1.0
OPT	736	Leadership in Health Care & Practice Management	2.0
OPT	739	Optometry Capstone III	2.0

Total Credit Hours: 12.5

2026-2027 KYCO CURRICULUM

Fourth Year: Summer Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	811	Clinical Externships	13.33
OPT	812	Pre- & Post–Operative Management of Ophthalmic Surgery Patients	1.5

Fourth Year: Fall Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	821	Clinical Externships	13.33

Fourth Year: Spring Semester

Department	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
OPT	831	Clinical Externships	13.33

Total Credit Hours: 41.49

~ *Course Descriptions* ~

Optometry Course Descriptions

OPT 513 Clinical Skills I: Basic Optometric Theory and Techniques Lab
Laboratory course to accompany Clinical Skills I: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques. Optometric clinical skills are further taught through hands-on experiences including medical interviewing techniques, health history content, medical record documentation and preliminary chair side tests including management of refractive error. The laboratory will emphasize the performance of procedures accurately and efficiently.
Credit Hours: 1.0

OPT 514 Clinical Skills I: Basic Optometric Theory & Techniques
This course introduces the student to medical interviewing techniques, health history content, medical record documentation and preliminary chair side tests including management of refractive error. Lecture will incorporate the theory of the procedures and proper sequencing.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 515 Principles of Optics
This course covers light propagation and imaging, and includes lenses, prisms, mirrors, microscopes, telescopes, and optical instrument theory. Students will study optical imaging examples that will enable them to transition from lenses and instruments to the optics of the eye. Lab practice will complement the lectures demonstrating the optical principles of light nature and optical imaging.
Credit Hours: 4.5

OPT 516 Gross Anatomy, Histology & Radiographic Techniques
This course is a lecture and laboratory course that uses a regional approach to the study of human gross anatomy utilizing interactive 3D computer instructional programs, models and radiologic images. Emphasis is placed on the correlation between anatomical structure and function on the one hand and clinical imaging applications on the other. The laboratory reinforces and reviews material covered in lecture sessions and organizes and clarifies conceptually difficult content. Laboratories are taught utilizing individual, interactive 3D computer stations that help the student understand the three-dimensionality of human body structures and their relationships, both in the body and in images provided by various medical imaging techniques.
Credit Hours: 4.5

OPT 517 Genetics, Biochemistry & Metabolism
This course is designed to provide a basis for the fundamental understanding of biochemistry and genetics as they apply to optometric practice. Diseases will be discussed from genetic, metabolic and/or nutritional viewpoints and compared with normal biochemical processes. The course will explain pathologies at the molecular level and will emphasize certain biochemical principles related to the eye. It will provide the student with the level of contemporary knowledge base that will lead to an understanding of the etiologies and implications of metabolic and inherited conditions with ocular and visual implications.
Credit Hours: 3.5

OPT 518 Leadership in Health Care & Personal Development
This course is presented in four modules which address a) Service b) Professionalism c) Communication and d) Personal Development. Topics include service as a valued entity in the optometric profession and in Appalachia. The various dimensions of professionalism in the healthcare professions are discussed including how one navigates beliefs, decision making and non-discrimination. The communication module includes the value of building trust and exhibiting respect both with patients and colleagues and the

influence of gender in communication. The personal development module addresses the ability to treat all people with human dignity. The Charter for Compassion is considered as a basis of spirituality. The charter is presented in comparison to your own religious or philosophical values.
Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 522 Clinical Skills II: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques Lab
Laboratory course to accompany Clinical Skills II: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques. Optometric clinical skills are further taught through hands-on experiences. Primary emphasis is for students to gain competency in phoria, vergence, and accommodative testing in the phoropter, subjective refraction, and anterior segment examination with slit lamp biomicroscopy. Other clinical techniques and instruments described in Clinical Skills II: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques are also explored during the lab.
Credit Hours: 1.0

OPT 524 Clinical Skills II: Intermediate Optometric Theory & Techniques
Students continue development of their knowledge and skills in refractive care. Medical ophthalmic evaluation and management skills are introduced. A case-based approach to the integration of data will be used to develop critical thinking skills and practical use of data in the development of diagnoses and treatment plans.
Credit Hours: 2.5

OPT 525 Visual Optics
This course emphasizes the visual optics of retinal image formation in emmetropia and the ametropias. Higher order aberrations and pupillary effects are discussed as well as the optical principles of correcting the refractive error by spectacles, intraocular lenses and surgery, fundamental wave optics and laser physics. The optics of clinical instruments is presented. Laboratory experiences will complement lectures by demonstration of optical principles and observation of selected instruments.
Credit Hours: 3.5

OPT 526 Ocular Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry & Histology
This course is a detailed study of the gross ocular anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and histology of the human eye, adnexa, and surrounding tissues supporting the structure and function of the visual system. It will investigate the histology and clinical micro-structure of the eye as well as embryological integration to the normal and abnormal development of ocular anatomy. There will also be an introduction to a clinical approach to the assessment and management of ocular anatomical disorders.
Credit Hours: 5.0

OPT 528 Neuroanatomy & Neurosciences
This course is designed to provide a broad understanding of the human central nervous system with an emphasis on functional and clinical neuroanatomy, the application of this knowledge to localize and diagnose neuropathology, and the ability to interpret diagnostic imaging of the brain and spinal cord. However, this course will also provide students with a foundation in the normal structure and function of the CNS at the molecular, cellular, and histological levels, and CNS development as a basis for understating CNS pathology and treatment. The course will begin with fundamental aspects of neuroscience (including gross neuroanatomy, neurohistology, and neurophysiology) and then examine regional neuroanatomy, functional systems, and clinical correlates starting with the peripheral nervous system and then progressively moving up the neuroaxis from the spinal cord to the cerebral cortex.
Credit Hours: 3.5

OPT 529 Medical Physiology
This course is designed to expand student knowledge in medical physiology by linking anatomical elements with their normal functions. It facilitates the integration of several disciplines through a pathophysiological approach that links with pathology, pharmacology, and clinical medicine. The course also identifies certain areas for which the optometrist needs in-depth knowledge to facilitate proper laboratory testing.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 601 Clinical Skills III
Students continue development of their knowledge and skills in refractive care and patient assessment. Students begin the development of advanced patient assessment and management skills. Summative practical evaluations prepare students for patient care experiences that will qualify them for internship in the clinical course.
Credit Hours: 0.5

OPT 607 Pharmacology I
Introduction to Pharmacology provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental principles governing drug actions with the human body. This course delves into the complex mechanisms of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics, elucidating how drugs interact with biological systems and how the body processes these substances. Additionally, students will learn about the intricacies of the autonomic nervous system and its modulation by pharmacological agents. By the end of this course, students will have a solid foundation in pharmacology, enabling them to comprehend concepts of mechanism of drug action, predict drug behavior, and understand the clinical implications of pharmacological interventions in health and disease.
Credit Hours: 1.5

OPT 609 Immunology & Microbiology
This course introduces the fundamental principles of pathogenic microbiology and immunology with an emphasis on host defense mechanisms. Students will gain an understanding of the immune response in protection against disease, its diagnostic and therapeutic applications, and immune-related disorders. The course also explores major viral, bacterial, and eukaryotic pathogens, their transmission, pathogenic mechanisms, and the resulting infectious diseases in humans. Current trends in emerging pathogens and access to public health information are highlighted.
Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 611 Clinical Skills IV: Advanced Optometric Theory & Techniques, Refractive Management & Ocular Health Assessment
Students continue development of their knowledge and skills in advanced refractive and medical ophthalmic evaluation and management. The course will continue to use a case-based and problem-solving methodology in the synthesis and evaluation of optometric data and management of refractive problems and ocular disease.
Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 612 Clinical Skills IV: Advanced Optometric Theory & Techniques, Refractive Management & Ocular Health Assessment Lab
Laboratory course to accompany Clinical Skills IV. Optometric clinical skills are further taught through hands-on experiences. Primary emphasis is for students to gain competency in fundus biomicroscopy, gonioscopy, and binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy. Summative practical evaluations prepare students for patient care experiences that will qualify them for internship in the clinical course.
Credit Hours: 1.0

OPT 613 Clinical Internship I: Introduction to Patient Care
This course serves as an introduction to clinical patient care and clinical operations. It consists of observations and assisting doctors and clinical student interns in patient care within the KYCO clinical system, or participation in community-based vision screenings. Students will refine their clinical procedures and examination techniques/sequencing including objective refraction. Emphasis is placed on professional and proper doctor-patient communication and inter-professional communication within a clinic setting.
Credit Hours: 1.5

OPT 615 Concepts of Monocular Vision & Perception
This course presents the science of monocular sensory vision emphasizing the anatomy and visual physiology of the retinal photoreceptor layer and post-retinal neurology. Emphasis is placed on understanding the duplex nature of cone vs. rod vision, spatial and temporal aspects of visual perception and includes a discussion of the biophysics of light stimulation in vision. Clinical testing correlates of monocular vision and perception are covered.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 616 Glaucoma Diagnosis & Management
This course is a comprehensive presentation of primary and secondary glaucoma, including etiology, mechanisms, prevalence and classification. The course emphasizes diagnostic testing including the use of advanced technologies, imaging procedures, photographic techniques and management options including medical, surgical and laser procedures.
Credit Hours: 2.6

OPT 617 Pharmacology II
This course begins with the principles underlying pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and therapeutics. It discusses routes of administration, dosages and associated nomenclature. The course then uses a survey approach to various classes of systemic medications, their cellular mechanisms, actions and indications. There is also a discussion of individual drug selection and administration based on the individual‘s genetic profile in order to select the best medication for the individual patient.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 618 Pathology & Disease Processes
This course covers the causes and underlying mechanisms of diseases. It addresses basic pathological processes associated with cell injury, cell death, acute and chronic inflammation, tissue repair and regeneration, healing, fibrosis and neoplasia. It includes a discussion of the pathology associated with various body systems with specific attention paid to those pathological changes involving ocular manifestations of systemic disease or those most common in the population.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 619 Anterior Segment Disease and Ocular Pharmacology I
This course covers the diagnoses and management of the diseases of the anterior segment including those of the ocular adnexa, conjunctiva, cornea, anterior chamber, iris, and crystalline lens. It addresses the etiology, diagnosis and management of infectious, autoimmune, neuromuscular, degenerative and neoplastic conditions as well as those involving surgical and laser interventions. Laboratory testing and management protocols are reviewed. Assessment techniques, specific to the anterior segment will be discussed and demonstrated in a case based lab setting. protocols.
Credit Hours: 3.5

OPT 620 – Epidemiology and Research Methodology

This course discusses the study of public health (epidemiology) and research methods used in scientific communities. Particular areas of focus include frequency and occurrence of disease throughout various populations, screening and analysis, the United States health care system, and barriers to health. Discussion will highlight local populations, historical examples, and both ocular and systemic diseases with a significant impact on public health. The course also introduces multiple approaches and types of research that students may encounter throughout their career. Students will be guided through the research process, from study development and design to publication. This course will focus heavily on evidence-based clinical practice and the importance of research in everyday life.
Credit Hours 1.5

OPT 622 Basic Contact Lenses
This course introduces the use of contact lenses as a corrective modality in primary care optometry. A clinically-based approach will include anatomical, physiological, refractive, and lifestyle considerations in patient selection, material selection, lens manufacturing and design, and wearing schedule. Laboratory experience in fitting, verification, assessment, management, and troubleshooting will prepare students for patient care experiences.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 623: Clinical Internship II
Students continue in the clinic as observers of care. Students learn the patient information gathered by the technicians and advanced technology which the clinician will use for diagnosis and management. Students will continue to develop their refracting/prescribing skills and will begin to use the biomicroscopy and ophthalmoscopy techniques being learned in the Clinical Skills course. They will also conduct specialized imaging procedures as part of the patient care team. During this course, students will undergo qualifying patient care experiences for entrance into the third-year clinical program.
Credit Hours: 0.8

OPT 627 Anterior Segment Disease and Ocular Pharmacology II
This course continues the presentation of the diagnoses and management of the diseases of the anterior segment including those of the ocular adnexa, conjunctiva, cornea, anterior chamber, iris, and crystalline lens as well as the impact of ocular trauma on the anterior segment. It addresses the etiology, diagnosis and management of infectious, autoimmune, neuromuscular, degenerative and neoplastic conditions as well as those involving surgical and laser interventions. Laboratory testing and management protocols are reviewed. Assessment techniques, specific to the anterior segment will be discussed and demonstrated in a case-based lab setting.
Credit Hours: 3.2

OPT 628 Posterior Segment Disease
This course focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders involving the posterior segment of the eye. The anatomical, physiological, histological and pathological processes of ocular disease will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on the optometric management of conditions involving the vitreous, retina, and uveal tract as well as posterior segment pathology associated with systemic diseases. Assessment techniques and management protocols will also be discussed and demonstrated in a case-based lab setting
Credit Hours: 3.5

OPT 629 Ophthalmic Optics
This course covers the ophthalmic materials, and optical characteristics of ophthalmic lenses prescribed in the correction of refractive errors. It includes discussion of materials, fabrication, lens design, verification and other procedures associated with dispensing. Low vision lenses are also introduced as are protective forms of eyewear. A significant amount of time is also devoted to dispensing topics, including frame

selection and quality control issues.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 630 Optometry Capstone I
This course offers a structured review and application of foundational topics from the first year of the optometry program. Areas of focus include Geometric & Visual Optics, Physiology (including Medical Physiology), Gross Anatomy and Biochemistry. The course also provides an introduction to the licensure process for optometrists, preparing students for future professional requirements.
Credit Hours: 1.0

OPT 631 Binocular Vision and Motility
This course presents the scientific basis underlying human vision by focusing on the principles of binocularity and stereopsis, related concepts and their application particularly when binocularity is abnormal. The course covers basic concepts such as the eye muscle innervation and movement, horopter, fusion, retinal correspondence and others. Assessment and management of these functions is included. The course also examines the neurological pathways and systems responsible for maintaining normal binocularity, providing a foundation for understanding the clinical presentation and diagnostic testing used in evaluating both normal and abnormal binocular conditions.
Credit Hours: 3.5

OPT 712 Advanced Contact Lenses
This course builds upon the knowledge presented in OPT 622 Basic Contact Lenses. Fitting strategies utilizing advanced technology for specialized contact lens design including anterior segment anomalies, therapeutic lenses, post-surgical and post-trauma patients, corneal refractive therapy as well as contact lenses for the geriatric and pediatric populations will be presented. Case examples will be used to encourage independent decision making for complicated problems in contact lens fitting. Laboratory experience in fitting, verification, assessment, management and troubleshooting will prepare students for patient care experiences.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 713 Clinical Internship III
This course involves supervised clinical patient care in the student's initial experience in delivering the care in the role of the provider. Care will be supervised by KYCO clinical faculty and will take place mainly in the KYCO primary eye care clinics within the College and/or at one or more of the KYCO network clinics. Case conferences and grand round experiences will be assigned. Emphasis is upon the development of accurate and efficient clinical skills and correct interpretation and management of refractive and disease cases that have low complexity.
Credit Hours: 4.0

OPT 714 Strabismus, Amblyopia & Oculomotor Rehabilitation
This course discusses the diagnosis and management of strabismus and amblyopia, their etiologies, risk factors, classification and the interventional strategies including optical management, surgery and oculomotor rehabilitation in the contemporary practice of optometry. Prognoses and expected outcomes are discussed.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 715 Advanced Topics in Ocular Disease Management
This course is a continuation of OPT 625 and 628, building upon the fundamentals of ocular disease. We will discuss more advanced concepts and recent discoveries pertaining to the detection, diagnosis, and management of ocular disorders.

Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 717 Inter-Professional Clinical Case Analysis & Management
Clinical cases involving multi-disciplinary involvement will be presented. Participation will include discussion by physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, public health personnel, and other professional personnel as well as optometrists to exemplify and provide proper sequential and/or parallel management and arrive at an integrated approach in solving the patient's issues.
Credit Hours: 1.5

OPT 718 Optometry Capstone II
This course offers a structured review and application of topics from the second year of the optometry program. Areas of focus include Ophthalmic & Contact Lens Optics, General & Ocular Pharmacology, Anterior & Posterior Segment, Monocular & Visual Perception, Binocular Vision & Ocular Motility, Ocular Diseases. The course will also discuss the licensure process for optometrists, preparing students for future professional requirements.
Credit Hours: 1.0

OPT 721 Gerontology & Low Vision Rehabilitation
This course covers two important topics: the social, psychological, cognitive, and biological aspects of aging and the assessment and examination of the low vision patient including necessary modifications to the testing procedures and the prescribing of optical and non-optical devices. The course will address the etiology and epidemiology of vision impairment and associated diseases as well as orientation and mobility issues, patient counseling and locally based services available to support the patients.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 723 Clinical Internship IV
The student continues supervised clinical patient care with emphasis on the intern delivering care in the role of the provider. As in Clinical Internship III, care is supervised by KYCO clinical faculty and will take place mainly in the KYCO primary care clinics within the College and at one or more KYCO network clinics. Case conferences and Grand Rounds experiences will be assigned. Emphasis is upon correct interpretation and management of refractive and disease cases that have moderate complexity.
Credit Hours: 4.0

OPT 724 Pediatric Optometry
This course concerns the diagnosis and management of the major refractive, binocular and ocular disorders as well as the systemic diseases commonly occurring in the pediatric population, especially those where there is an ocular component. There is also a discussion of normal growth and development markers and expectations in this population. Various testing alternatives and strategies for the management of the visual conditions in children are discussed.
Credit Hours: 3.0

OPT 725 Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease, Neurological Disorders & Acquired Brain Injury
This course provides an in-depth discussion of the diagnosis of and management strategies for various neurological disorders that can affect vision and visual perception. Other systemic conditions such as some of vascular or cardiac etiologies or space-occupying lesions of the brain may also contribute to visual abnormalities or loss. Testing and neurological evaluation is discussed in depth and is accompanied by various radiological and other technologies that help the diagnostic process. The diagnostic strategies for the confirmation of acquired brain injuries are also covered in detail.
Credit Hours: 3.2

OPT 726 Clinical Medicine for Optometrists
This course covers the major systemic diseases that have ocular and visual implications and reviews their etiology as discussed in pathology, the patient's signs and symptoms and other clinical assessments in order to not only reach a definitive diagnosis but also develop effective management plans. Since many systemic diseases have ocular correlates or implications, management often takes the form of co-management. The course will emphasize certain diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, infectious and other conditions prevalent in the general and Appalachian populations.
Credit Hours: 2.2

OPT 727 Ophthalmic Laser Surgery
This course provides instruction and laboratory experience in advanced ocular therapeutic laser procedures. Topics will include laser physics and tissue interaction, laser hazards and safety, and laser treatment protocol. As part of this course, students will perform simulated laser treatments as well as receive instruction for providing pre and post-operative patient care in preparation for the clinical application of these procedures. This course is designed to meet and or exceed the classroom and laboratory experience required by Kentucky Optometry Law, thereby qualifying each student to seek clinical certification by the Kentucky Optometry Board after the awarding of the OD Degree.
Credit Hours: 1.5

OPT 730 Integrated Case-Based Learning
Using a case-based approach, problems will be presented to students that demand an integration of various ethical, social, legal and psychological considerations in addition to diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. Students will be expected to actively participate in discussions and resolution of the issues. While the students are expected to do the necessary research and consultation to conclude with final recommendations, they will be supervised and directed by a faculty mentor. Student presentations and reports should include documentation that supports their conclusions. These will be used in the final assessment of the students' learning.
Credit Hours: 1.5

OPT 732 Advances in Optometry
This seminar course is intended for presentations on contemporary and future innovations in the practice of optometry from the development of new technologies and instrumentation, to better management strategies, research in pharmacogenetics, detection of markers predictive of disease, pharmaceutical discoveries and better optical solutions to current refractive disorders.
Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 733 Clinical Internship V
Continuing supervised clinical patients care with emphasis upon the intern delivering care in the role of the provider. Care will be supervised by KYCO clinical faculty and will take place mainly in the KYCO primary eyecare clinics within the College and at one or more KYCO network clinics. Case conferences and grand round experiences will be assigned. Emphasis is upon correct interpretation and management of refractive and disease cases that have high complexity.
Credit Hours: 4.0

OPT 734 Ophthalmic Surgery: Injections, Radiofrequency, and Periocular Surgery
This course provides instruction and laboratory experience in minor periocular surgical procedures including informed consent, OSHA guidelines and asepsis, sterile techniques, lesion removal, and post-operative wound care. Various techniques, including radiofrequency surgery will be discussed. Injection topics include indications and techniques for periocular injections, venipuncture, local anesthesia, and emergency procedures for anaphylaxis. As part of this course, students will receive instruction for

providing pre- and post-operative patient care in preparation for the clinical application of these procedures.
Credit Hours: 1

OPT 736 Leadership in Health Care & Practice Management -
This course will include practice management principles and discuss issues of professional and medical ethics, legal requirements and ethical decision making. The concepts of leadership theory are presented in the context of professional responsibilities. The changing landscape of leadership, from patient care to family to community, is described in detail. The creation of your personal leadership style and its continued development is taught in detail.
Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 739 Optometry Review
This course will continue reviewing basic concepts focusing on the content presented in past and ongoing courses coordinated with the matrix outlined by the National Board of Optometry and the Accreditation Committee on Optometric Education. Targeted topics include principles of optics, general and ocular pharmacology and pharmacogenetics, and systemic and ocular disease. The goal of the course is to help participants prepare for their national board and state licensure exams, driving the course content.
Credit Hours: 2.0

OPT 811, 821, 831 Clinical Externships
The fourth-year rotations occur within the KYCO clinical network and include direct supervised patients care in the Primary Eye Care clinics with rotations to appropriate clinical facilities for direct and observed supervised clinical experience in specialty eye diseases, contact lenses, pediatrics, low vision, ophthalmic dispensing services as well as observational participation in other medical specialty clinics. Clinical management by interns during the fourth year is expected to reflect an ability to evaluate and manage a complex case load including surgical care.

Credit Hours: 13.33 per course

OPT 812 Pre - & Post-Operative Management of Ophthalmic Surgery Patients
This course presents the evaluation and management, including surgical decision-making in the care of the pre-operative candidate patient for ophthalmic surgery. All pre-surgical testing, counselling and preparation of the patient is presented as are the post-operative procedures, medications, and device management.
Credit Hours: 1.5

~ Personnel ~

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KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

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Kentucky College Of Optometry Contact Information

Administrative offices are open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. KYCO observes the customary holidays. Visitors are strongly encouraged to make appointments before visiting the campus to ensure that the person they need to see is available. KYCO's address is:

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147 Sycamore Street
Pikeville, KY 41501

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KYCO Office of Student Affairs	(606) 218-5028
Admissions	(606) 218-5251/Fax (606) 218-5209
Financial Aid	(606) 218-5407/Fax (606) 218-5256
Registrar's Office	(606) 218-5193