Committed to excellence in education, research and service
**Our Vision**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry aspires to be respected worldwide for its contributions to eye and vision care knowledge, its contributions to vision science, and its service to humanity.

**Our Mission**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry adds value to the state of Alabama and its citizens through excellent, effective, and efficient optometric and vision science education, research, service, and patient care programs. The UAB School of Optometry has an unyielding commitment: (1) to scholarship and research, which provide the underpinning of optometric and vision science education and service; (2) to strengthen the provision of optometric care to a diverse public; (3) to cherish the value that diversity in faculty and students brings to optometry and vision science; and (4) to fair and equitable treatment of faculty, students, and staff—the source of The School of Optometry’s strength. The School of Optometry’s achievement of its mission will be measured by the success of students and faculty who learn, create, teach, and provide patient care in our doctoral level professional and graduate programs.

**Our Goals**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry is committed to planning for the future to ensure continued improvement in its programs and to fulfill its mission. In support of this role, the School seeks to:

- Recruit and admit a diverse group of applicants who will serve the primary eye care needs of the public in the state and region.
- Recruit and admit applicants capable of excellence in the practice of optometry.
- Prepare students for excellence in the practice of optometry.
- Instill in students knowledge of the arts and sciences related to optometry.
- Develop in students’ interpersonal skills for the sensitive and responsive delivery of eye care.
- Provide the opportunity for students to develop their potential for leadership in their profession and community.
- Encourage and support interdisciplinary programs of health care training and delivery including eye care.
- Develop programs of community outreach.
- Develop clinical programs that serve the public with outstanding merit and recognized excellence.
- Create programs of public and professional eye health education that will contribute to an understanding of eye health problems and their prevention, recognition, treatment, management, and rehabilitation.
- Prepare clinicians for careers in specialty service or education.
- Provide resources to stimulate faculty and students in the pursuit of new knowledge in clinical eye care, in basic vision science, and in public health and community aspects of eye care.
- Prepare vision scientists for careers in vision research and education.
- Provide continuing education for practicing optometrists to maintain and enhance their clinical competence.
- Create a professional environment that provides an atmosphere of mutual support and cooperation and that fosters the attainment of both individual and collective professional goals.
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The UAB School of Optometry was the first school of optometry to be integrated into an academic health sciences center complex. It is the objective of the School of Optometry, functioning as an integral part of the Academic Health Sciences Center, to provide academic and research programs of excellence and social relevance.

In addition to optometric and vision science education, the School offers unique opportunities for interdisciplinary faculty appointments, as well as interdisciplinary student training, coupled with the opportunities for a wide variety of community services. This has allowed an unparalleled development of the professional, residency, and graduate programs. Academic appointments and facilities are shared with existing units of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, including all schools within the Academic Health Sciences Center as well as the University of Alabama Hospital and the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The School of Optometry is organized into a Department of Optometry and a Department of Vision Sciences (formerly the Department of Physiological Optics). The chairman of each department is responsible for faculty assignments and evaluations and allocation of departmental resources. The dean, the chair of the Department of Optometry, the chair of the Department of Vision Sciences, the Chief of Staff, the director of the Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering and the director of the Vision Science Research Center serve as the Executive Committee.

**Accreditation**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist's, and doctoral level. Many academic programs have additional accreditation from organizations appropriate to the particular academic discipline involved.

The professional and residency programs of the UAB School of Optometry are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141; (314) 991-4100, the official accrediting body for optometric institutions. The school was most recently reaccredited in April 2002.

**Location**

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Birmingham is Alabama’s largest city. With a metropolitan population of nearly a million people, the city is a world-renowned medical and financial center. People enjoy living and working in Birmingham. With geographical good fortune, a stock of year round entertainment, and irresistible Southernness, this is a generously outfitted city.

Birmingham’s climate is typical of the South, warm and delightful. Its mild winters have become very attractive to Northerners and have spawned a growing tourism trade. The weather is not the only thing that draws new residents and visitors to Birmingham. Even with all the growth, Birmingham has remained true to its Southern charm and enjoys being a preferred relocation destination.

There is a lot to do in and around Birmingham. The area is home to an abundance of lakes and parks as well as some very fine golf courses. Many bike paths can be found throughout the city limits as well as picturesque areas for a leisurely picnic. While in Birmingham you can visit the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the Botanical Gardens, the Zoo, the Museum of Art, the Civil Rights Museum, the McWane Center and IMAX theater, take a canoe trip down the Cahaba River, see a play or concert at the Alys Stephens Center, Alabama Theater, or BJCC, or attend one of the areas many sporting events. For more information on Birmingham, go to [www.bcvb.org](http://www.bcvb.org).
FACILITIES

Students at the UAB School of Optometry pursue their education in contemporary facilities within the UAB Academic Health Sciences Center. The following buildings and facilities are utilized by the School of Optometry in its education, research, and service programs.

The **Henry B. Peters Building** is a 70,000 square foot facility, located in the UAB Academic Health Center, which comprises a major part of the east end of the University campus. The physical facilities that house the School were designed specifically for the education and training of optometry students, the provision of clinical optometric services, faculty research, and the effective administration and support of the missions of the institution. Located on the ground floor of the facility is the newly renovated 33,000 square foot clinic (UAB Eye Care), and a state-of-the-art Optical Service with the latest in eyewear and ophthalmic lenses. Also located in the Peters Building are faculty and staff offices, research and teaching laboratories, classrooms, conference rooms, clinical teaching and student support facilities.

The **Worrell Building** houses the Department of Vision Sciences, the Vision Science Graduate Program, and the Vision Science Research Center. This seven-story facility includes the Sylvia D. Worrell Conference Center, administrative and faculty offices, faculty research laboratories, a machine shop, a computer/electronics shop, and a tissue processing and histology laboratory.

The **Center for the Development of Functional Imaging**, located behind the Worrell Building, is a resource for visual and functional neuroscience, focusing on brain mechanisms related to sensorimotor behavior, adaptation, and recovery of function. This newly built 2,300 square foot facility houses a high field fMRI system and associated support services.

The **Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering** moved into a newly renovated 75,000 square foot building in October 2001. This building includes administrative offices, conference rooms, research laboratories, and related engineering facilities for faculty, scientists, staff, graduate students, and fellows working together on projects related to the identification and design of large protein molecules, exploration of space research, and nanotechnology designed to be used in space and on earth.

The School of Optometry has partnered with the School of Medicine in the newly established **UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation**, located in the Professional Building of the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital (adjacent to the Peters Building). This Center is an interdisciplinary effort involving optometry, ophthalmology and occupational therapy in providing low vision patient care to this growing segment of the population. The center, which began delivering patient care in 2002, is the only such
interdisciplinary center outside of the VA system in the United States.

Volker Hall is a University facility that is used by the Schools of Optometry, Dentistry and Medicine. Basic biomedical sciences are taught in this multipurpose complex that houses five lecture halls, ranging in size from 125 to 600 seats, and utilizes the most innovative audiovisual equipment and teaching aids, as well as wet and dry laboratories.

The Birmingham VA Medical Center is widely utilized in the teaching programs of the UAB Academic Health Sciences Center. The 700-bed hospital also houses the Boswell Blind Rehabilitation Center, the only VA Blind Rehabilitation Center in the southeastern United States. The hospital operates its patient care programs under the supervision of professional staff members having joint faculty-VA appointments in the UAB Schools of Optometry, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, and Health Related Professions. In addition, the deans of the UAB Academic Health Sciences Center schools serve in an advisory capacity to the VA hospital administration.

The Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences is the largest biomedical library in Alabama and one of the leading such libraries in the South. It serves as a Resource Library in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine for the Southeast/Atlantic region. The library’s collections span seven centuries of knowledge within the ten thousand old and rare books to approximately 2000 current print journal subscriptions. The volumes of books, bound journals, microforms, and other media currently held total approximately 318,000 volumes.

Located adjacent to the School of Optometry, Lister Hill provides a wide range of library services to the Schools of Optometry, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Health Related Professions, Public Health and the related units and hospitals.

The Reynolds Historical Library is housed in a special area of the Lister Hill Library and is adjacent to the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. This historical library is a nationally respected collection of rare and important books, manuscripts and artifacts in the medical sciences. In addition, the Library is fortunate to have an extensive collection of items relating to Civil War medicine, especially those associated with practices of the nineteenth century.

Additionally, the University’s Sterne Library houses a collection of over one million items. The collections support teaching and research in the arts and humanities, business, education, engineering, natural science and mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences.
DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY (O.D.) PROGRAM

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Candidates for admission to the first professional degree program (O.D.) of the School of Optometry must meet all the requirements for admission to the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the School of Optometry.

Applicants must have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours or 135-quarter hours, the equivalent of three years of college education, prior to matriculation. All courses must be taken at a fully accredited institution and must be acceptable to that institution for degree credit and major requirements. No more than 60 semester hours or 90-quarter hours earned at a two-year institution may be applied to the credit hour requirement.

There is no requirement that a student must major in a specific area. Students should meet with their pre-health advisor early in their undergraduate education to discuss an appropriate major and plan their course curriculum. Students may apply for admission during their junior year of college. However, applicants with a baccalaureate degree are given preferential consideration.

COLLEGE-LEVEL PREREQUISITE COURSES

Candidates must complete all the courses listed below with a grade of C or better prior to matriculation into the professional program.

- **Biology** - including laboratory; 2 semesters or 3 quarters
- **Microbiology** – 1 semester or 1 quarter
- **General Chemistry** - including laboratory; 2 semesters or 3 quarters
- **Organic Chemistry** – including laboratory; 1 semester or 2 quarters
- **Biochemistry** - 1 semester or 1 quarter
- **Physics** – including laboratory; 2 semesters or 3 quarters
- **Calculus** – 1 semester or 1 quarter
- **Statistics** – 1 semester or 1 quarter
- **English** – 2 semesters or 3 quarters
- **Psychology** - (Statistics will not fulfill this requirement); 1 semester or 1 quarter
- **Social & Behavioral Science** 2 semesters or 2 quarters
- **Anatomy & Physiology** - strongly recommended

* effective with 2006 entering class

If you have any questions regarding the prerequisite courses, please contact the Office of Student Affairs.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The School uses a rolling admissions process that allows qualified applicants to be admitted on an ongoing basis beginning as early as October and concluding when the class is filled. **Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible after August 1 to ensure full consideration for admission.**

The Admissions Office begins processing applications August 1 for the class entering the following year. To be considered for admission, the following must be received in the Admissions Office no later than February 1:

1. A completed application and a $50 application fee.
2. Official and complete transcripts of all work attempted at high schools, colleges, and universities must be forwarded to the School of Optometry Admissions Office by the institutions attended. Supplementary transcripts must be forwarded to the same office following completion of courses not included on the original transcripts.
3. Optometry Admission Test (OAT) Results.
   Applicants are required to take the OAT and have the results sent to the School. Applicants are encouraged to take the examination in the spring of the year preceding anticipated application. This will provide ample opportunity to retake the exam should the applicant consider the results improvable. **Results of all OAT exams must be received prior to the February 1st application deadline.** For information about testing times and locations, please contact the UAB School of Optometry or the Optometry Admission Testing Program, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611; (312) 440-2693 or www.opted.org.
4. A composite evaluation by a pre-health professions advisory committee is required if available at the applicant’s undergraduate institution. If the composite cannot be provided, then a minimum of four individual letters of evaluation are required. If possible, these letters should be from faculty members who are knowledgeable about the applicant’s scholastic abilities and personal characteristics; otherwise, they should be from persons who can provide pertinent information to the admissions committee. Additional letters may be requested to supplement the composite or the required letters.
One of the missions of the UAB School of Optometry is to produce graduates fully qualified to provide quality comprehensive eye care services to the public. To fulfill this mission, the School must ensure that students demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skills in the provision of optometric care. The Admissions Committee, therefore, considers a candidate’s capacity to function effectively in both academic and clinical environments, as well as a candidate’s academic qualifications and personal attributes.

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

The functional standards for 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 area is described in detail on the School’s website.

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. Upon receipt of appropriate documentation, the Functional Standards Advisory Committee of the School of Optometry will review the request and determine the feasibility and nature of the accommodation requested and possible alternatives, if any.

Candidates for admission or students with questions concerning their ability to meet the School of Optometry’s Functional Standards should contact the Director of Student Affairs.

**Selection Process**

The Admissions Committee has the responsibility of reviewing and evaluating all applications. Qualified applicants will be invited for an on-campus visit and personal interview. Interviews are conducted beginning in September and end when the class is filled.

The Committee considers the following factors when selecting applicants for admission:

- Scholastic aptitude and performance
- Extracurricular activities
- Personality, character and motivation
- Optometry-related experience

Notices of acceptance may be received as early as October and as late as March. Applicants who are not accepted for one of the 40 regular class positions may be accepted for an alternate position. Those holding alternate positions may receive notification of admission to the class as late as the middle of July, should a regular position become available.

Acceptances may be designated as conditional upon successful completion of requirements. All students admitted must maintain the level of
academic performance consistent with that demonstrated previously. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to deny admission to an already admitted student whose academic performance falls below standards deemed appropriate for acceptance.

Following notification of admission, applicants are required to post a $200, nonrefundable deposit within two weeks of being notified. This deposit is credited toward tuition upon matriculation. Six weeks after notification of admission, a $500 nonrefundable pre-registration deposit is required. This deposit is also credited toward tuition upon matriculation.

**Distribution of Positions**

The UAB School of Optometry is state supported and as such gives preference to students who are bona fide residents of the state of Alabama. At the present time, approximately 20 of the 40 available positions are reserved for qualified Alabama residents. Also available are positions for residents of the contracting states participating in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) program. Additionally, there are at-large positions available in each entering class for highly qualified applicants, not restricted by state or country of origin. Although the number of students admitted each year is usually limited to 40, the number of positions available for Alabama residents, SREB state residents, and at-large applicants may vary based on the quality of the applications and availability of SREB state funds.

SREB contract positions presently are available to students from Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Applicants must be certified as residents of the states from which they apply. Students accepted for the SREB contract program pay in-state tuition.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs at (205) 934-6150 for the most recent information on the number of available positions.

**International Applicants**

International applicants must fulfill the same undergraduate academic requirements as United States applicants. They must also take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and be available for a personal interview at the School of Optometry. If English is not the primary language, the applicant will be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

If admitted to the School of Optometry, the applicant must obtain an F-1 visa. International Scholar and Student Services will assist the applicant and provide the information necessary to obtain an F-1 visa. Specific information on sponsorship and financial requirements can be obtained from:

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
International Scholar and Student Services
318 Hill University Center
1400 University Boulevard
Birmingham, Al 35294-1150
Telephone (205) 934-3328

Transcripts from foreign colleges or universities (outside the United States or Canada) must have a course-by-course evaluation. There are two academic evaluation services that are acceptable. An application for evaluation of foreign educational credentials can be obtained from:

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
P.O. Box 514070
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3470
Telephone (414) 289-3400
Fax (414) 289-3411

or

World Education Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 745
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
Telephone (800) 937-3895
Fax (212) 966-6395
Introduction
The fundamental goal of the School of Optometry of the University of Alabama at Birmingham is to educate men and women as optometrists to serve the primary vision and eye care needs of the public. The following document represents the consensus of the curriculum committee of the basic attributes and learning objectives necessary in achieving this goal. An appropriate curriculum is derived from these attributes via these learning objectives.

These individuals must be capable of independent optometric practice and demonstrate the following:

- knowledge of basic biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences, especially as it relates to vision and the eye;
- cognitive and motor skills; and,
- professional and ethical values.

The goals and learning objectives listed below will be modified to meet the evolving needs of the profession. The curriculum must reflect the frequency and criticality of the conditions that the optometrist will encounter.

Knowledge and Skill
Knowledge is understanding a given area. The entry-level optometrist must be knowledgeable of basic biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences, especially as it relates to vision. Skill is ability, proficiency or expertise in using knowledge to perform within a certain context. The entry-level optometrist must have appropriate cognitive and motor skills in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of clinical conditions within the scope of optometric practice.

The entry-level optometrist must understand and have skill in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of:

1. systemic conditions and processes which relate to vision
2. ocular conditions and processes
3. optics and lens systems and their application to vision
4. anomalies of vision using contact lenses.
5. sensory and motor processes of vision
6. public health, ethical, legal and administrative issues as applied to optometry
7. issues concerning clinical care of patients.

Professional and Ethical Values
Professional and ethical values describe qualities necessary for the full and appropriate application of knowledge and skills to the scope of optometric practice.

The entry-level optometrist must demonstrate appropriate:

8. personal professional and ethical values
9. values towards people
10. community-related values

Conclusion
Defining the goals and objectives of optometric education is extraordinarily important. This curriculum will provide the entry-level optometrist with appropriate knowledge and skill in every core area. This document will be successful when it achieves a clear definition of attributes to define Basic Competency for Entry-level Optometrists. The comprehensive version of this document is available at www.uab.edu/optometry.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY (NBEO)

One method for gauging the quality of the School’s curriculum and its success in producing qualified entry-level optometrists is the NBEO’s standardized testing program.

The NBEO administers three comprehensive examinations that are designed to assess the cognitive, psychomotor, affective, and communication skills that are essential for entry-level optometric practice. Part I (Basic Science) is taken by UAB students in August following their second professional year. Part II (Clinical Science) is taken in December of the fourth year. UABSO students are required to pass Parts I and II prior to graduation. Part II also includes an examination entitled “Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease” (TMOD). Part III (Patient Care) is taken in April of the fourth year. Although students are not required to pass either the TMOD or Part III in order to graduate, most states require passage of all parts before they will grant licensure. Fourth-year students are advised to check the licensure protocol for the state(s) where they will practice to verify specific requirements.

UAB students taking the NBEO for the first time historically out-perform the national average. For example, the pass rates for Part I (August 2003) - UAB 89% vs National 68%; Part II (December 2003) - UAB 97% vs National 90%.
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Optometry students take courses taught by seven different departments within the University. Five of these departments are in the joint basic health science department, and the remaining two departments (PO and OPT) and the clinic are in the School of Optometry.

- Cell Biology and Anatomy (CBA)
- Microbiology (MIC)
- Neurobiology (NBL)
- Pathology (PAT)
- Pharmacology (PHR)
- Physiology and Biophysics (PHY)
- Vision Sciences (PO)
- Optometry (OPT)
- Clinic (CLN)

Descriptions of each of the courses contained in the curriculum are available on the School’s website www.uab.edu/optometry.

All optometry students within a class follow the same academic schedule and curriculum.

ELECTIVES

Beginning with the 2004-05 academic year, the School initiated an elective course program. The program is designed to offer students a chance to broaden their learning opportunities and to pursue topics of interest that are not covered in the traditional optometric curriculum. Electives may be didactic, laboratory, clinical or research courses or a combination.

Designed by the faculty, electives must be approved prior to being added to the curriculum. Because of scheduling complexities and the limitations of resources and time, not all electives can be offered every quarter or to every student. All UABSO students are required to complete a minimum of one elective during their time at the School. As interest, faculty resources and schedules permit, students may elect to complete several electives. Students enrolled in a graduate program may request that their graduate coursework substitute for an elective.
# First Professional Year

## Fall Quarter

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<tr>
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<td>Microscopic Anatomy</td>
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<td>OPT 121</td>
<td>Introduction to Optometry</td>
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<td>Gross Human Anatomy</td>
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<td>PO 121</td>
<td>Neurobiology of the Visual System</td>
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<td>PO 123</td>
<td>Psychophysical Assessment of Visual Function</td>
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## Spring Quarter

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<td>NBL 712**</td>
<td>Medical Neuroscience</td>
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<td>PHY 702*</td>
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<td>OPT 132</td>
<td>Clinical Ophthalmic Optics</td>
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## Summer Quarter (6 Weeks)

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<td>OPT 131</td>
<td>CEVS I</td>
<td>6/9/0/60</td>
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<td>OPT 223</td>
<td>Ophthalmic Materials</td>
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# Second Professional Year

## Fall Quarter

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<tr>
<td>MIC 200*</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>6/0/0/66</td>
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<td>PAT 503*</td>
<td>General Pathology</td>
<td>2/4/0/60</td>
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<td>PO 222</td>
<td>Eye Movements &amp; Normal Binocular Vision</td>
<td>3/0/0/30</td>
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<td>CEVS II</td>
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## Winter Quarter

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<td>CEVS III</td>
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<td>Primary Care Clinic rotation</td>
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## Spring Quarter

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<td>OPT 232</td>
<td>Cornea &amp; External Disease</td>
<td>6/0/0/60</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 233</td>
<td>Ocular Pharmacology</td>
<td>4/0/0/40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 234</td>
<td>Professional/Clinical Communications</td>
<td>2/0/0/20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 236</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinic</td>
<td>1.5/2/0/35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 312</td>
<td>Contact Lenses I</td>
<td>2/1/0/30</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 313</td>
<td>Anomalies of Binocular Vision I</td>
<td>2/2/0/40</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLN 231</td>
<td>Primary Care Clinic rotation</td>
<td>0/0/2/20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLN 316</td>
<td>Community Vision Services III</td>
<td>0/0/4/40</td>
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</table>

## Summer Quarter (6 Weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>Lect/Lab/Clinic/Total Hours</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLN 230</td>
<td>Primary Care Clinic I</td>
<td>0/0/16/96</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLN 326</td>
<td>Community Vision Services IV</td>
<td>0/0/4/40</td>
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</table>
### THIRD PROFESSIONAL YEAR

#### FALL QUARTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPT 231</td>
<td>Clinical Management of Vision Problems I</td>
<td>2/2/0/40</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 316</td>
<td>Diseases of the Posterior Segment</td>
<td>4/0/0/40</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 321</td>
<td>Contact Lenses II</td>
<td>3/2/0/50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 323</td>
<td>Anomalies of Binocular Vision II</td>
<td>3/2/0/50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 332</td>
<td>Environmental Vision/Sports Vision</td>
<td>2/0/0/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLN 240</td>
<td>Primary Care Clinic II</td>
<td>0/0/4/40</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLN 351</td>
<td>Clinic rotation</td>
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#### WINTER QUARTER

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPT 311</td>
<td>Clinical Management of Vision Problems II</td>
<td>2/2/0/40</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPT 314</td>
<td>Geriatric Optometry</td>
<td>2/0/0/20</td>
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<td>OPT 325</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis</td>
<td>2/2/0/40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT 326</td>
<td>Pediatrics, Vision &amp; Learning Disorders</td>
<td>4/2/0/60</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>OPT 333</td>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>2/0/0/20</td>
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<td>CLN 310</td>
<td>Primary Care Clinic III</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLN 361</td>
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#### SPRING QUARTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPT 315</td>
<td>Neuro-Optometry</td>
<td>2/0/0/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPT 335</td>
<td>Low Vision</td>
<td>2/2/0/40</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPT 336</td>
<td>Business Aspects of Optometry</td>
<td>4/0/0/40</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPT 337</td>
<td>Health Care Policy, Clinical Literature &amp; Optometric Practice</td>
<td>2/0/0/20</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLN 320</td>
<td>Primary Care Clinic IV</td>
<td>0/0/4/40</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLN 371</td>
<td>Clinic rotations</td>
<td>0/0/4/40</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SUMMER QUARTER (10 Weeks)

This quarter begins the curriculum for the fourth professional year.

### FOURTH PROFESSIONAL YEAR

Students in the fourth year are scheduled by clinical rotations beginning with the 10-week summer quarter. Each quarter of the senior year = 13 credit hours. Two quarters involve rotations in primary care, pediatrics, cornea and contact lens, ocular disease and low vision, and a special clinical rotation. The remaining two quarters are devoted to externships – these are explained in detail under the Externship section of this catalog.

The calendar for the School of Optometry is based on the quarter system, but not all the courses listed adhere to a strict quarterly schedule; some may be longer and many are shorter.

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* Joint with dental students
** Joint with medical students
UAB EYE CARE

UAB Eye Care is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, eye care facility housed on the ground floor of the School of Optometry’s Henry B. Peters Building. The newly renovated clinic comprises 33,770 square feet and is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art equipment. UAB Eye Care is a major community resource, providing vision care to thousands of patients annually. Since the clinic is available to the public at large, each optometry student sees a wide variety of vision problems. Faculty members, both optometrists and ophthalmologists, closely supervise all patient care rendered by students, thus providing quality care to each patient while simultaneously providing extensive learning experiences for each student.

UAB Eye Care offers specialized eye care through the following services:

- **Primary Care Service** – General eye and vision care for those 17 years of age and older.
- **Pediatric Optometry Service** - Eye and vision care for infants and children as well as vision therapy.
- **Cornea and Contact Lens Service** - Comprehensive examinations and management of patients using contact lenses of all types, and also special conditions of the cornea.
- **Ocular Disease and Low Vision Service** - Comprehensive examinations, treatment and management of patients with complex eye diseases and disorders, as well as patients requiring vision rehabilitation and low vision devices.
- **Optical Services Department** – Provides a wide selection of eyewear for the entire family.
- **Community Vision Services** is the community outreach program of the UAB School of Optometry Clinics. Vision screenings are provided at many area schools and health fairs. An adult screening and referral program is also provided in cooperation with the Jefferson county Commission on Aging. Additionally, screenings and more comprehensive eye care are provided at primary eye care clinics operated within three of the Jefferson County Department of Health and other community health clinics. Optometric interns rotate through this program under the supervision of the Director and faculty of Community Vision Services.

EXTERNSHIPS

During their fourth year, students spend two quarters outside the school, in private or group practice offices of optometrists or ophthalmologists, in co-management referral centers, and in hospitals (VA, Indian Health, etc.) or other settings conducive to hands-on training in the treatment of ocular disease and other optometric specialties.

Students begin the process of selecting externship sites at the end of the second professional year, and are encouraged to spend one quarter in an institutional setting and the other in a private practice or co-management consultation center. This ensures the student of a more diverse clinical education experience.

Senior interns are required to complete two externships. However, this requirement may be modified if:

- the student is enrolled in a joint O.D./graduate degree program and requests permission to complete their graduate degree requirements in lieu of the second externship, or
- under special circumstances, an exceptional student wishes to be considered for a third quarter of externship during the last four quarters of the curriculum.

*Note: Externship changes must be approved in writing by the Director of Externships and the Chair of the Department of Optometry.*
AFFILIATED CLINICS

To implement part of its teaching philosophy, the School of Optometry has developed a rotating internship program to provide broad clinical experience and interprofessional institutional participation.

**Birmingham VA Medical Center** - The Department of Veterans Affairs has provided funds for the development of an optometry clinic and teaching facility in the Birmingham VA Medical Center. This provides appropriate faculty support for stations with optometric interns. As chief of the optometry service in the VA Medical Center, the director of the program reports directly to the chief of surgery of the VA Medical Center and the Chief of Staff of the School of Optometry. The dean of the School of Optometry is a member of the Dean’s Committee for the VA Medical Center. A Blind Rehabilitation Center and an Optometry/Ophthalmology Eye Clinic began operation in 1982.

**Birmingham Health Care** - The multidisciplinary Birmingham Health Care Clinic is located close to the UAB campus at 1600 20th Street South and provides all types of health care to any citizen regardless of income. The School operates two on-site eye clinics, for primary care and pediatric patients.

**Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind** - In addition to the services provided in the teaching clinic of the school, there is an affiliated clinic on the campus of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind in Talladega. This clinic provides services for students at the Alabama School for the Blind, the Helen Keller School, the Alabama School for the Deaf, and the E. H. Gentry Technical Facility. This affiliated clinic also provides evaluations for children and infants referred from around the state with known or suspected sensory impairments.

**UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation** - This multidisciplinary research and rehabilitation center affords fourth-year optometry students and medical residents the opportunity to expand their knowledge of vision impairments and rehabilitation practices developed to preserve a patient’s independence and improve their quality of life.

**Children’s Hospital Virology Clinic** - Located at 1600 7th Avenue South, the Children’s Hospital is a member of the Children’s Health System and within walking distance of the Henry Peters Building. Fourth year students and the pediatric resident see newborns with infectious diseases, and infants and toddlers with a history of low birth weight in the hospital’s Virology Clinic.

**Nursing Homes** - The School has an active, ongoing program for delivering vision care to both ambulatory and bed-ridden residents of Jefferson County nursing homes.
TUITION AND FEES
Please see the catalog insert for current tuition and fees.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
The University of Alabama at Birmingham maintains an Office of Student Financial Aid to assist students.

UAB uses the Department of Education Free Application for Federal Student Aid as a means of determining eligibility of students for financial aid. Each year, each student applying for aid is required to file a Financial Aid Form (FAFSA). A copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid can be obtained on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Paper applications may be ordered by calling: 800-4FED-AID. In addition to the FAFSA, all students must each year submit a Financial Aid Data Sheet and Title IV form available in the School of Optometry Financial Aid Application booklet. The booklet is available for download at www.uab.edu/optometry. For additional information on financial assistance contact:

UAB OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
HUC 317, 1530 3RD Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-1150
Telephone: (205) 934-8223

In addition, financial aid and financial planning for your optometric education are covered extensively during the applicant interview process and during new student orientation.

LOANS

Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan
A need-based loan. The maximum annual limit is $8,500 with a cumulative limit of $65,500. The interest is variable with a cap of 8.25 percent. The federal government pays the interest while the student is enrolled in school. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates or withdraws from school.

There is a 3 percent processing fee charged on each loan. This amount is returned to the federal government for insurance.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
A non-need-based loan. The interest rate is variable with a cap of 8.25 percent. The student must pay the interest while in school (the federal government does not pay the interest on this loan during enrollment) or have the interest capitalized as agreed by the borrower and lender. Repayment of the principal and any unpaid (capitalized) interest will begin when the student graduates or withdraws from school. The maximum annual loan limit is the cost of attendance, less the amount awarded in subsidized Direct Loan and scholarships or other resources. If a student cannot qualify for the entire $8,500 on the need-based Federal Direct Stafford Loan, he/she can receive the entire cost of attendance (less resources) in the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. Total annual limit varies, dependent upon the annual enrollment period, but cannot exceed the cost of education as determined by the Office of Student Financial Aid. The cumulative combined amount for Direct and Unsubsidized Loans is $189,125. Students in default on prior federal student loans, or who have exceeded the aggregate limits do not qualify for additional federal aid.

Federal Perkins Loans
A low-interest loan awarded to the student who shows financial need as determined by the federal need analysis system. The interest rate is 5 percent and no interest accrues while the borrower is in school. Funds are limited so those who file late could find funds from this program depleted. Regardless of age or marital status, the FAFSA must be completed and parental federal income tax information must be provided on forms to be considered for this loan. Signed 1040 income tax forms from the previous year for student/spouse and parents may be requested by the Financial Aid Office. Students should submit tax returns only if requested by the Financial Aid Office.

Federal Work Study
Eligible students may work part-time and earn money while attending school. A variety of jobs are available around campus, as well as within the School of Optometry and the Optometry Clinic. Work-study eligibility is based on need as determined by the federal need analysis system. Financial aid forms must be completed. Students who wish to work during the summer, winter, or spring breaks must contact Laura Carney in the Financial Aid Office by April 1. The student must be awarded work-study, and all personnel paper work must be completed and in the Financial Aid Office at least two weeks before the student is allowed to work.
Health Professions Student Loan  
A low-interest loan awarded to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds as determined by the federal need analysis system. The interest rate is 5 percent and no interest accrues while the borrower is in school. Regardless of age or marital status, the FAFSA must be completed and parental information must be provided on forms to be considered for this loan. Signed 1040 income tax forms from the previous year for student/spouse and parents may be requested by the Financial Aid Office.

Military Scholarships  
The Army, Navy and Air Force provide a Health Profession Scholarship Program (HPSP) that covers complete tuition, fees, required books and examination equipment plus a monthly living stipend. HPSP recipients are commissioned as officers and upon graduation required to serve in the military for a specific period of time, depending on the number of years the recipient received HPSP funding. Applications and additional information are available directly from Army, Navy and Air Force recruitment offices throughout the United States.

Alternative Loans  
Alternative loans are available if a student’s budget exceeds the Stafford limits or if he/she is otherwise ineligible for federal aid.

Consern – A non-need-based loan. Eligible students may borrow $2,000 to $20,000 per year. The interest rate is the lenders prime plus 2 percent. Interest must be paid or capitalized while in school. Loans are financed for any period up to 20 years. A co-borrower may be necessary for this loan. For more information, call CONSPER Loans for Education, (800) 767-5626 or (703) 709-5626.

Excel - A non-need-based loan. Eligible students may borrow $2,000 to $20,000 per year. The interest rate is the lenders prime plus 2 percent. Interest must be paid or capitalized while in school. Loans are financed for any period up to 20 years. A co-borrower may be necessary for this loan. For more information, call The New England Education Loan Marketing Corporation (800) 634-9308.

Med Funds Alternative Loan - A non-need based loan. Eligible students may borrow $1,000 to $20,000 per year. The repayment period begins 9 months after graduation. Borrowers have a maximum of 20 years to repay. For more information and forms, contact the Financial Aid Office or call Medfunds at (800) 531-2945. Research this option at www.medfunds.com.

Professional Education Plan (PEP) - A non-need-based loan. Eligible students may borrow $2,000 to $20,000 per year. The interest rate is the lenders prime plus 2 percent. Interest must be paid or capitalized while in school. Loans are financed for any period up to 20 years. A co-borrower may be necessary for this loan. For more information, call (800) 255-8374.

Veterans’ Benefits - Veterans who are accepted for enrollment and are eligible for financial assistance through the Veterans Administration should file an application with the Office of Veterans Affairs. Since six to eight weeks are required to process an application, the necessary forms should be filed well in advance of anticipated matriculation date. For additional information, contact: UAB Office of Veterans Affairs, HUC 460, 1530 3RD AVE S, BIRMINGHAM AL 35294-1150 or call (205) 934-8115. Please note that anticipated V.A. benefits should be reported on the UAB School of Optometry Financial Aid Data Sheet and submitted to the Office of Financial Aid. Student Accounting will administer the payment of these funds to your student account.

Wells Fargo Med CAP, Medical College Access Program offers no loan fees, interest rates as low as the prime rate plus 0.25% and other benefits. Call (800) 658-3567 or on-line at www.wellsfargo.com.

Awards and Scholarships  
Scholarships, grants and monetary awards are available to qualified students enrolled in the first professional degree program. Many are awarded to students in recognition of academic excellence or achievement in such areas as clinical skills, leadership, service, or research. Some are competitive in nature and require that the applicant present a written paper on a specific topic. A complete list of available awards and scholarships can be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs.
Honor Council
The student body of the School of Optometry, in conjunction with the faculty, has established an Honor Code compatible with the standards of the profession of optometry. The scope of this code includes most of the students’ school-oriented activities. The Honor Council may recommend to the dean dismissal of any student violating the Honor Code. Information pertaining to the Honor Code is presented during New Student Orientation.

Immunization Policy
In response to recent outbreaks of rubeola (red measles) on college campuses throughout the United States and in accordance with the American College Health Association’s recommendation that students be immunized against certain diseases, UAB has established an immunization policy. The following is a synopsis of the UAB Immunization Policy, which applies to UAB students and to international scholars.

Students enrolling in the School of Optometry must show proof of immunization against rubeola (if born on or after January 1, 1957), tetanus, and diphtheria prior to being admitted, matriculating, enrolling, or participating in academic, research, or clinical programs, and activities on campus.

All international students and international scholars are required to show proof of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, and rubeola prior to being admitted, matriculating, enrolling, or participating in academic, research, or clinical programs and activities on campus.

For purposes of this policy, immunization against rubeola includes an initial vaccine plus a second dose of vaccine. For those who have never been immunized, two injections of the vaccine at least one month apart are required. Exceptions to this policy will be made only for those students who can document medical or religious contraindications to the vaccine. Individual health-affairs schools (such as the School of Optometry) may impose additional immunization requirements.

The complete text of the UAB Immunization Policy may be obtained from the School of Optometry’s Office of Student Affairs or from UAB’s Office of Registration and Academic Records.

University Policies
In addition to the immunization policy, other UAB-wide policies apply to UAB School of Optometry students. These include policies concerning health care for international students and scholars, AIDS and HIV infection, a drug-free workplace, alcoholic beverage use, nonsmoking, electronic data processing security, computer software, firearms, and ethical standards in research and scholarly activities. Copies of these policies are available in the School of Optometry’s Office of Student Affairs or online in the UAB Student Handbook at www.students.uab.edu/student-life.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

American Optometric Student Association
Each student actively enrolled in the UAB School of Optometry is a member of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA). The UAB Chapter is closely affiliated with the national association and serves as the student government for the School. Students, therefore, are subject to the rules and are eligible for the benefits of both the local and national associations.

Beta Sigma Kappa
Beta Sigma Kappa is the International Optometric Honor Society. It was founded in 1925 and serves over 1,800 active members plus 950 honor student members. A student must attain a GPA of 3.5 in their first professional year, a cumulative GPA of 3.4 for the first two years, a 3.3 cumulative GPA for the first three years, and a 3.2 cumulative GPA for all four professional years.

Fellowship of Christian Optometrists
This national organization seeks to provide fellowship for Christian optometrists and optometry students. The organization’s activities include monthly luncheon seminars with featured speakers, Bible studies, and a yearly mission trip for humanitarian purposes.

National Optometric Student Association
The goals of the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) are to increase minority representation in optometry and to serve as the focal point for the enrichment, counseling, and support of minority students.

Pi Epsilon Chi Service Fraternity
This fraternity was formed to unite UAB optometry students academically, socially, and through community service. This organization is committed to promoting optometry as the primary eye care profession.

Student Optometric Service to Humanity
Student Optometric Service to Humanity (SOSH) is a charitable organization dedicated to providing vision care to people in the United States and abroad who would not otherwise receive care. Activities include collecting used eyeglasses and participating in vision screenings in underdeveloped countries.

STUDENT LIFE

UAB is located on Birmingham’s southside and occupies 82 square blocks. The campus boasts not only modern academic facilities, but also an outstanding medical center complex. There is an abundance of activities associated with a large college campus. Students enrolled in the professional and graduate programs are afforded the same privileges as undergraduates; access to campus facilities (fitness, swimming, tennis, parking, etc.), intramural sports, affordable health, vision and dental care, discount theater and concert tickets, and free admission to Blazer sporting events, to name just a few. You can learn more about student life at UAB by visiting www.uab.edu/students.

Parking and housing are the two most common concerns of incoming optometry students. On-campus parking is available in a student lot approximately two blocks from the School. Parking fees and permits will be discussed at Orientation. Optometry students generally choose to live off-campus. The Office of Student Affairs will provide housing information during the interview visit to the School. In addition, they maintain a list of students who are looking for roommates.
UABSO Student Events

The School sponsors several events during the year that are an important part of the UABSO experience:

Spring Visit – Students admitted to the incoming class are invited to a mini-orientation to meet their classmates and members of the current first-year class. Many students use this time to look for housing, acquaint themselves with the campus, and tour Birmingham.

New Student Orientation – Conducted over a three-day period in August, this in-depth program answers any and all questions about what to expect over the next four years.

Open House – This annual fall event provides prospective students with an opportunity to visit the school, tour the facilities and meet faculty, staff and current students.

White Coat Ceremony – Held in March for the second-year class, this ceremony marks the beginning of the students’ clinical education. Family and friends are invited to attend this milestone event.

Doctoral Convocation and Hooding Ceremony – This is the ceremony that every student aspires to reach. Held in May, this is the School’s official graduation.

Intramural Sports – Despite the School’s small size, optometry students have won UAB’s intramural championships in football, basketball, and other sports. The School’s signature team is the “Fighting Iris”.

Volunteer Activities – Whether it’s donating blood, collecting toys for the annual toy drive, helping with vision screenings for indigent patients in the community, or giving up spring break to travel to a remote portion of the U.S. or overseas to provide eye exams, there will be many opportunities for UABSO students to volunteer their time and talents.

For the golfers in the class there are also several charity golf events during the year. Every effort is made to coordinate these golf outings with the academic and clinic schedule so that as many students as possible have an opportunity to play.

Residency Programs

The mission of residency programs is to develop, maintain, advance and promote post-doctoral clinical training programs of excellence in all the major areas of optometric care. Currently, school-based programs are offered in family practice optometry, pediatric optometry, and cornea and contact lenses. Programs affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs include geriatric optometry and low vision rehabilitation, as well as primary eye care. Residency programs in ocular disease are affiliated with Omni Eye Services of Atlanta, Georgia, and EyeHealth Partners of Nashville, Tennessee. All of the residency programs of the UAB School of Optometry are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).

Each residency program is twelve to thirteen months in length beginning in July of each year. Residents sign a contract and are paid a salary during the length of the program. Applicants must either have an optometry degree or be in the fourth year of an accredited optometry program and scheduled to graduate prior to July 1st. For more information go to www.optometryresident.org or www.uab.edu/optometry.
Vision science is a multidisciplinary field encompassing events from the physical stimulus of light, through optical, biochemical, biophysical, and neuronal processes to visual perception. The primary objective of the Graduate Program in Vision Science is to educate and train individuals who will make important contributions to research and develop innovative approaches to teaching in Vision Science. To meet this objective, the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees require a curriculum covering major topics in Vision Science along with an original research project.

In addition to the course offerings in Vision Science, the program offers considerable flexibility in meeting the individual student’s needs and career goals. The program encourages students to participate in the wide range of graduate courses offered by other departments of the university. Indeed, the program is interdepartmental in scope, with mentors in 12 different departments, ranging from Cell Biology to Psychology.

Ph.D. Degree in Vision Science
The Ph.D. degree is based on completion of graduate course work, a qualifying examination, research, and a dissertation and defense. There is considerable flexibility in the coursework for the Ph.D. in Vision Science.

M.S. Degree in Vision Science
Some students may wish to pursue graduate training at the master’s level. Two calendar years are needed to complete the M.S. degree in Vision Science. Each candidate must complete a minimum of 30 hours of credit; 24 credit hours in Vision Science and 6 credit hours in related graduate courses. In addition, the candidate must successfully complete a research thesis by the conclusion of the final year.

Combined Degree Programs

O.D./M.S. in Vision Science
Selected students in the UAB optometry professional program are encouraged to combine the O.D. degree with the M.S. degree in Vision Science. Financial assistance is available for qualified students. Potential candidates should have completed an undergraduate degree in a biological, physical or health sciences field, have an interest in research, and have been granted admission to the UAB School of Optometry professional program.

O.D./Ph.D in Vision Science
The seven year O.D./Ph.D. program prepares students for careers that combine clinical optometry and basic research in vision science. This program involves a combination of basic science, research, and clinical training. The program is geared toward students who have outstanding scholastic qualifications and are highly motivated to pursue careers as clinician-scientists. Because students in this program will receive substantial benefits in the form of a stipend and tuition waiver, admission is highly competitive.

Students in the joint O.D./Ph.D. program complete three years of graduate training between completion of the first two years and last two years of the professional program. Information about admission requirements and application procedures can be obtained by writing to the Director of the Vision Science Graduate Program.
O.D./M.P.H.

This public health program is designed to provide knowledge about public health optometry and to educate future leaders in this field. It leads to involvement with other health care professionals in the development of programs to improve the health of the community, such as the development of new policies, health education programs, and new delivery of health services. Optometrists with public health education and training have a unique service to offer in many areas, including vision performance, eye safety in industry, environmental assessment, and screening for eye and systemic diseases in the population.

Individuals who successfully complete this combined degree program will use their optometric and public health knowledge and skills for the benefit of society and their communities.

Additional Information
Please visit www.visionscience.uab.edu for additional information on the Vision Science Graduate Programs. Written requests for information on any of the above programs should be addressed to:

Director, Vision Science Graduate Program
Department of Vision Sciences,
UAB School of Optometry,
WORB 618, 1530 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-4390
Telephone: (205) 934-6743
THE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The research environment at UAB is outstanding. In addition to the well-equipped laboratories of the individual researchers, their students and staff have access to the wide range of state-of-the-art research equipment and facilities across the UAB campus. These include the Mass Spectroscopy, Proteomics, Genomics, Flow Cytometry, and Informatics facilities, to name but a few. The School of Optometry itself houses major research resources as well.

CENTER FOR BIOPHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING (CBSE)

The CBSE is dedicated to understanding the structure and function of macromolecules as applied to new drug discovery via intelligent or structure-based, combinatorial design. The Center’s research enterprises include macromolecular crystal growth (ground-based and microgravity), x-ray crystallography, biochemistry and molecular biology, molecular modeling and graphics, structural thermodynamics, compound design and drug development.

The Center’s Engineering Division provides specialty laboratory instrumentation and software development services for the CBSE and research with capabilities that include design and analysis, fabrication and assembly, testing, and complete documentation.

Additional information about the CBSE and their research endeavors can be found at www.cbse.uab.edu.

VISION SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER (VSRC)

The VSRC was established in 1979 to draw together vision scientists from the entire university campus. Interdisciplinary and interdepartmental collaboration in research activities is an integral part of the VSRC philosophy. Participating faculty have appointments in Biology, Cell Biology, Neurobiology, Biomedical Engineering, Ophthalmology, Optometry, Pharmacology, Vision Sciences, Psychology, Geographic Medicine and the Veterans Administration. Funded by a Core Grant from the National Eye Institute, the center facilitates scientific collaboration by providing research facilities for its members. Detailed information on areas of research and the research faculty can be found at the VSRC website www.vsrc.uab.edu.

CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL IMAGING (CDFI)

The CDFI uses a vertical, 4.7 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device designed especially for use with alert, trained non-human primates. Functional imaging is an exciting new tool that is revolutionizing our ability to study the brain and when combined with existing techniques, will enable the examination of brain function on both microscopic and macroscopic scales. By combining functional, structural, and spectroscopic high-field MRI with electrophysiological, neuroanatomical, and pharmacological techniques, the understanding of brain function related to vision will be significantly enhanced.
HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGING FACILITY (HRIF)

The HRIF provides investigators with access to state of the art Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy, UV Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy, Multiphoton Laser Scanning Microscopy, and digital imaging equipment. The facility employs three full time technical specialists who assist users in the design, conduct, and interpretation of experiments that utilize the equipment available through the facility.

CLINICAL EYE RESEARCH FACILITY

The Clinical Eye Research Facility is located on the fourth floor of the Henry Peters Building. This 1,500 sq-ft space contains a reception/waiting area, conference room, two staff offices, four examination rooms, history room, visual fields room, imaging room, and large storage area. The purpose of this space is to not only facilitate but to also stimulate faculty and student interest in conducting clinical eye research.

The School currently has four ongoing clinical research trials – CLEK (Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus), CLEERE (Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Ethnicity and Refractive Error), COMET (Correction of Myopia Evaluation Trial) and ATS (Amblyopia Treatment Study).

FACULTY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Faculty in the School of Optometry have many diverse research interests. Among them are myopia, cataracts, clinical immunology, corneal biochemistry, neural control of eye movements, ocular motility, physiology and biophysics of photoreceptors, ocular pharmacology, glaucoma, protein crystallization, retinal cell biology, visual psychophysics, dry eye, and contact lens research. Additionally, many faculty are co-investigators on projects with researchers in other university departments or other institutions.

The UAB School of Optometry is consistently among the top optometric institutions in the amount of extramural funding received for research. Funding sources include the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Eye Institute (NEI), NASA, foundations, and private industry.
The University of Alabama at Birmingham was created by action of The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees in 1966 after functioning as an extension center of the University of Alabama since 1936. Accredited as an independent educational institution in 1970 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, UAB consists of 12 schools and offers programs from the baccalaureate level through the doctoral and first professional level.

UAB is a comprehensive, urban university and medical center that encompasses 82 city blocks on the southside of Birmingham. UAB is home to a large graduate school, a world-renowned health care complex and more than 70 research centers focusing on such diverse issues as AIDS, business development, biodefense and emerging infections.

The UAB Academic Health Sciences Center offers a broad array of education, research, and public service opportunities through its Schools of Dentistry, Health Related Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, and Public Health. Primary, secondary, and tertiary health services are provided through the University of Alabama Hospital complex.

Student enrollment has continued to rise over the past few years and in 2004 reached 16,357. UAB is a very diverse campus; 60 percent of students are women, and 26 percent are African-American. Students and faculty hail from almost every state and 121 countries.

With its resources for investigation and fact finding, and its ability to apply the knowledge of a large and diversified faculty, the university endeavors to make a distinctive contribution to the Birmingham, state, regional, and national communities.

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The UAB School of Optometry is located in the Henry B. Peters Building at 1716 University Boulevard (University Boulevard is also named 8th Avenue South).

To reach UABSO:

**I-20 westbound and I-59 southbound:**
- Exit #126-A (US 280 & US31). There are two exit lanes; stay in the left lane and merge onto 280/31.
- Exit at 8th Avenue South (2nd exit).
- At the bottom of the ramp turn right.
- The School is the second building on the right after crossing 18th Street. (Approximately 7 blocks from the highway.)

**I-59 southbound and I-59 northbound:**
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- Exit at 8th Avenue South (2nd exit).
- At the bottom of the ramp turn right.
- The School is the second building on the right after crossing 18th Street.

**I-65 northbound:**
- Exit #259-A (University Boulevard).
- At the bottom of the ramp turn right.
- The school is on the left next to the Lister Hill Library.

(Approximately 6 blocks from the exit and immediately after going under the second walkway overpass.)

**Note:** The city of Birmingham is a grid with streets running north/south and avenues east/west. UABSO is located on the southside on 8th Avenue (University Boulevard), between 17th and 18th Streets.

To obtain a detailed campus map, visit the University website at [www.uab.edu](http://www.uab.edu) or contact the Office of Student Affairs.
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