

SUPERLATIVES

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Optometry

- I. Of the 17 Schools of Optometry in the United States, UABSO ranks #1 because of the following standards
 - Leads the country in the number of periodicals and papers published by its faculty
 - Provides further academic leadership through 26 different textbooks authored by UAB faculty, which are now used at other leading schools throughout the nation
 - Receives more outside research funding (\$22 million) than any other school of optometry in the country
 - One of three schools in the nation with a 100% student pass rate for the national board exams
- II. The UABSO is the smallest school on campus yet receives the second largest dollar amount of research funding (second only to the School of Medicine)
 - School clinics and faculty are involved in 4 National Eye Institute (NEI) funded national clinical trials investigating corneal eye disease, myopia, amblyopia, and refractive error development
 - Home to the Center for the Development of Functional Imaging (CDIF), one of three such facilities in the United States of America
- III. More than 25,000 patients are seen annually by students and faculty in our Low Vision, Pediatric, Contact Lens, Primary Care clinics and our community outreach programs
 - Because of the aging Baby Boomers, our Low Vision Clinic is more important than ever. Alabama has the 10th highest prevalence (3.70%) of adult visual impairment among the other states. Our UABSO has one of the only comprehensive Low Vision Clinics in the United States, seeing approximately 2,800 patients yearly, and is a collaborative partner along with the Department of Ophthalmology in the UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation
- IV. Students rotate through the following Community Outreach programs
 - Eye Can Learn – during the school year, four UABSO students weekly screen approximately 1,500 Jefferson County school students in grades 3 through 8
 - Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB) – traveling to Talladega twice weekly, our students see approximately 500 patients yearly in this satellite clinic
 - Community Vision Van – UABSO’s mobile outreach program allows each of our 40 interns to rotate their time in order to provide visual screenings to more than 7,000 persons yearly in North Alabama. 2,967 pre-school & elementary students, 2,200 adults at 60 senior citizen centers and 2,000 screenings at various community health fairs are provided to the community each year
 - Rural Alabama Diabetes and Glaucoma Initiative—a screening program taking place in the historic underserved Black Belt counties of Alabama
- V. Applicant Information
 - 40+ Students are accepted yearly (only 1 in 5 applicants is accepted)
 - Highest national Grade Point Average of entering freshmen for Schools of Optometry
 - Students in the doctor of optometry (OD) program at UAB attend basic science courses with students in the medical and dental schools