INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

CATALOG

2025-2027

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Iris R. Cabello Rivas, O.D.,
Dean

On behalf of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry, it is my honor to welcome you to our academic community. We are proud to be the only optometry program in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, committed to preparing competent and compassionate professionals who will contribute to the advancement of visual health both locally and globally.

Since its founding in 1981, the School has graduated over 1,300 Doctors of Optometry, representing more than 27 ethnic groups. This remarkable diversity reflects our mission: to educate, develop, and train students from Puerto Rico, the United States, and around the world within a bilingual (English-Spanish) learning environment and with the support of a dedicated and qualified faculty to become leaders in the field of optometry.

As a student at Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry, you are joining an institution that values academic excellence, integrity, service, and inclusiveness. We believe that diversity enhances learning and innovation, and we are committed to fostering an environment where each student is supported in their professional and personal growth.

Our commitment to service extends beyond the classroom. Through annual humanitarian missions, particularly to the Dominican Republic and other areas of the Caribbean, our students and faculty provide essential eye care services to underserved communities. These experiences not only strengthen clinical skills but also instill a deep sense of social responsibility.

We also encourage you to discover all that Puerto Rico has to offer. Beyond your academic training, you will have the opportunity to experience our island's natural beauty, rich culture, and warm hospitality elements that make your time with us both professionally enriching and personally memorable.

We are confident that your years at the School of Optometry will be transformative. Our faculty, staff, and administration are here to support you every step of the way.

Welcome to a new chapter of your academic journey. Welcome to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry.

2025-2027

Volume XXV, August 2025

Distinguished prospective students from Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, United States, Canada, and the rest of the world: Welcome to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry (IAUPRSO). Founded in 1912, in San Germán P.R., the Inter American University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR) is the oldest private university institution on the Island. Although the IAUPRSO was established in San Juan, P.R. in 1981,currently, since 2007 we are in Bayamón, a metropolitan city, close to San Juan and 45 minutes from the airport.

Here at IAUPRSO, you will find experienced faculty, an updated academic program, and a state-of-the-art clinical system, where you can carry out your clinical practice. So that, in just 4 years, you will be transformed into an extraordinary health care professional, "specialist" in Primary Care Optometry (OD). Also, an added benefit, for those English speakers, is that, while you are preparing academically for the degree of Doctor in Optometry, simultaneously you will be able to learn a second language (Spanish) in a natural environment, despite the fact that our entire academic program (lectures, books and examinations) is offered totally in English. This will greatly expand your communication skills in Spanish for your future professional practice. Similarly, our curriculum is oriented to train eye health professionals, coming from diverse ethnic origins, who are trained experts, skilled and always ethical, taught to serve the needs of the people of the communities where they choose to practice.

Beyond our own academic mission, we are involved in numerous community service activities. For example, every year, we conduct humanitarian missions to different Caribbean countries, specially to the Dominican Republic, where students participate providing eye exams, glasses, and vision care to people from disadvantaged communities.

For those of you accessing from outside of the Island of P.R., something that these pages cannot convey appropriately is the natural friendliness and warmth of the Puerto Rican people. Our Island offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy its natural beauty, as well as cultural and sporting events. Feel free to visit us when you deem it appropriate. I guarantee that you will feel at home. I hope to greet and meet many of you personally in the near future.

Welcome to the IAUPRSO, a Caribbean academic paradise.

https://www.optonet.inter.edu/

A Publication of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry

August 2025

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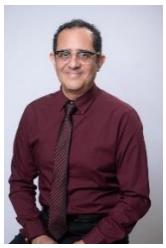

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INTER OPTOMETRY

ABOUT PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is the smallest of the Greater Antilles Islands, about the size of the state of Connecticut, USA. Columbus arrived on the Island, already inhabited by the Taíno Indians, in 1493. It remained a Spanish colony until 1898, when Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States. It has been a Commonwealth (*Estado Libre Asociado*) since 1952. Puerto Ricans are also United States citizens. Spanish is the main language although English is taught in all schools and is also spoken in the main metropolitan areas.

The average annual temperature of Puerto Rico is 82 degrees Fahrenheit (28 degrees Centigrade). It offers more than 300 miles of beautiful beaches ideal for bathers, joggers, and sun worshippers. San Juan is a cosmopolitan city offering a variety of sights and activities including art galleries, international restaurants, sports, and artistic events. Historic Old San Juan, the oldest city under United States jurisdiction, is a gem of Spanish architecture. The melting of the Taíno, African, and Spanish cultures is evident in the profusion of folkloric festivals throughout the Island. Puerto Ricans are friendly and warm people, deeply proud of their cultural heritage.

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a private institution with a Christian heritage and an ecumenical tradition. It is a non-profit organization that provides college instruction to youth of both sexes. It was originally founded in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico by the Reverend J. William Harris and offered elementary and secondary education on the land occupied today by the San Germán Campus. The first college level courses were started in 1921 and in 1927, the first group of students graduated with bachelor's degrees. In 1944, the Institution was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. It was the first four-year liberal arts college to be so accredited outside the continental limits of the United States. This accreditation has been maintained since then.

The school is approved by the Puerto Rico State Approving Agency to provide academic training to the students under the various GI Bill® programs. "GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The programs of the University are authorized by the Board of Postsecondary Institutions of Puerto Rico (JIP) and by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, which certifies teachers for the public-school system of Puerto Rico. Inter American University's School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association and the School of Optometry, inaugurated in 1981, by the Council on Optometric Education. In March 1982, the first doctoral program was initiated.

Inter American University is the largest private university in Puerto Rico. Inter American University's tradition of public service, the geographical location of its instructional units and its continuing attention to student needs make it especially attractive and accessible to students from all the municipalities of Puerto Rico. The increasing availability of both Federal and Commonwealth funds for student financial aid has enabled many students, who otherwise would not have been able to do so, to get a college education.

GOVERNANCE

The highest governing body of Inter American University is a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, whose members are elected by the Board itself without any outside intervention or tutelage of any kind.

The President is the chief executive and academic officer of the Institution. The Managerial Systemic Council is composed of the President of the University, Vice-Presidents, Chancellors, the Deans of the Schools of Law and Optometry, an Executive Secretary appointed by the President, the Executive Director of the Information System, the Director of the Office of the Juridical Advisor and the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Systemic Research. In addition, when affairs relevant to their functions are being considered by the Council, the following persons will attend as advisors: The President of the University Council, the Director of the Human Resources Office, the Director of the Office of Promotion and Recruitment, and the Director of Planning and Systemic Development of Physical Structures. Subject to the approval of the President of the University, the faculty of the School of Optometry is responsible for their own academic program and standards. Nevertheless, in all other respects, professional schools are also subject to university-wide policies, norms, and procedures.

The Academic Senates of the instructional units and the University Council, heirs of the Academic Senate created in 1966 and succeeded by the University Senate in 1973, are primarily concerned with the academic well-being of the University through the process of academic articulation among the Campuses. The Academic Senates establish academic norms subject to the ratification of the University Council and the concurrence of the President. Both bodies formulate recommendations on affairs related to educational, administrative, and research policy.

INSTITUTIONAL UNITS

Inter American University offers academic programs in the following eleven instructional units: the Aguadilla, Arecibo, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Fajardo, Guayama, Metropolitan, Ponce, and San Germán Campuses; and in two professional schools: Law and Optometry.

ACADEMIC DEGREES

Inter American University offers pre-university, undergraduate, graduate and professional academic programs for obtaining certificates and associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in subject matters normally offered by institutions of higher education of a nature, educational mission and goals similar to those of this University. The School of Law of Inter American University grants the Juris Doctor degree and the School of Optometry, the Doctor of Optometry degree.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

The University faculty and the administration strive to achieve the following institutional goals:

1. To promote, within the university community, an environment oriented towards a culture of peace, based on ethical, democratic, and institutional Christian-ecumenical values, directed to the integral development of the student.

2. To promote an integral education that leads to the formation of an educated person, well-versed in the different fields of the human knowledge, by means of the development of the capacity for critical thinking, the adequate use of the communication skills in Spanish and English, ethical and civic responsibility, environmental awareness, skills of social integration, and the knowledge of science, the arts and religious education within a Christian-ecumenical context.

3. To respond to the needs of the student population and society by offering a variety of both in person and distance learning programs, within and outside Puerto Rico, at different educational levels.

4. To foment academic excellence by means of the continuous development of the teaching staff in the mastery of their discipline, as well as in the application of techniques, modalities and teaching methods, in harmony with the nature of the student population.

5. To encourage the development of knowledge through research and creative activities in the academic community.

6. To promote efficiency and effectiveness in the teaching, administrative, and student processes and services, in harmony with the provisions in the applicable laws and regulations, as well as in the standards of the accrediting agencies.

7. To cultivate leadership of the university community so that it may contribute to social and cultural enrichment of our country and to its economic development, by means of participation in communitarian, business, and professional projects.

RELIGIOUS LIFE POLICY

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is an ecumenically oriented institution but does not adhere to any one theology or ecclesiastical body. Founded by Dr. John William Harris, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, Inter American University maintains a historic, friendly, and enriching association with that communion as well as with other Christian groups in accordance with its ecumenical spirit.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a community of higher education dedicated to a comprehensive search for truth within an environment of responsible freedom and through the encouragement of a mature academic life which guarantees true freedom of investigation. Within this context, religion is studied in the University as an academic discipline designed to engage in fruitful dialog with other university disciplines.

In affirming its commitment to the Christian ecumenical ideal, the University dedicates itself to the renewal and reaffirmation not only of its own Christian heritage, but also the culture within which it is situated and which it serves. This does not oblige the acceptance of all the details of our Christian past nor of all the elements of modern Christianity. Nevertheless, the University has fostered and will continue to foster the convergence of all Christians in the one faith centered about the person of Jesus Christ as He is made known to us in the apostolic tradition of the Scriptures as the One whom Christians regard as decisive, definite and normative in man's relations with God and his fellow men and society. The University affirms its conviction that to be a Christian today implies, on the one hand, knowledge of and obedience to the Gospel and, on the other, identification with the Universal church by means of an individual commitment to a particular Christian communion.

The ecumenical posture of the University involves openness to society, science, technology and a plurality of faiths; it involves an integral education of everyone so he or she may exercise a vocation within his or her community in a responsible and productive way; it involves a commitment

to serve though not to dominate society; and it involves the development of friendliness, fellowship and understanding to bridge human barriers.

To achieve this, Inter American University of Puerto Rico will continue and strengthen the development of its programs of religious studies, and will provide to all its students an opportunity to understand the Christian faith and its implications for our culture; the University will furnish information about the most important aspects of the world's major religions to its students and will encourage them to appreciate these religions within their historic, theological, and philosophic contexts. In this way, the search for faith and the means to humanize ourselves may be seen as a relevant option in a world striving for greater understanding and happiness.

The commitment of Inter American University to its Christian heritage, as well as to its academic mission, will manifest itself through the development of an ecumenical program of religious life. In accordance with this basic religious philosophy for the academic study of religion and for the development of religious activities, Inter American University, by its act and works, will:

1. Encourage the expression of the Christian principles here set forth.

2. Require the academic study of fundamentals of the Christian faith.

3. Require each instructional unit to establish an Office of Religious Life, which will serve the entire University community.

ASSOCIATIONS

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a member of the following professional organizations:

- American Council on Education (ACE)
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- American Optometric Association (AOA)
- American Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE)
- American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)
- Asociación de Colegios y Universidades Privadas de Puerto Rico (ACUP)
- Asociación de Industriales de Puerto Rico
- Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU)
- Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
- Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities (APCU)
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)
- Association of Visual Sciences Librarians (AVSL)
- Beta Sigma Kappa
- Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)
- College Board

- Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)
- Eastern Association of Colleges Business Officer
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
- Hispanic Educational Telecommunications System (HETS)
- International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE)
- National Association of Colleges Business Officer
- National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA)
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)
- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)
- National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO)
- National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)
- Organización Universitaria Interamericana (OUI)

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The University stresses the importance of developing educational resources that complement the teaching function. As a result, several programs have been implemented to integrate the latest technological advances into the University's educational services.

THE CENTER FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION (LIBRARY)

Each academic unit has an adequately staffed and equipped Center for Access to Information (CAI). These Centers are organized to function as a coordinated system. An online catalog provides access to all University bibliographical resources, as well as audiovisual and electronic resources that are made available for computer-based research.

The Centers provide remote access to electronic databases through the Internet to students, faculty, and administrators of the University.

Each Center for Access to Information has developed as an integral part of the University programs in which a number of activities take place, including the development of library skills for students, faculty, and administration.

The system collection contains more than one million volumes of printed, audiovisual, and electronic resources.

THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER

Each campus has a Center equipped with computers and other related hardware to assist the faculty in using the computers to produce teaching materials. The Center also serves as a laboratory where those faculty members who already have computer skills can produce their own instructional modules or make use of available commercial software for instructional purposes.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association Poly-Inter is an organization of graduates and former students who attended Inter American University of P.R. or the Polytechnic Institute. The Association keeps its members informed of university activities and involves them in its development. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 29 members, eleven of which correspond to the alumni chapters of the different campuses and of the two professional schools. In addition, the Association is represented on the Board of Trustees of the University by an Alumni Trustee. Each year the Alumni Association holds two major activities: the celebration of Founder's Day and the honoring of distinguished alumni.

INTRODUCTION TO OPTOMETRY

Optometry is a major primary health care profession in the United State whose major thrust is directed towards caring for people's eye problems. The profession is the third largest of the recognized and licensed health professions.

Optometrists who make up the profession deliver general eye care at the primary delivery level. They are specifically licensed in Puerto Rico, all fifty states, and the District of Columbia.

Optometry is relatively young when compared to other health care professions and was first recognized as a profession in the United States by the Minnesota Legislature in 1901. The development of the field has been substantially related to the development of technological instruments and research findings. Many of the advances can be attributed to research conducted in schools of optometry. This research has produced clinical instruments for use in the areas of glaucoma detection, retinoscopy, low vision, visual field examination, and contact lens use. Integration of psychological and optometric knowledge has led to the utilization of behavior modification techniques in optometry's solutions to vision problems.

"Doctor of Optometry (ODs) are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye" (American Optometric Association [AOA]). Today, the profession of optometry involves much more than just prescribing and fitting glasses and contact lenses. ODs are trained to evaluate any patient's visual condition and to determine the best treatment for that condition. ODs are viewed increasingly as primary care providers for patients seeking ocular or visual care."

**Information from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)*

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

The School of Optometry at Inter American University of Puerto Rico offers a bilingual Doctor of Optometry Degree Program dedicated to achieving excellence in clinical eye care. Its clinical program serves mainly Spanish speaking patients and requires students and clinicians to have a working ability of Spanish. However, all the lectures are given in English, and English is the official written language, and all examinations, books and other printed material are in English. The school is the only accredited bilingual program in the U.S., Caribbean, or Latin America and as such serves as a model for other Optometric Programs in Hispanic countries. The school promotes research and scholarship by its faculty, students, and graduates for their professional growth and for the future growth and development of the profession.

MISSION AND VISION OF THE SCHOOL

Our mission is to educate, develop and train, within a bilingual environment and supported by committed and competent collaborators, a diverse student population from Puerto Rico, the United States and the rest of the world, to become Doctors of Optometry who are knowledgeable, skilled, and ethical primary health providers, dedicated to community service. We will promote lifelong learning and provide support services to the profession in and outside Puerto Rico through high quality technologies while maintaining the financial viability of the program. Our vision is to be a leader institution in the world producing bilingual (English/Spanish) primary eye care providers, known for excellence in primary eye care and community service. To be a leader in the development of the profession in Puerto Rico, and the outside world based on democratic values and Christian principles of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

GOALS OF THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

1. To advance the mission of developing bilingual doctors of optometry from diverse sociocultural backgrounds, with the knowledge, attributes, skills, and ethical values required by the profession.
2. Promote a collegial environment based on ethical, democratic, and Christian-ecumenical values that favor the integral development of students and faculty.
3. To provide the student with a learning experience based on academic and clinical rigor consistent with the development of the contemporary optometric profession.
4. To have full-time professors who develop knowledge through research and publications.
5. Promote efficiency and effectiveness in student processes and services in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws and regulations, as well as the standards of accrediting agencies.
6. Demonstrate the educational effectiveness of the program through assessment of student learning in relation to the curriculum, the school's mission, and the degree conferred.
7. Align resources, processes, and ongoing evaluation of these to effectively respond to program and service challenges and opportunities.
8. Exercise administrative leadership necessary to advance the mission of the School of Optometry for the benefit of the program and students.

CAREER PROSPECTS

The private practice of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico requires that students pass a licensing examination. A Doctor of Optometry degree is required before a license to practice is issued. A license to practice in Puerto Rico or any one state does not automatically qualify an optometrist to practice in another country or state.

A prospective student who plans to practice in a specific locality should write to the Secretary of the appropriate State Board of Examiners in Optometry to inquire about requirements for licensure in that state. Since licensure is a function of the government, the School of Optometry assumes no obligation concerning any changes which might be made by any State Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Most graduates enter private practice after graduation and get licensure. However, since optometrists are members of the health care team, they may be found in multidisciplinary settings such as Veterans' Administration hospitals, public health, teaching, and research careers as well.

Other graduates may enter residency programs and subsequently engage in specialized practice. Residencies are available in hospital or multidisciplinary clinical settings, pediatric, or rehabilitative optometry. Special service residencies such as geriatric vision, low vision, and contact lenses are also available.

ACCREDITATION

Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry has received a license and approval from the Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education. The school has also received accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and accreditation with conditions from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). The school is a member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

PROGRAM DEFINITION OF ENTRY LEVEL ATTRIBUTES

The Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry's definition of entry level attributes for graduating students is made in correlation with the recommendations of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate entry level attributes in knowledge, skills, professionalism and ethics.

The nature of the Doctor of Optometry as a health care provider

Doctors of Optometry are:

- Expected to manage every relevant condition in a manner that assures safe and effective care for the patient.

- Aware of their individual competencies and conduct themselves accordingly ("as taught")
- Responsible for ongoing self-learning and for remaining current and competent in their knowledge and skills.
- Expected to utilize all resources, including ancillary personnel, intra- and inter-professional collaboration, co-management and referral in securing the best possible care for their patients.
- Expected to conduct themselves according to the profession as expressed in the Optometric Oath and AOA Code of Ethics.
- Expected to manage their practices in a manner that is appropriate within the health care delivery system and that promotes patient access to eye and vision care.

The nature of the educational and professional environments

- The central goal of Doctor of Optometry degree programs is to prepare students to enter into the general practice of optometry.
- The Doctor of Optometry will continue to be a post-baccalaureate degree program.
- Additional post-graduate education and training opportunities provide advanced practice skills and knowledge in specialized areas beyond those required for the general practice of optometry.
- The practice of optometry is regulated by the State Boards of Optometry and requires an independent assessment of competencies prior to licensure.

The New Doctor of Optometry Must be Professional and Ethical

To serve the public and the profession well, new graduates must embrace and demonstrate the ethical and professional standards appropriate to being recognized as a health care provider. The new graduate must also recognize that the completion of the Doctor of Optometry degree program is only the first step in a life-long commitment to self-directed learning and continual professional improvement. The school or college of optometry shall ensure that before graduation each student will have demonstrated critical professional and personal attributes, including the following.

Personal attributes:

- A commitment to life-long learning and providing the highest standard of care.
- The ability to acquire, analyze and apply new information while making reasonable and informed decisions that are consistent with the interests and needs of the patient and broader community.
- Problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that integrate current knowledge, scientific advances

and the human/social dimensions of patient care to assure the highest quality of care for each patient.

- The ability to recognize personal limitations regarding optimal patient care and to work with the broader health care community in providing the best care possible.

Professional attributes:

- An understanding of professional ethics and challenges to the optometric profession posed by conflicts of interest inherent in health care delivery, and the ability to incorporate those principles into decisions affecting patient care, always keeping the patient's welfare foremost.
- Professionalism, by demonstrating honesty and integrity in all interactions with patients and their families, colleagues and others with whom the optometrist must engage in his/her professional life.
- A respect for the dignity of every patient and a commitment to empathetic and confidential care.
- A commitment to work as an integral member of the larger interprofessional health care team to improve patient care outcomes.
- A commitment to be actively involved in organized optometry and the community.

The New Doctor of Optometry Must be Knowledgeable

To provide quality eye and vision care to their patients, graduating Doctors of Optometry must have an established knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences. The foundation must be broad and include the biological, medical, vision and optical sciences, as well as a basic understanding of the health care delivery system. The Doctor of Optometry must recognize the dynamic nature of knowledge and possess the commitment and skills needed to responsibly assess and apply new information and treatment strategies throughout his/her career.

The school or college of optometry shall ensure that before graduation each student will have demonstrated knowledge of:

- Basic organ systems, with special emphasis on the ocular and visual system, and their inter-relationships to the body as a whole.
- The cellular, molecular and genetic basis of the development, physiology, pathology, and treatment of eye disease.
- The structures and processes contributing to the development of refractive error and other optical and perceptual abnormalities of the visual system (This includes vision function with respect to deviation and enhancement such as, but not limited to, strabismus, amblyopia, oculomotor

function, accommodation and visual perception.)

- The optics of the eye and ophthalmic lens systems (including spectacles, contact lenses and low vision devices) used to correct refractive, oculomotor and other vision disorders.
- The various processes and causes that lead to dysfunction and disease, and the effect that these processes can have on the body and its major organ systems, with special emphasis on the ocular and visual systems.
- Mechanisms of action of the various classes of pharmaceutical agents, their interactions and their safe and effective use for the treatment of diseases and conditions affecting the eye and visual system.
- Vision therapy and other rehabilitative methods used for the management of common visual disorders.
- The psychosocial dynamics of the doctor/patient relationship and understanding of the social, psychological, and economic forces affecting diverse patient populations.
- Community health care resources and delivery systems to improve care.
- Practice management structures and strategies as they pertain to the various practice settings.

The New Doctor of Optometry Must be Capable

To provide the highest quality of care to their patients, Doctors of Optometry must possess appropriate cognitive and motor skills needed to prevent, diagnose, treat and manage clinical conditions that are within the scope of their professional responsibilities.

The school or college of optometry shall ensure that before graduation each student will have demonstrated:

- All the skills required for the diagnosis, triage, management and/or treatment of common visual conditions, including or resulting from: o refractive anomalies o abnormalities of accommodation, monocular or binocular vision skills, oculomotor and sensory/perceptual dysfunctions o ocular disease and trauma o prior ocular surgery and/or laser intervention o systemic disease o environmental or occupational conditions.
- The ability to order and interpret frequently needed laboratory and diagnostic procedures.
- The critical-thinking skills needed to assess the patient's visual and physical status and to interpret and process the data to formulate and execute effective management plans.
- The ability to prescribe or use ophthalmic materials, contact lenses, vision therapy, low vision devices, pharmaceuticals and certain surgical procedures to treat and manage vision disorders and

- An understanding of nutritional influences on ocular physiology and systemic health and disease.
- The ability to understand, evaluate and apply the use of contemporary imaging technologies in the provision of eye and vision care.
- The ability to recognize and initiate the coordination of patient care requiring advanced medical, systemic, inter-professional or specialty care.
- The ability to recognize life-threatening conditions and to initiate immediate intervention/
- Effective communication skills, both oral and written, as appropriate for maximizing successful patient care outcomes.
- The ability to appropriately use all resources, including the use of ancillary personnel, intra- and inter-professional collaboration, co-management and referral, to ensure the best quality patient care.
- The ability to access evidence-based knowledge (including using information technology) and manage information, and to apply that information in making decisions about patient care and health care delivery.
- The ability to embrace the cultural diversity and individual differences that characterize patients, populations, and the health care team.
- The ability to work in cooperation with those who receive care, those who provide care, and others who contribute to or support the delivery of prevention and health services.

LANGUAGE POLICY

All State and National Board Examinations are in English; therefore, the School of Optometry requires that written materials in classes, laboratories, clinical records, and examinations be in English as well. The School's curriculum is taught in English mostly by faculty whose primary language is Spanish, and almost all patient care provided in the School's clinical systems require entering students to understand and speak Spanish. In the primary eye care courses, students must approve a clinical proficiency examination in Spanish. These language requirements of the Doctor of Optometry program result in the refinement of its graduates' bilingual abilities. The School offers two basic Spanish conversational skill courses for the first-year English speaking students within the curriculum. The School also offers two additional elective courses during the second year for those students who wish to expand their Spanish knowledge.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In fulfilling its responsibility to practicing optometrists in Puerto Rico and neighboring countries, the School offers continuing education programs on a regular basis. Course offerings are published well in advance and are made available to all optometrists in Puerto Rico and neighboring countries.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINER IN OPTOMETRY (NBEO)

The NBEO administers examinations several times each year. Passing all parts is required by most state boards and Puerto Rico in lieu of written examinations for state optometric licensure. Inter American University School of Optometry students are eligible to apply for and take the Applied Basic Science (ABS/ Part 1) examination during their third professional year/spring semester. Students are eligible to take the Patient Assessment and Management (PAM/ Part 2) examination in December of their fourth year, and the Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS/ Part 3) examination during their fourth year.

For the School to certify student eligibility to take the ABS, the student must have successfully completed all first- and second-year course work and must have been registered in all the third-year fall term program, including all clinics. In addition to that, the student must have passed the review course and approved a readiness exam offered at the end of the review course by 60% or more.

ADMISSION POLICY, REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

FUNCTIONAL GUIDELINES FOR DIDACTIC AND CLINICAL OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

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. Note that there may be additional criteria established by State, Provincial, or Federal regulators for licensure as an optometrist.

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. Applicants are encouraged to connect with the individual institutions' accessibility services offices to learn about the process of requesting accommodation at each institution.

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:

a. Audio/Visual:

- Reading and interpreting information from presentations, papers, slides, videos, and live demonstrations.

- Discriminating numbers, images and patterns associated with diagnostic tests and instruments, including microscopic images of tissue in order to discern three-dimensional relationships, depth, and color changes.

b. Tactile Abilities:

- Palpating the eye and related areas to determine the integrity of the underlying structures.

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 communications 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 English in person and in writing with patients and other members of the health care team
- Reading and recording observations, test results and management plans accurately, in addition to completing assignments, patient records, and correspondence accurately and in a timely manner.

SENSORY AND MOTOR COORDINATION ABILITIES

The student 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 skill 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
- Perform minor surgical procedures such as the removal of foreign objects from the cornea
- Simultaneous manipulation of lenses, instruments, and therapeutic agents and devices
- Reasonable facility of movement
- Injections into the eye, lids or limbs

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE 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 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 such as being considered an essential worker
- Positive acceptance of suggestions and constructive criticism

Candidates with questions or concerns about how their own conditions or disabilities might affect their ability to meet these functional guidelines are encouraged to meet with an optometry institution counselor prior to applying.

REQUIRED PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The School of Optometry is interested in admitting students who are firmly committed to and identify with the problems of community health, and who accept the responsibilities that involve those who exercise the profession of optometry. The School, therefore, will select from among the candidates for admission, those whose qualifications best meet this aim. Some specific qualities sought are:

- Social consciousness
- Professional responsibility
- Dedication to study
- Respect for human beings
- Respect for opposing opinions
- Acceptance and defense of professional canons
- Ability to work well with others
- Facility in oral and written communications
- Leadership qualities
- Bilingual skills (English and Spanish)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, an applicant must have successfully met the following criteria:

- At least ninety (90) credit-hours or their equivalent from an accredited institution. *
- A minimum of **3.00** General Grade Point Average (GGPA). **
- A minimum of 54 credit hours as listed in the catalog for specific courses, approved with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of **3.00** or greater.
- Scores on the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT). The minimum score in Academic Average is 300. *Alternate OAT Consideration:* Candidates with an average OAT score of **280** or higher in Total Science and Reading Comprehension combined, may be considered by the Dean of the School. However, OAT scores with more than 2 years will not be accepted. The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) less than two years old will be accepted in lieu of the OAT, with a minimum percentile of 20. ***
- An interview.

Required courses completed five or more years prior to the anticipated entrance date **will not be considered.*

*** Candidates with a GGPA below **3.00** but with a RGPA greater than **3.00** in specific required courses may also be considered for admission provided that it is granted by the Dean of the School.*

**** Candidates with an OAT Academic Average score below 300 or GRE percentile below 20 but with a RGPA greater than **3.00,** may also be considered for admission if it is granted by the Dean of the School.*

Among the ninety (90) credit-hours, the following courses at Inter American University of Puerto Rico satisfy the academic requirement. Conditional admission pending completion of no more than two required courses may be granted by the Dean of the School.

COURSE OR AREA OR EQUIVALENT	NUMBER OF SEMESTERS	MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS
GENERAL BIOLOGY	2	6
MICROBIOLOGY	1	3
GENERAL CHEMISTRY	2	6
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	1	3
CALCULUS	1	3
GENERAL PHYSICS	2	6
STATISTICS	1	3
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	1	3
ENGLISH	2	6
HUMANITIES	2	6
SOCIAL SCIENCES	2	6
BIOCHEMISTRY	1	3
RECOMMENDED: SPANISH	1 or 2	

CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

All candidates for admission must take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) will be accepted in lieu of or in addition to the OAT. Test results with more than 2 years will not be accepted.

PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING ADMISSION

The application for admission should be filed as soon as possible after July 1 of the academic year prior to the year in which the applicant would like to commence study. Usually, the deadline for application for first year students is the third week of May. The candidate must access the OptomCas website to fill out the application.

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is offered in a computerized format. Testing is available year-round; you select the date, time, and place that is most convenient for you to test. You receive your scores immediately after the completion of the test. Schools receive an official score report within two weeks.

Information about the OAT can be obtained online at https://www.oat.ada.org, where information about the test can be found as well as the steps in the application process, fees, test content, and a sample test. Use this site to register online for the test and to request additional scores reports or call 1-800-232-1694. Automated information lines provide select information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Representatives are available to assist you Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm Central

Time.

The computer-delivered GRE General Test is offered year-round at Prometric test centers, and also on specific dates at additional testing locations outside of the Prometric test center network.

Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Scores reports are sent to your designated score recipients approximately 10-15 days after your test date. Information about GRE can be accessed at: https://www.ets.org/gre and you can contact them at 1-866-473-4373.

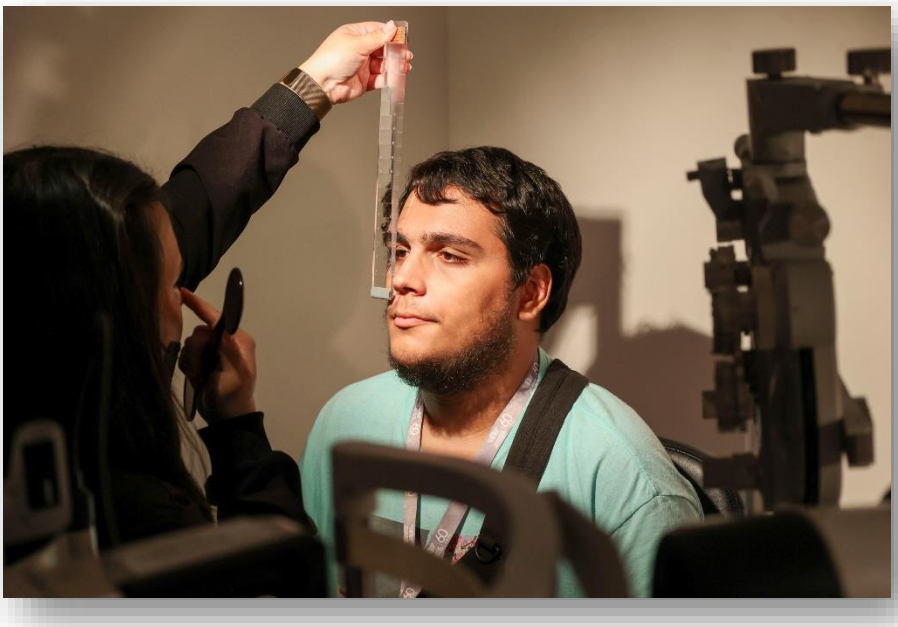
A personal interview is a requirement for admission. However, candidates with robust general point averages (3.50 and over) may be admitted to the program without a regular interview. Interviews will normally be initiated by the Admissions Office and will be held mostly via Teams or Zoom apps, but there is always the option of an In-Person interview at the school.

Applicants admitted:

a. Will receive a written notification of the action taken in response to their application;

b. Will have a period of fifteen (15) days after the date of notification to inform the School of their intention to attend and to pay the admission quota. If the candidate fails to respond within the period stated, their position will be declared vacant, and another candidate will be chosen from the waiting list.

A maximum of fifty (50) students are admitted each academic year.



ADMISSION PROCESS

1. Candidates must apply directly through OptomCas. (https://www.optomcas.org/)
2. Once the application is completed and validated by OptomCas, it will be evaluated according to the minimum requirements established for the program.
3. If the candidate complies with the requirements, the Director of Student Services will invite the candidate for an interview with an admissions committee member.
4. The Admissions Committee member interviews candidates exploring the candidate's strengths using five criteria:

    - Concern for career objectives
    - Knowledge of the profession
    - Communication skills in English and Spanish
    - Motivation
    - Self- confidence
5. The Admissions Committee will then give their final recommendation to the Dean based on the following criteria:

    - Grade Point Average (GPA)
    - Required Course work Grade Point Average (RGPA)
    - Optometry Admission Test (OAT) or the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
    - Interview score

Once a candidate is accepted, a $1,000.00 deposit is required within 15 days of acceptance. This deposit will be applied to the tuition fee. An administrative fee of $500.00 will be deducted from the acceptance deposit if a prospective student with an offer of admission withdraws or declines his/her candidacy.

If a candidate is not recommended by the admissions committee but complies with the minimum requirements for admission, it will be placed on a waiting list to be considered by the Dean close to the end of the admissions cycle.

READMISSION AND TRANSFER

Candidates previously admitted to the School of Optometry can request readmission within one academic year. Candidates who have previously studied at another accredited school of optometry and who wish to be admitted to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry must follow the same procedure outlined in this catalog for first-time admissions and submit the required documents and fees described in the transfer and advanced placement application form. In addition, students must request from the Dean or President, Dean of Academic Affairs or Vice-president, or Dean of Student Affairs a letter indicating the student's status at the moment of the separation from the previous program. In lieu of this, the Dean of Academic Affairs or the Dean of the School may contact one of these officers to verify the student's status. The readmission, transfer, and advanced placement application will be considered by the Readmissions, Transfers and Advanced Placement Committee to issue a recommendation to grant or deny readmission, transfer or advanced placement. If transfer is granted, the Dean of Academic Affairs will evaluate the student transcripts and the previous school catalog to determine which courses may be validated and accredited by the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry. All transfer and advanced placement students applying for the third-year block must first pass a clinic proficiency test before being registered for the Optometry Clinic Service Courses. Courses with a grade of "D" are not considered for credit. This policy applies for transfer students, advanced placement, and also for academic dismissal students that re-apply for admission after one year of the dismissal. Only courses taken within a period of three years will be considered for transfer credits.

All admissions or readmissions are subject to availability of vacancies in the program year to which the applicant requests admission.

ADMISSION FOR FOREIGN CANDIDATES

(NONIMMIGRANT)

Foreign candidates interested in the Doctor of Optometry degree must meet all requirements for admission stated in the admission requirement section.

Before acceptance is granted, foreign candidates need to complete the following steps to obtain their student visa:

- Send notarized letters stating the financial situation of the student or the person or organization that is going to sponsor the student during his studies. After the notarized document is received, the Dean of Students or PDSO will send to the student the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Students Status Form, to start the process to obtain the permit to enter the U.S.
- Send a copy of passport or valid identification to the PDSO.
- Candidates will take the Visa form to the US Embassy or US government representative near them. Visas are granted only to full-time students. The student must pay the fee and complete the process online at Students | ICE.

STUDENT STATUS AND ACADEMIC POLICY

STUDENT STATUS

Regular Student: A student taking the number of credits offered in any of the semesters according to the optometry program or a student taking 15 credits or more for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year enrolled semester or 10 credits or more for 4th year enrolled semester.

Regular Student with special fee assessment: A student taking 14 credits or less for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year enrolled semester or 9 credits or less for 4th year enrolled student.

ACADEMIC POLICY

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Good Standing: Any student who after the end of the academic year has an overall grade point average of 2.00 or better, and complies with the required minimum cumulative completion ratio will be in Good Standing.

Student academic progress will be evaluated at the end of each academic year. This evaluation will consider all cumulative credits that the student has attempted toward the Doctor of Optometry Degree and the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA).

QUALITATIVE MEASUREMENT

A student enrolled in the IAUPRSO program must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00.

QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

MAXIMUM TIME FRAME

It is required to complete the program of study:

a. In a maximum term of 6 years (72 months), starting from the initial matriculation date or

b. Complete the academic program within 225.38 (150.25 credits X 1.5) attempted credit hours. After attempting 225.38 credit hours, student financial aid eligibility will be terminated for the program.

PACE OF COMPLETION

Students enrolled in the IAUPRSO must satisfactorily complete a minimum amount of credits attempted by academic year program as shown in the table below:

Academic Year	Minimum Cumulative Completion Ratio
End of the first academic year:	66.7%
End of the second academic year:	66.7%
End of the third academic year:	75%
End of the fourth academic year:	80%

All attempted credit hours at IAUPR School of Optometry include those that student obtains an A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, W (withdrawal), UW (unauthorized withdrawal), R (repeated courses), and T (transfer credits that were previously completed at and accredited institution used to fulfill de degree requirements). Approved credits are those that a student obtains an A, B, C, D, T and P. Incomplete (I) courses are not considered for the determination of satisfactory academic progress.

ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

A student will undergo academic dismissal if at the end of any academic year:

1. The Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) is less of than 2.00, or

2. They do not meet the required Cumulative Completion Ratio, or

3. Exceed the time frame limits established for the program of 6 years or 225.38 credits attempted, whichever comes first.

Academic dismissal will result in loss of eligibility for financial aid. The academic dismissal and financial aid can be appealed as explained below.

APPEAL PROCESS FOR ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

This appeal process is for students who have undergone academic dismissal for the first time. An appeal form, combined with a personal statement and corroborating documents, must be submitted to the Dean of Academic Affairs. The personal statement must include in writing an explanation of why the student feels their appeal for reinstatement should be considered. Examples of acceptable reasons for appealing may include death in the immediately family, serious medical illness or injury, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. The Academic Dismissal Appeals Committee will evaluate the case upon its merits. If the appeal is granted, it will be under an Academic Probation status, for a maximum of one academic year.

The Dean of Academic Affairs and the Academic Dismissal Appeals Committee will require the student to enroll in specific courses according to an academic plan. Probationary status does not imply that the student is eligible for federal financial aid.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS IN AN ACADEMIC PROBATIONARY STATUS

The academic performance of students in an academic probationary status will be evaluated at the end of the academic year. If, at the end of the academic year under Academic Probation status, the student met all SAP requirements and met other academic conditions, the Academic Dismissal Appeals Committee may have stipulated, they will be classified in Good Standing for the next academic year. However, if the student does not meet all SAP requirements, satisfactorily passed 100% of the registered credits, and other academic conditions the Academic Dismissal Appeals Committee may have stipulated, then the student will be permanently dismissed. **This second dismissal cannot be appealed.**

APPEAL PROCESS FOR FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION

An appeal form, combined with a personal statement, and a corroborating document must be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid, that will evaluate with the Professional Counselor the merits of the case. The personal statement should include in writing an explanation of why the student feels his/her appeal for reinstatement should be considered. Examples of acceptable reasons for appealing may include death in the immediately family, serious medical illness or injury, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. If the appeal is granted, then the eligibility will be reinstalled for one payment period under probationary status. The Office of Financial Affairs will provide an initial review and response to the student's appeal process before the first day of classes. If the student's appeal is denied, they will be responsible for covering the balance for that semester.

WITHDRAWAL AND INCOMPLETE

Withdrawal: A student who cannot continue their studies for personal reasons may request and receive an official withdrawal (W). The official will indicate the date of withdrawal and the courses that the student was taking at the time of withdrawal. Students who discontinue class attendance without officially withdrawing will receive UW as final grade. Students that want to withdraw from the school must go to the Student Affairs Office to sign the official withdrawal form.

Incomplete: A student who has not completed all the requisites of a course may request and receive a grade of "I" (Incomplete) from the instructor. The student must complete all the specified requisites within a period of time by the date indicated in the academic calendar of the subsequent semester. If the requisites are not completed within the allotted time, the grade of "I" (Incomplete) will become a grade of "F" (Failure). To request an Incomplete, students must pay a fee at the Bursar Office. The responsibility for making the necessary agreements to fulfill the requirements of the course in order to remove the Incomplete rests on the student.

STUDENT SERVICES AND POLICIES

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When students register, they are required to file their mailing address with the Student Affairs Office. Changes of address should be reported immediately to the Registrar's Office. If this address is not kept up-to-date, the School will not be responsible for notifications mailed to the student.

Any notice mailed to a student's address as it appears on record shall be deemed sufficient notice.

SERVICES OF THE REGISTRAR OFFICE

The Registrar's Office is responsible for registration, maintenance of all official academic records of students, the issuance of transcripts, certification of studies, and certification that students have met graduation requirements. It also issues study certifications upon student requests.

STUDENT RECORDS/TRANSCRIPTS

Students requiring information concerning records or issuance of transcripts should contact the Registrar's Office. If the student or alumni needs a transcript and is unable to contact the Registrar, the transcript can be generated digitally thru Clearing House: https://www.studentclearinghouse.org

Upon completion of each academic term, students will verify their grades in the electronic system (WEB).

SERVICES FOR VETERANS, MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS

The school is approved by the Puerto Rico State Approving Agency to provide academic training to the students under the various GI Bill® programs. "GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Eligible students intending to enroll and receive VA educational benefits should apply through the Department of Veterans Affairs portal https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/

A Covered Individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31 Veterans Readiness and Employment and chapter 33 Post-9/11 "GI Bill®". "GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Our policy permits any covered individual to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 and chapter 33. A "certificate of eligibility" can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website - eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the

certificate of eligibility.

Our policy ensures that our educational institution will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 and chapter 33.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

The School requires regular attendance at all lectures, laboratory and clinic sessions to which the student is assigned. The record of attendance is the responsibility of each individual instructor. Absences from lectures and laboratories may affect the final grade of the courses according to the stipulation in each course syllabus.

Students, who have not attended classes during the first two weeks of the academic semester or its equivalent, may be administratively withdrawn from the course. Permission to be absent must be obtained from the Dean of Students.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

General Policies and Conditions

1. Students who must interrupt the regular academic program may be granted up to 180 days, including weekends and holidays “Leave of Absence” by the Institution within one calendar year.

2. Justifiable reasons for “Leave of Absence’’ include, but are not limited to medical conditions, special family circumstances, and duties related to work or military assignments.

3. Students soliciting a “Leave of Absence” must apply by filling out the pertinent application form provided by the Institution and submit it to the Dean of Academic Affairs in conjunction with the required official evidence supporting the reason for the absence.

4. While on “Leave of Absence”:

    - institutional regulations concerning the return of financial aid funds under Title IV to federal agencies or other agencies providing financial assistance are not applied.

    - a student cannot obtain additional financial aid funds under Title IV

5. At the termination of a “Leave of Absence” a student must complete all course work within 90 days of reintegration into the program.
6. At the termination of a "Leave of Absence” a student may request an extension only if the

original leave granted does not exceed 180 days, including weekends and holidays, within one calendar year of the original leave granted. The additional leave cannot exceed the 180 days limit within the calendar year.

If a student does not re-apply or resumes their studies at the expiration date of the term granted, they will receive an official withdrawal from the program dated back to the time that the "Leave of Absence" was conceded. Unused financial funds parting from the date of withdrawal will be calculated and returned to the corresponding agencies under Title IV.

SUMMER COURSES

The School is under no obligation to offer special remedial summer courses. The offer will depend on sufficient demand, availability of faculty members, and eligibility of students. Registration will be under Regular student with special fee assessment status. Special summer courses are limited to no more than seven credits by students unless authorized by the Dean of Academic Affairs. The honor points granted in summer courses will only affect the cumulative grade point average (GPA) of the student.

AUDITING COURSES

Student wishing to audit courses must enroll during the official registration period of the semester. Such students must pay 50% of the course fee as a Regular student with special fee assessment status. Students who have not applied for admission should do so before registering as audit students.

GRADING SYSTEM

Course grades indicate the degree of student achievement in any given course. The University has established a quality point system to be used in accumulating and summarizing these grades. This quality point system is used to determine the minimum degree of general competence for graduation and for continuing the program at any level and to assign special honors to students who excel. Grades are reported in accordance with the following grading system:

A. **Superior competency**; 4 honor points per credit hour.
B. **Above average competency**; 3 honor points per credit hour.
C. **Average competency**; 2 honor points per credit hour.
D. **Marginal competency**; 1 honor point per credit hour.
F. **Failure**; no honor point per credit hour.

P – **Pass**; this grade is assigned to students satisfying the requirements in courses taken by proficiency examinations and for courses in which such grade is required. This grade is not included in the computation of the grade point index.

NP – No pass; this grade is assigned to students who fail in the courses indicated under the grade P. This grade is not included in the computation of the grade point index.

The grading systems used by the faculty of the School are published in all course syllabi.

Courses completed at the University and taken in other higher education institutions having previous authorization from the corresponding authorities at Inter American University will be included in the computation of the grade point index. The grade point index is determined by dividing the total number of honor quality points by the total number of credits completed with the grades of A, B, C, D, or F.

All courses that grant academic credit require tests or other grading tools. This includes a final examination or its equivalent. Faculty members will indicate on their class register how the final grade was determined.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION SYMBOLS

The following symbols are used to indicate administrative action taken in regard to student status in courses for which they registered.

W – Course Withdrawal: Assigned when the student withdraws from a course after the end of the period for class changes and no later than the date established on the academic calendar for withdrawals with a W.

DC – Course Withdrawal: Assigned when the student withdraws from a course before the end of the period for class changes. Does not appear on the student transcript.

AD – Administrative Withdrawal: Assigned when the University withdraws the student for reasons such as failure to meet payments or other situations warranting a withdrawal.

AW – Assigned when the professor informs in the electronic register that the student never attended class.

I – Incomplete: When students have not completed a course requirement and present valid reasons for it, the professor may assign the symbol “I” (Incomplete). Together with the symbol “I”, the professor will include a provisional grade, after assigning zero for the unfinished work. When faculty members assign an “I”, they shall report to their immediate supervisor the grade that the student has earned up to that time, the evaluation criteria and a description of the

unfinished work if applicable. A student who receives an "I" must remove it by the date specified on the Academic Calendar. The responsibility for removing the "Incomplete" rests on the student. If the "Incomplete" is not removed within the time specified, the student will receive the informed provisional grade. This policy will apply whether or not the student is enrolled at the University for the following semester.

AU – Symbol used to indicate on student transcripts that the course was audited. No honor points or University credits are awarded.

T – Symbol used to indicate the course was transferred from another institution.

UW – Assigned in the electronic register when a student stops attending a course, and does not qualify for a grade of incomplete (I) or F.

POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS AND ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The University, in compliance with federal law **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**, provides students and alumni access to their academic files, the right to request that the information contained in those files be amended, and certain control over the disclosure of academic information.

1. Students and alumni have the right to inspect and review their academic files. They may request this in writing to the file custodian and indicate the file they wish to review. The file custodian will make the necessary arrangements so that the student or alumni may review the files within a period of time no greater than 45 days from the date on which the student or alumni presented the written request. If the person receiving the request from the student or alumni does not have the file, this person will indicate the correct place for the request to be presented.

2. Students and alumni have the right to request that incorrect information contained in their academic files be corrected. Interested students or alumni must present a written request to the University official in charge of the file, indicate the part of the file to be corrected, and explain the mistake. If the University decides not to correct the file, the student or alumni will be notified of this decision in writing and the person will be informed of the right to request an informal hearing.

3. Student or alumni have the right to prevent the University from disclosing personal information found in the academic files, except in those cases where FERPA authorizes this, these cases are:

    a. Disclosure of information to institution officials. Institutional officials are administrative or teaching employees, persons contracted by the University, members of the Board of Trustees, and student members of special committees.

b. Disclosure of Directory information. The University has designed the following as Directory information: student or alumni name, address, major, and year of study. Students and alumni have the right to prevent the University from disclosing directory information to third parties. The disclosure to third parties includes the release of information to the Armed Forces. If students or alumni wish to prevent their information from being disclosed to the United States Armed Forces, it is necessary that they express their desire that no information be disclosed to third parties.

c. To prevent information from being disclosed to third parties, it is necessary that students or alumni submit their request to this effect, in writing, to the Office of the Registrar of their academic unit. For the request to be effective for the academic year, it is important that students submit the request in or by September 1st of that year.

d. Information to other universities. The University will release student or alumni information to those universities to which they request admission.

e. Exceptional circumstances. The University will disclose student or alumni information if they are economically dependent upon their parents. The University assumes undergraduate students and alumni are economically dependent upon their parents; therefore, in some cases it may disclose information without the consent of the student or alumni to parents that request it. Undergraduate students or alumni who are not economically dependent upon their parents must present this evidence to the office of the registrar to prevent information from being released to their parents. Information on graduate students or alumni will not be given to parents without their consent.

f. Emergency cases. These are cases in which the health or security of a student, alumni, or other person is in danger.

g. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The university is obligated to give information to immigration services regarding certain foreign students or alumni.

h. If students or alumni understand that the University has not complied with these obligations, they have the right to file a claim with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202

SOLOMON – POMBO ACT

Inter American University established its institutional policy regarding the student and alumni directory for the academic year 1999-2000. This measure was adapted to incorporate the new changes in the federal laws known as the Solomon – Pombo Act. This federal law permits third parties to request from the Institution all personal data that is included by the University as Directory information.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico establishes the following data as Directory information:

1. Name 2. Major 3. Address 4. Year of study

The School exhorts all students not in agreement that these data be included in the Directory, to contact the Dean of Student Affairs.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Optometry students have an active student life that complements the School's commitment to academic and clinical excellence. Most of these activities are channeled through accredited student organizations such as:

- **The Student Council –** Officially represents the student body. The Council sponsors many social, sports, cultural, and religious events throughout the year. The annual student convention is the key activity of the year.
- **Asociación de Servicios Voluntarios Optométricos (ASVO) / (VOSH) –** A volunteer group of students, faculty members, and practitioners offering primary eye care services to the disenfranchised populations in Puerto Rico and Latin America. They receive donations of eyeglasses which they distribute to the patients they serve.
- **CAO – Canadian Optometry Students chapter -** Provides information related to practice, financing, and support mainly for Canadian students.
- **College of Vision Development Optometric Extension Program (COVD) –** Is an organization devoted to the enhancement, prevention, and rehabilitation of vision development.
- **National Optometric Students Association (NOSA)** – The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) is the student extension of the National Optometric Association (NOA). Our multicultural service organization is dedicated to providing the delivery of effective and adequate eyecare to underserved communities.
- **Orientation Committee –** A volunteer group of second- and third-year students working along with the Department of Students Services in helping new students with their transition and moving to the island. Their main activity is Orientation Week which is held the week before the beginning of classes.
- **Private Practice Club –** Offers lectures and activities related to the private practice of Optometry. Sponsored by VSP.
- **Lions Club-** A volunteer group of students, faculty members, and practitioners offering primary eye care services to the disenfranchised populations in Puerto Rico and Latin America.
- **Sport Vision –** Offers lectures and activities about the role of optometry in sports.
- **Latinos en Optometry-** Seeks to gain a broader representation of Latinos within the optometry and larger eye care professional community, along with increasing eye care professional knowledge and understanding of unique cultural differences within the Latino communities they serve.

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Inter American University of Puerto Rico and the School of Optometry recognizes the exceptional achievement of optometry students as leaders, scholars, and clinicians. The following honors and awards are granted every year:

1. Outstanding academic performance award
2. Honor students awards
3. American academy of optometry student fellowship award
4. Student leadership awards
5. Clinical excellence awards
6. Excellence in specialized clinics
7. GP lens institute clinical excellence in the field of GP contact lenses
8. COVD excellence in vision therapy
9. Optelec excellence in low vision
10. Eschenbach low vision
11. Residency acceptance awards
12. Highest score on the NBEO ABS
13. Community service awards
14. Optometry mentors' awards
15. J. Pat cummings award
16. VSP/AAOF Practice excellence scholarship
17. Dr. Marvin R. Poston leadership award

All awards and scholarships are subject to change. Availability of these may vary.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

For the entering class of 2021 and subsequent classes going forward, integrative teaching continues to be emphasized in both the Academic Department (didactic teaching) and Patient Care Department (clinical instruction) within the new curricular structure. The concept aims to provide students with a clinical perspective in basic science ideas, thereby developing conceptually based clinical reasoning skills applicable to entry-level practice.

Common denominators among courses are intended to facilitate the students' ability to develop clinical reasoning within a conceptual background. Based on this model, emphasis on concept and application varies depending on the course modality. The presentation of the material will be cohesive and synchronized by either integrating or correlating basic and clinical concepts.

Basic science courses require clinical association discussions to provide the students with an early perspective of clinical applications to the subject matters discussed. Clinical science courses require a review of the basic science concepts to emphasize the underlying conceptual construct of the discussed conditions.

Elective courses continue to form part of the curriculum as well. These courses provide the opportunity to the students to further enhance their knowledge in specific areas within optometry in order to encourage them to apply for optometric residency programs. All these electives are to be offered in the spring term of the third year and all will be evaluated on a pass/no pass basis. Optometric third year students must enroll in five elective courses.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

Basic Sciences	**Opto BMS1 1-3:** Systemic Biomedical Science 1
	Opto OPT 1-4: Applied Optics 1-4
	Opto IOA 1-2: Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 1-2
	Opto GCP0: General Concepts in Pharmacology
	Opto APH 1-2: Applied Pharmacology 1-2
	Opto EPH0: Epidemiology and Public Health
	Opto POE0: Profession of Optometry and Ethics
	Opto PFCO: Perception of Light, Form and Color
	Opto OMO0: Ocular Motility
	Opto VIR0: Optometric Research
	Opto BVP0: Binocular Vision and Perception

Clinical Sciences	**Opto PPO 1-4:** Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1-4
	Opto PPL 1-4: Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry Laboratory 1-4
	Opto DIS 1-3: Ocular Diseases 1-3
	Opto CMO0: Clinical Medicine Optometry
	Opto PCL0: Primary Care Contact Lenses
	Opto DVT 1-2: Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 1-2
	Opto GDT0: Glaucoma Diagnosis and Treatment
	Opto CSA0: Comprehensive Clinic Skills Assessment
	Opto CLA0: Advance Contact Lenses
	Opto PLV0: Primary Care Low Vision
	Opto NOP0: Nutrition in Optometry

	Opto DOP0: Diversity in Optometry
	Opto ODM0: Ocular Disorders Management
	Opto ILS0: Injections, Lasers and Ocular Surgical Care
	Opto EBO0: Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Optometry
	Opto RSMO: Review Seminar
	Opto PRM0: Practice Management
	Opto OGR 1-2: Optometric Clinic Grand Rounds 1-2

Elective Courses	**Opto AVT0:** Advanced Vision Therapy
	Opto ALV0: Advanced Low Vision
	Opto NOR0: Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation
	Opto AEP0: Advanced Electrophysiology
	Opto SSV0: Sports Vision
	Opto PMN0: Publishable Manuscript Submission
	Opto COD0: Complex Case Discussion

Cultural Competency	**Opto DCC 1-2:** Human Development and Cultural Competency in Optometry 1-2
	Opto CSC 1-4: Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 1-4



The Patient Care Department also has changes in the new curricular structure. Students will enroll in Clinical Clerkships commencing the spring term of the first year. Clinical clerkships consist of student observations in third- and fourth-year interns' clinical rotations to observe intern/patient, doctor/patient and intern/doctor interactions. As students become more proficient in primary eye care procedure, they will be allowed to have limited participation in the examinations. In addition, Vision screenings and clerkships have been added to the second-year program which allows for collective care of patients outside of the school and additional opportunities for observation of patient care within the clinic.
The fourth-year clinical program consists of a total of 25 credits, to be completed before the graduation date. It will be required of all fourth-year clinic interns to provide primary eye care at the School's main clinic and the in-house satellite clinics, as well as providing care in the School's secondary care clinics. In addition, they must complete part of their clinical education at IAUPRSO approved external clinic sites. These sites encompass all types of clinic practice scenarios; hospitals, private single and group optometric offices, ophthalmology offices, and optometric practices that provide secondary, specialized optometric services such as vision therapy, low vision, and specialty contact lenses.

In order for any student to be able to register in the third-year clinic program, all first- and second-year coursework must be successfully completed before registration. In order for any student to be able to register in the fourth-year clinic program all first, second- and third-year coursework, including all clinics must be successfully completed before registration.

PATIENT CARE DEPARTMENT

1st year	• **Opto CLK0:** Clinical Clerkships
2nd year	• **Opto SCR0:** Vision Screening
	• **Opto SCK0:** Vision Screening and Clerkship
	• **Opto ICD 1-2:** Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1-2
3rd year	• **Opto PC01-03: Patient Care 1-3**
	• **Opto ICD3:** Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 3
4th year	• **Opto PC40:** Bayamón Main Clinic
	• **Opto PC41-45:** In-house Satellite Clinics (2)
	• **Opto LE01-04:** Local Externship Sites
	• **Opto EA01-04:** Externships Sites Abroad

CURRICULUM FOR THE DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE

Summary

Year of Study	Credits	Lecture Hours	Laboratory hours	Conference Laboratory	Screening Hours	Clinic Hours
First Year	44.5	450	255	82.5	0	40
Second Year	41.10 (43.10)	465	228 (288)	22.5	60	20
Third Year	38.66	277.5	60	142.5	0	390
Fourth Year	26	15	0	0	0	1600
Program Totals	**150.26 (152.26)**	**1,207.5**	**543 (603)**	**247.5**	**60**	**2,050**
Total Program Hours 4,108-4,168						

Sequential

Term	Opto	Course	Credits
1st Year: Fall	BMS1	Systemic Biomedical Science 1	4
	OPT1	Applied Optics 1	4
	IOA1	Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	2.5
	GCP0	General Concepts in Pharmacology	1
	PPO1	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1	1
	PPL1	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1 Laboratory	1
	EPH0	Epidemiology and Public Health	2
	POE0	Profession of Optometry and Ethics	(1)
	DCC1	Human Development and Cultural Competency in Optometry 1	2
	CSC1	Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 1	(1)
1st Year: Spring	BMS2	Systemic Biomedical Science 2	4
	OPT2	Applied Optics 2	4
	IOA2	Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	3
	APH1	Applied Pharmacology 1	3
	PPO2	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2	1
	PPL2	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2 Laboratory	1
	DCC2	Human Development and Cultural Competency in Optometry 2	2
	CSC2	Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 2	(1)
	CLK0	Clinical Clerkships	.50
1st Year: Summer (June)	PFCO	Perception of Light, Form and Color	3.5
	OMO0	Ocular Motility	2

Term	Opto	Course	Credits
2nd Year: Fall	BMS3	Systemic Biomedical Sciences 3	4
	OPT3	Applied Optics 3	4
	BVP0	Binocular Vision and Perception	3
	DIS1	Ocular Diseases 1	3
	APH2	Applied Pharmacology 2	3
	PPO3	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 3	2
	PPL3	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 3 Laboratory	1.50
	ICD1	Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1	0.50
	CSC3	Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 3 (Elective)	(1)
	SCR0	Vision Screening	0.50
2nd Year: Spring	CMO0	Clinical Medicine Optometry	1.50
	OPT4	Applied Optics 4	1.50
	PCL0	Primary Care Contact Lenses	3
	DVT1	Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 1	3
	DIS2	Ocular Diseases 2	3
	GDT0	Glaucoma Diagnosis and Treatment	2
	PPO4	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 4	3
	PPL4	Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 4 Laboratory	1.50
	ICD2	Integrative Optometric Case Discussion 2	0.50
	CSC4	Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 4 (Elective)	(1)
	SCK0	Vision Screening and Clerkship	0.50
	CSA0	Comprehensive Clinic Skills Assessment	0.10

Term	Opto	Course	Credits
3rd Year: Summer (July)	VIR0	Optometric Research	2
	PC01	Patient Care 1	0.66
3rd Year: Fall	CLA0	Advanced Contact Lenses	1.50
	DVT2	Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 2	3
	DIS3	Ocular Diseases 3	2
	PLV0	Primary Care Low Vision	3
	NOP0	Nutrition in Optometry	1
	ICD3	Integrative Optometric case Discussion	1
	DOP0	Diversity in Optometry	2
	RSMO	Review Seminar	0.50
	PC02	Patient Care 2	4
3rd Year: Spring	AVT0	Advanced Vision Therapy (Elective)	1.50
	ALV0	Advanced Low Vision (Elective)	1.50
	NOR0	Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation (Elective)	1.50
	AEP0	Advanced Electrophysiology (Elective)	1.50
	SSV0	Sports Vision (Elective)	1.50
	PMN0	Publishable Manuscript Submission (Elective)	1.50
	COD0	Complex Case Discussion (Elective)	1.50
	ODM0	Ocular Disorders Management	2
	ILS0	Injections, Lasers and Ocular Surgical Care	2
	EBO0	Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Optometry	1
	PRM0	Practice Management	1.50
	PC03	Patient Care 3	4

Term	Opto	Course	Credits
4th Year Clinic Program	OGR1	Optometric Clinic Grand Rounds 1 – first semester	0.50
	OGR2	Optometric Clinic Grand Rounds 2 – second semester	0.50
	PC40	Primary Eye Care Services and Specialty Clinics	2.5
	PC42	Caguas Clinic	2.5
	PC45	Juana Diaz Clinic	2.5
	PC46	Bayamón Mobile Unit	2.5
	PC47	San Juan Mobile Unit	2.5
	PC48	Extended Bayamón Clinic: 8 weeks	5
	PC49	Extended Bayamón Clinic: 4 weeks	2.5
	PC51	Extended Caguas Clinic: 4 weeks	2.5
	PC54	Extended Juana Diaz Clinic: 4 weeks	2.5
	LE01	Externship Site 1	2.5
	LE02	Externship Site 2	2.5
	LE03	Externship Site 3	5
	LE04	Externship Site 4	5
	EA01	Externship Site 1	2.5
	EA02	Externship Site 2	2.5
	EA03	Externship Site 3	5
	EA04	Externship Site 4	5
		Program Total Credits	**150.26**

Course Description

1st Year, Term 1: 15 weeks (Fall)

Opto BMS1
Systemic Biomedical Sciences 1

Credits	**4**
Lecture hours	**45**
Lab / Demo hours	**30**
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

An organ-system based approach to the study of human histology, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, including that of the nervous system, leading to the study of abnormal development, injury, inflammation, and pathology of the organ and system. The discussion of systemic anomalies, include diagnostic characteristics and management. Emphasis will be given to those systemic conditions that have ocular manifestations. Through this course students will have a better understanding of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases as well as interdisciplinary referral protocols. The neurology portion of this course includes the study of the human nervous system with respective neurologic conditions affecting physical, reflexive, and sensory aspects of the human body. All neural tracts are studied with concomitant clinical context to teach students how to discern and use relevant information to manage neurological conditions. Laboratories include computer-based virtual human anatomy study, and diagnostic procedures.

Opto OPT1
Applied Optics 1

Credits	**4**
Lecture hours	**52.5**
Lab / Demo Hours	**15**
Lecture: 3.5 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 1 hour weekly	

The objectives of Applied Optics I are to provide students with the fundamental concepts required for understanding refraction, reflection, ophthalmic lenses, and the human eye's optical system. This course covers geometrical optics, physical optics and simplified eye models to describe ametropias.

Opto IOA1
Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 1

Credits	**2.5**
Lecture hours	**30**
Lab / Demo Hours	**15**
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 1 hour weekly	

This course provides comprehensive knowledge of the microscopic anatomy of the normal human eye and the physiology of its cellular components that make up tissues and determine their functions. Topics include epithelium, connective tissue, muscle and neurons. In addition, associated microanatomical ocular anomalies that lead to disease and pathophysiologies are discussed throughout every major section of the course. Laboratory sessions provide support for the material.

Opto GCP0
General Concepts in Pharmacology

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Lecture: 1 hours weekly	

This course provides general principles of pharmacology: an explanation of the principal areas of pharmacology, the bioavailability of drugs, factors influencing drug response, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and drug delivery systems or adverse effects and prescription writing.

Opto PPO1
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Lecture: 1 hours weekly	

This course prepares first year students for their participation in vision screenings and clerkships during the second year of optometric education by teaching the theory and practical applications of basic introductory procedures in optometric patient care. Procedures include case history, visual acuity, color vision, and stereoacuity testing; pupil evaluation, cover test, and introductory concepts of retinoscopy. In addition, students will gain awareness of the professional and ethical principles of optometric patient care. Laboratory sessions will consist of the test procedures discussed in the didactic coursework.

Opto PPL1
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 1 Laboratory

Credits	1
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Laboratory sessions will consist of the mechanics of test procedures like obtaining a complete case history, visual acuity taking, external evaluation, color vision, blood pressure taking, near point of accommodation, near point of convergence, and stereoacuity testing. Students will be introduced to retinoscopy principles.

Opto EPH0
Epidemiology and Public Health

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

This course is intended to provide students with the essential aspects of scientific analysis of literature, application of the scientific method in research, public health, and optometric principles to improve eye health and vision of the population. The course also pretends to study the epidemiology of eye diseases, and the management of conditions and systems from a population perspective. The course presents biostatistics methods and epidemiologic concepts and their applications used to analyze statistical data in research. Levels of prevention and factors that affect access to healthcare and their impact in vision care of populations are also discussed. Analyses of the importance of healthcare systems and finances for various groups are also studied.
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Opto POE0
The Profession of Optometry and Ethics

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Web based course	

A web-based course that covers the development of optometry as a profession with its education, organizational, legislative, legal and ethical developments in the world, the U.S., and Puerto Rico.

Opto DCC1
Human Development and Cultural Competency in Optometry 1

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

This course encompasses the different stages of human development, psychomotor, cognitive, and emotional development of human beings from newborns to the aging process. The course will also be an introduction to cultural competence principles and how these affect interpersonal dynamics and provision of health care. Discussion of the demographics, most prevalent systemic and ocular diseases, health disparities, cultural values, and traditional healing practices of the main ethnic and cultural groups. Concepts are reinforced by the critical analysis of vignettes of interactions between optometrists and patients of diverse cultures.

Opto CSC1
Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 1

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Lecture: 1 hours weekly	

First of four Spanish laboratories for English speaking students with minimal to moderate basic Spanish knowledge to develop skills required to conduct an optometric exam in Spanish. This first two courses will work on general and specific eye vocabulary and basic grammar.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laborator yhours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
1 Year, Term 1 totals:	19.5	232.5	120	0	0	0

1st Year, Term 2: 15 weeks (Spring)

Opto BMS2
Systemic Biomedical Sciences 2

Credits	4
Lecture hours	45
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

An organ-system based approach to the study of human histology, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, including that of the nervous system, leading to the study of abnormal development, injury, inflammation, and pathology of the organ and system. The discussion of systemic anomalies will include diagnostic characteristics and management. Emphasis will be given to those systemic conditions that have ocular manifestations. Through this course students will have a better understanding of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases as well as interdisciplinary referral protocols. The neurology portion of this course includes the study of the human nervous system with respective neurologic conditions affecting physical, reflexive, and sensory aspects of the human body. All neural tracts are studied with concomitant clinical context to teach students how to discern and use relevant information to manage neurological conditions. Laboratories include computer-based virtual human anatomy study, and diagnostic procedures.

Opto OPT2
Applied Optics 2

Credits	4
Lecture hours	52.5
Lab / Demo Hours	15
Lecture: 3.5 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 1 hour weekly	

This course examines the optics of the human visual system and its relation to corrective vision devices. Students will obtain knowledge of refractive error and its relation to accommodation, spherical and cylindrical correction, lens powers, and magnification. Additional material covers radiation and the eye, wavefront aberrations of the eye and optical image quality. Also, magnification and field properties of optical instruments such as telescopes, microscopes, and magnifiers among others.

Opto IOA2
Integrative Ocular Anatomy and Physiology 2

Credits	3
Lecture hours	30
Lab / Demo Hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

This course provides comprehensive knowledge of the microscopic anatomy of the normal human eye and the physiology of its cellular components that make up tissues and determine their functions. Topics include epithelium, connective tissue, muscle, and neurons. In addition, associated microanatomical ocular anomalies that lead to disease and pathophysiologies are discussed throughout every major section of the course. Laboratory sessions provide support for the material.

Opto APH1
Applied Pharmacology 1

Credits	3
Lecture hours	45
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	

This course integrates the mode of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, side effects, contraindications, and drug interactions of the different systemic drug types with their respective clinical systemic and ocular applications and secondary or adverse effects. This course is divided according to the following topics: autonomic drugs, drugs that affect the skeletal and smooth muscles, drugs for respiratory diseases, drugs for gastrointestinal disease and part of chemotherapeutic drugs (anti-microbials, antimycobacterial) disinfectants, antiseptics and sterilant, agents used before, during and after surgery, ophthalmic dyes, and contact lens solutions.

Opto PPO2
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Lecture: 1 hours weekly	

This course prepares first year students for their participation in vision screenings and clerkships during the second year of optometric education by teaching the theory and practical applications of basic introductory procedures in optometric patient care.
Procedures include pupil evaluation, cover test, extraocular muscle movement testing, keratometry, retinoscopy, and ophthalmoscopy. In addition, students continue to gain awareness of the professional and ethical principles of optometric patient care. Laboratory sessions will consist of the test procedures discussed in the didactic coursework.

Opto PPL2
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 2 Laboratory

Credits	1
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Laboratory sessions will consist of the test procedures discussed in the didactic coursework. Procedures include pupil evaluation, cover test, extraocular muscle movement testing, keratometry, retinoscopy, and ophthalmoscopy and screening visual fields.

Opto DCC2
Human Development and Cultural Competency in Optometry 2

Credits	1
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

This course continues with the principles of health communications, appropriate use of interpreters, delivery of bad news, enhancement of adherence, and motivational interviewing. It covers the use of stories and drawings for patient education. The course will be an introduction to health care ethics and the resolution of ethical dilemmas that will be covered more thoroughly in a later course.

Opto CSC2
Conversational Spanish Communication Laboratory 2 (Optional)

Credits	**(1)**
Lecture hours	**(30)**
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Second of four Spanish laboratories for English speaking students with minimal to moderate basic Spanish knowledge to develop skills required to conduct an optometric exam in Spanish. This first two courses will work on general and specific eye vocabulary and basic grammar.

Opto CLK0
Clinical Clerkships

Credits	**.5**
Lab/Demo Hours	**40**
Patient Care: 0.50-day clinic every other week	

A patient care course where students will have the opportunity to observe and learn procedures in all types of patients under the supervision of a clinical instructor. They are evaluated on history-taking, record keeping, attitude and professionalism, and maintenance of patient logs. In addition, a literature review paper based on a condition of a patient encountered during the semester must be submitted at the culmination of the course. As the course progresses, students will have more participation during patient encounters.

1st Year, Term 2: 15 weeks (Spring)

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratoryhours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
1 Year, Term 2 totals:	**19.5**	**217.5**	**135**	**0**	**0**	**0**

1st Year, Term 3: 25 days (summer)

Opto PFC0
Perception of Light, Form and Color

Credits	3.5
Conference/Laboratory	52.5
Conference/Laboratory hours	52.5

Monocular sensory phenomena such as light detection, dark adaptation, scotopic and photopic vision, color vision, spatial and temporal vision. Gross electrical potentials. Clinical manifestations will be introduced as needed.

Opto OMO0
Ocular Motility

Credits	2
Conference/Laboratory	30
Conference/Laboratory 2 Hours weekly	

Study of the monocular and binocular eye movements, including the molecular structure, physiology, electro physiology, neural control, and actions of the extra ocular muscles. Functional entity and neurology of the basic eye movement systems perceptual and clinical significance are discussed. The accommodation process, the pupillary reflexes, and adnexal musculature of the eye, are discussed.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laborator yhours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
1 Year, Term 3 totals:	5.5	0	0	82.5	0	0
First Year Totals	44.5	450	255	82.5	0	40

2nd Year, Term 1: 15 weeks (Fall)

Opto BMS3
Systemic Biomedical Sciences 3

Credits	4
Conference/Laboratory	60
Conference/Laboratory 4 Hours weekly	

An organ-system based approach to the study of human histology, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, including that of the nervous system, leading to the study of abnormal development, injury, inflammation, and pathology of the organ and system. The discussion of systemic anomalies, includes diagnostic characteristics and management. Emphasis will be given to those systemic conditions that have ocular manifestations. Through this course students will have a better understanding of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases as well as interdisciplinary referral protocols. The neurology portion of this course includes the study of the human nervous system with respective neurologic conditions affecting physical, reflexive, and sensory aspects of the human body. All neural tracts are studied with concomitant clinical context to teach students how to discern and use relevant information to manage neurological conditions. Laboratories include computer-based virtual human anatomy study, and diagnostic procedures.

Opto OPT3
Applied Optics 3

Credits	4
Lecture hours	45
Lab / Demo Hours	30
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

This course presents the application of geometrical optics to the properties of ophthalmic lenses. Topics include: lens shapes, base curve, lens thickness, prismatic effects of lenses, lens design, frame materials and their nomenclature among others. Lensometry skills, eyewear design and dispensing techniques are part of the laboratory.

Opto BVP0
Binocular Vision and Perception

Credits	3
Lecture hours	30
Lab/Demo Hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

The study of the development and characteristics of normal binocular vision. Concepts of binocular vision such as depth perception, perceived space, the horopter, retinal correspondence, motor and sensory fusion, fixation disparity and stereopsis are discussed. Aspects of visual-perception such as visual-motor integration, visual memory, among others, are covered.

Opto DIS1
Ocular Diseases 1

Credits	3
Lecture hours	45
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	

A three-term course where primary basic concepts related to all types of ocular pathologies are linked to their respective primary and/or secondary clinical applications. At the conclusion of each major topic integrative discussions and/or interactive clinical case presentations are held. The conceptual portion of the course exposes pathology fundamentals related to the anterior and posterior segment of the eye as well as all neurological aspects of the eye. These pathological concepts embrace epidemiology, etiology, heredity, and functionally-related mechanisms of anatomical, physiological, and sensory-motor eye components. Clinical applications presented correlatively with basic concepts covered include diagnostic work-up, differential diagnoses and final assessments, and primary and secondary managements such as drug prescribing, laser treatment, surgical care and its co-management, multi-disciplinary care, and treatment prognosis.

Opto APH2
Applied Pharmacology 2

Credits	3
Lecture hours	45
Lecture 3 hours weekly	

This course integrates the mode of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, side effects, contraindications, and drug interactions of the different systemic drug types with their respective clinical systemic and ocular applications and secondary or adverse effects. This course is divided according to the following topics: analgesics, anesthetics, chemotherapeutic drugs, (antiparasitic, antifungal, antivirals, antiprotozoal, anthelminthic), agents used before, during and after surgery, drugs to treat neoplastic disease, drugs to treat inflammation, drugs that affect the central nervous system, cardiovascular drugs, renal drugs, drugs to treat blood diseases, drugs that affect the endocrine system, dermatologic agents, and toxicology.

Opto PPO3
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 3

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Lecture 3 hours weekly	

Third of four courses to train the student on primary eyecare examinations. This portion will cover ocular health examinations and refractive status via refraction. Includes the theory of instrumentation, description of procedures to assess functional vision, refractive state of the eye and ocular health, and methodology for case history-taking and patient communication. This course will cover distance subjective refraction, intraocular pressure measurement methods, gonioscopy, epidemiology of refractive errors, and foreign body removal and management.

Opto PPL3
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 3 Laboratory

Credits	1.5
Lecture hours	45
Lecture 3 hours weekly	

Clinical laboratory sessions primarily consist of demonstrations, and repetitive hands-on practice on diverse human subjects to acquire proficiency in the clinical procedures that comprise a comprehensive primary-care optometric examination. Will continue building the basic skills for optometric comprehensive eye examinations with the addition of distance subjective refraction, intraocular pressure measurement methods, gonioscopy, and foreign body removal.

Opto ICD1
Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 1

Credits	**0.5**
Lecture hours	**7.5**
Lecture 0.5 hours weekly	

Development of metacognitive skills for the interpretation of clinical data and problem solving is essential for the evolution of the student into a clinician. These seminars are designed to better integrate all the knowledge acquired in courses presented in previous semesters in a clinical framework. As the seminars progress, so will be the complexity of the seminars, and more clinical examples will be used in order to better prepare the students for their final assessments of entry-level skills. The management options will be discussed within an evidence-based optometry framework.

Opto CSC3
Conversational Spanish Communication laboratory 3 *(Elective)*

Credits	**1**
Lab/Demo Hours	**30**
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

This course provides students who have previous Spanish language experience and knowledge learned during the previous two courses to practice conversational communication skills to conduct an optometric exam in Spanish necessary to be able to provide care to patients in Bayamón and In-House Clinics.

Opto SCR0
Vision Screening

Credits	**0.5**
Screening Hours	**40**
Vision screening: 5 to 6 hours of clinical exposure every other week	

A patient care course where students will have the opportunity to practice more advanced procedures in all types of patients under the supervision of a clinical instructor. They are evaluated on history-taking, examination techniques, record keeping, attitude and professionalism, and maintenance of patient logs. Besides the expected level of clinical skills, they are expected to understand patient care, acquire effective patient communication skills, and begin to attain ocular health assessment abilities.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory hours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
2 Year, Term 1 totals:	**21.5 (22.5)**	**262.5**	**105 (135)**	**0**	**40**	**0**

2nd Year, Term 2: 15 weeks (Spring)

Opto CMO0
Clinical Medicine in Optometry

Credits	1.5
Conference/Laboratory	22.5
Conference/Laboratory 1.5 Hours weekly	15

Ocular complications associated with systemic disease. Emphasis in the diagnosis, treatment and management of the ocular sequela of systemic diseases as well as ocular signs that may be anticipating the onset of the systemic disease. Areas will include cardiovascular endocrinology, neurology, orbitopathy, and connective tissue disorders. Emphasis on uveitis syndromes, rheumatology, AIDS, and ocular emergencies. Optometric co-management with internal medicine and medical subspecialties.

Opto OPT4
Applied Optics 4

Credits	1.5
Conference/Laboratory	22.5
Conference/Laboratory 1.5 Hours weekly	15

Fabrication of prescription eyewear. Topics in physical optics to include diffraction, photometry, polarization, and interference. Radiation and absorptive lenses. Ultraviolet radiation and sunglasses. Antireflective and scratch coatings. Impact resistance and government standards for ophthalmic lenses. ASTM standards for sports eyewear. Visual ergonomics and computer vision syndrome. Illumination and lighting standards. ANSI standards and safety glasses.

Opto PCL0
Primary Care Contact Lenses

Credits	3
Lecture hours	30
Lab/Demo Hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

Materials design, fabrication, modification, and functional analysis of contact lenses of all types, with techniques and criteria for fitting, evaluating, adapting, monitoring, and maintaining them, and for counseling concerning their use in various clinical circumstances.

Opto DVT1
Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 1

Credits	3
Lecture hours	30
Lab/Demo Hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

Comprehensive review of normal and abnormal functional pediatric developmental features related to motor and visuo-motor skills, and cognition; and how all these factors influence a child's vision. These concepts are systematically integrated within the clinical orientation of the course to help students develop efficient critical thinking skills. Clinical applications are primarily based on description of developmental visual findings, and treatment modalities relevant to clinical cases presented. The vision therapy portion of the course primarily embraces conceptual facts pertaining to oculomotor, accommodative, and non-strabismic binocular dysfunctions systemically intercalated into respective clinical-case applications. The laboratory component of the course provides a setting for discussion and practical experience related to diagnostic and treatment procedures.

Opto DIS2
Ocular Diseases 2

Credits	3
Lecture hours	45
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	

The second of a three-term course sequence where primary basic concepts related to all types of ocular pathologies are linked to their respective primary and/or secondary clinical applications. At the conclusion of each major topic integrative discussions and/or interactive clinical case presentations are held. The conceptual portion of the course exposes pathology fundamentals related to the anterior and posterior segment of the eye as well as all neurological aspects of the eye. These pathological concepts embrace epidemiology, etiology, heredity, and functionally-related mechanisms of anatomical, physiological, and sensory-motor eye components. Clinical applications presented correlatively with basic concepts covered include diagnostic work-up, differential diagnoses and final assessments, and primary and secondary managements such as drug prescribing, laser treatment, surgical care and its co-management, multi-disciplinary care, and treatment prognosis.

Opto GDT0
Glaucoma Diagnosis and Treatment

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Diagnosis and evidence-based managed decisions of glaucoma. Diagnosing more difficult primary and secondary open angle glaucoma and acute closed angle glaucoma utilizing computerized visual fields, photography, nerve fiber layer analysis, gonioscopy and optic nerve head examination along with advancements in medical and surgical treatment strategies for open angle, closed angle and secondary glaucoma will be discussed. This course will be a continuation of the concepts of anatomy, physiology of the eye relatedto the mechanism of glaucoma and classifications already covered in previous courses on Ocular Diseases.

Opto PPO4
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 4

Credits	3
Lecture hours	45
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	

The last of four didactic courses that include the theory of instrumentation, description of procedures to assess functional vision, refractive state of the eye and ocular health, and methodology for case history taking and patient communication. The remainder of the didactic portion of the course is based on a comprehensive integration of concepts related to refractive errors and anterior and posterior ocular diseases, and to a lesser extent, concepts related to contact lenses, pediatric examinations, low vision, accommodative and binocular vision testing and dysfunctions, fundus evaluation by means of Binocular Indirect ophthalmoscope and auxiliary condensing lenses. Common findings of the funds will be explained. Co-management of ocular surgeries. Upon completion of the course, students will attain competence to perform comprehensive eye exams, reach proper diagnoses, and outline management plans for most patients seen during the third-year clinical program.

Opto PPL4
Principles and Practice of Primary Care Optometry 4 Laboratory

Credits	1.5
Lab/Demo Hours	45
Lecture: 3 hours weekly	

Clinical laboratory sessions primarily consist of demonstrations, and repetitive hands-on practice on diverse human subjects to acquire proficiency in the clinical procedures that comprise a comprehensive primary-care optometric examination. Will learn near testing, photometry, condensing auxiliary lenses and binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy for evaluation of the fundus. Students must practice doing all procedures of an eye examination by the end of the semester.

Opto ICD2
Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 2

Credits	**0.5**
Lab/Demo Hours	**7.5**
Lecture: .05 hours weekly	

Development of metacognitive skills for the interpretation of clinical data and problem solving is essential for the evolution of the student into a clinician. These seminars are designed to better integrate all the knowledge acquired in courses presented in previous semesters in a clinical framework. As the seminars progress, so will be the complexity of the seminars, and more clinical examples will be used in order to better prepare the students for their final assessments of entry-level skills. The management options will be discussed within an evidence-based optometry framework.

Opto CSC4
Conversational Spanish Communication laboratory 4 *(Elective)*

Credits	**1**
Lab/Demo Hours	**30**
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Fourth Spanish laboratories for English speaking students with minimal to moderate basic Spanish knowledge to develop skills required to conduct an optometric exam in Spanish. This first two courses will work on general and specific eye vocabulary and basic grammar.

2nd Year, Term 2: 15 weeks (Spring)

Opto SCK0
Vision Screening and Clerkship

Credits	**0.5**
Screening Hours	**20**
Clinic Hours	**20**

Vision screenings and clerkship: 4 to 5 hours of clinical exposure every other week

A patient care course where students will have the opportunity to practice more advanced procedures in all types of patients under the supervision of a clinical instructor. They are evaluated on history-taking, examination techniques, record keeping, attitude and professionalism, and maintenance of patient logs. In addition, a literature review paper based on a condition of a patient encountered during the semester must be submitted at the culmination of the course. Those students not participating in screenings are assigned to clinic modules at the Bayamón main clinic and satellite health center clinic sites. Besides the expected level of clinical skills, they are expected to understand patient care, acquire effective patient communication skills, and begin to attain ocular health assessment abilities. As the course progresses, students will have more participation during patient encounters. Grading is on a Pass or Fail basis, and is based on screening evaluations and the written paper.

Opto CSA0
Comprehensive Clinic Skills Assessment

Credits	**.1**

In order to become a primary eye care provider in the patient care program as a clinical intern, all candidates will have to satisfactorily perform a full visual assessment to a patient.The skills tested will be those that have been learned and practiced up to the end of the spring term of the second year. The skills evaluated will include but not be limited to those that are assessed for entry-level practice in the profession of optometry.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory hours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
2nd Year, Term 2 totals:	**19.6 (20.6)**	**202.5**	**123 (153)**	**22.5**	**20**	**20**
Second Year Totals	**41.10(43.10)**	**465**	**228 (288)**	**22.5**	**60**	**20**

3rd Year, Term 1: 25 days (Summer, July)

Opto VIR0
Optometric Research

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Ledture:30 hours	

The course emphasizes the importance of research within the optometric profession. It covers the development and analysis of experimental, literature reviews, and clinical case papers, posters, and scientific presentations. It presents the use of reference and knowledge management programs to search and organize the bibliography. It also covers the application of parametric and non-parametric statistics using statistical analysis software. The student will present a research proposal at the end of the course.

Opto PCO1
Patient Care 1

Credits	66
Main clinic: 2 days per week	

This is the first primary eye care practical course on actual patients for third year students. It primarily consists on providing supervised comprehensive eye examinations. In this stage of clinical development emphasis is primarily given to students' competence in clinical skills which includes patient's history, examination techniques, and record documentation. Some emphasis is also given to the correlation of basic concepts with clinical applications to enhance their capacity in clinical reasoning. Clinical sessions are held at the Institution's main clinic. In addition to weekly grand round sessions, students are assigned monthly to fourth year in-house clinic rotations to start exposing them to more advanced levels of patient care. Daily evaluations are submitted to assess their level of clinical development.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laborator yhours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
3 Year, Term 1 totals:	**2.66**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**30**

Opto CLA0
Advanced Contact Lenses

Credits	1.5
Lecture hours	22.5
Lecture: 1.5 hours weekly	

The fitting of specialty contact lenses using advanced procedures for the correction of astigmatism, irregular corneas, presbyopia, and aphakia. Orthokeratology and the correction of ocular trauma with cosmetic lenses are also included.

Opto DVT2
Developmental Optometry and Vision Therapy 2

Credits	3
Lecture hours	30
Lab/Demo Hours	30
Lecture:2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

Course discussion primarily focuses on the integration of factual data such as natural history, etiology, and signs and symptoms with an organized clinical approach for the diagnosis and management of fixation disparity anomalies, suppression and amblyopia, strabismus and anomalous visual sensory-motor adaptation, aberrant visual perception, anomalous visual-motor and auditory-visual integration, aniseikonia, nystagmus and acquired brain injury. There is special emphasis on diagnostic techniques and clinical decision-making. Rehabilitative treatment modalities will be presented. In addition, the repercussion of these anomalies to learning achievements in children as well as their sequela into adulthood is discussed. The laboratory component of the course provides a setting for discussion and practical experience related to diagnostic and treatment procedures.

Opto DIS3
Ocular Diseases 3

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

The final of a three-terms course where primary basic concepts related to all types of ocular pathologies are linked to their respective primary and/or secondary clinical applications. At the conclusion of each major topic integrative discussions and/or interactive clinical case presentations are held. The conceptual portion of the course exposes pathology fundamentals related to the anterior and posterior segment of the eye. This course places emphasis on neuro-ophthalmic disorders and diseases, as well as neurological aspects of the eye. These pathological concepts embrace epidemiology, etiology, heredity, and functionally-related mechanisms of anatomical, physiological, and sensory-motor eye components. Clinical applications presented correlatively with basic concepts covered include diagnostic work-ups, differential diagnoses and final assessments, and primary and secondary managements such as drug prescribing, laser treatment, surgical care and its co-management, multi-disciplinary care, and treatment prognosis.

Opto PLV0
Primary Care Low Vision

Credits	3
Lecture hours	3
Lab/Demo Hours	30
Lecture:2 hours weekly	
Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	

A study of the etiology, epidemiology, definition, signs and symptoms of low vision and blindness, including methods of examination, determination of prognosis, selection of appropriate therapy, treatment, and counseling and interdisciplinary coordination.

OPTO NOP0
Nutrition in Optometry

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Lecture:1 hour weekly	

Overview of the relationship between nutrition, vitamins, minerals and development of healthy vision. The role of nutrients and their effect on ocular pathology and ways to incorporate vitamin supplementation in the optometric healthcare setting.
Body mass index, glycemic index, obesity, and how it can relate to systemic and ocular disease.

Opto ICD3

Integrative Optometric Case Discussions 3

Credits	1
Lecture hours	15
Lecture: 1 hour weekly	

Development of metacognitive skills for the interpretation of clinical data and problem solving is essential for the evolution of the student into a clinician. These seminars are designed to better integrate all the knowledge acquired in courses presented in previous semesters in a clinical framework. As the seminars progress, so will be the complexity of the seminars, and more clinical examples will be used in order to better prepare the students for their final assessments of entry-level skills. The management options will be discussed within an evidence-based optometry framework.

Opto DOP0
Diversity in Optometry

Credits	2
Lecture hours	30
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Epidemiological, psychosocial, ocular findings and changes to expect as naturally occurring in the pediatric, aging, and special populations patients may include several syndromes that have ocular/visual impact on minorities, domestic violence victims, substance abuse patients, those suffering from mental health disorders, transgendered individuals, the LGTTB (+) community, among others. Optometric examination techniques used for the pediatric, geriatric, and physically and or mentally impaired patients. Similar considerations to special populations such as physically and mentally impaired.

Opto RSM0
Review Seminar

Credits	.5
Lecture hours	7.5
Lecture: 1 hour weekly for 8 weeks. Sessions are scheduled prior to National Boards examinations.	

The purpose of this course is to enhance the preparation of students for the first part ofentry level licensing exams. The course will comprise of material that has been covered during the previous years of optometric education in a concise manner to refresh important concepts relevant to clinical application of basic science concepts. Attendance is mandatory ın all sessions for all students.

Opto PC02
Patient Care 2

Credits	**4**
Clinic hours	**180**

Main clinic: 1 day per week

Grand rounds: half-a-day per week

In-house rotations: 1 day per month

This is the continuation of the primary eye care practical course on actual patients for third year students. It primarily consists on providing supervised comprehensive eye examinations. In this stage of clinical development emphasis is primarily given to students' competence in clinical skills which includes patients' history, examination techniques, and record documentation. Some emphasis is also given to the correlation of basic concepts with clinical applications to enhance their capacity in clinical reasoning. Clinical sessions are held at the Institution's main clinic. Also, in addition to weekly grand round sessions, once a month, students are assigned to fourth year in-house clinic rotations to start exposing them to more advanced levels of patient care. Occasionally, students will provide domestic primary eye care services at geriatric home institutions, assisted living communities, and pre-scholar and scholar entities among others. Daily evaluations are submitted to assess level of clinical development. Pre-requisite: All First- and Second-Year courses must have been approved.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratoy hours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
3 Year, Term 2 (Fall) totals:	**18**	**180**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**180**

Opto ODM0
Ocular Disorders Management

Credits	**2**
Lecture hours	**30**
Lecture: 2 hours weekly	

Multidisciplinary course that enhances the knowledge in specific advanced ocular diseases within optometry. The course covers in depth those cases of ocular diseases that are uncommon, includes signs and symptoms of the conditions, differential diagnosis, diagnosis, use of advanced diagnostic equipment, and treatment and management. The course will also cover surgical management of different conditions from different specialties. Indications, contraindications, patient selection, surgery technique, pre-operatory and post-operatory management, complications, and management.

3rd Year, Term 3: 15 weeks (Spring)

Opto ILS0
Injections, Lasers and Ocular Surgical Care

Credits	**2**
Conference/Laboratory: 2 hours weekly	
Conference/ Laboratory	**30**

Course will be focusing on ophthalmic lasers and perioperative management. The study of ophthalmic lasers and ophthalmic laser procedures. Laser indications, contraindications and complications. Emphasis on YAG capsulotomy, peripheral iridotomy and selective laser trabeculoplasty. Pre and post-operative care (perioperative management) for cataract surgery, laser refractive surgery, keratoplasty, retinal laser surgery, intracameral injections for retinal diseases and oculoplastic surgeries. Ophthalmic minor surgeries within the scope. Appropriate surgical referrals will also be addressed.

Opto EBO0
Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Optometry

Credits	**1**
Lecture hours	**15**
Lecture:1 hour weekly	

Interactive discussions of actual and sample clinical cases concerning all areas of optometry. It emphasizes the development of clinical thinking strategies to obtain an accurate clinical assessment. Evidence-based optometry will be the informative source for discussing management options. The course will develop the students' abilities to manage cases based on clinical scientific evidence to ensure the best outcomes.

Opto PRM0
Practice Management

Credits	**1.5**
Lecture hours	**22.5**
Lecture: 1.5 hours weekly	

Emphasis on the business, financial, and personal aspects of a practice, Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, coding and billing appropriately. Planning for personal, professional, and financial goals, credit and debt management, optometric career choices, modes and Scope of practice, and considerations in private practice to help the student take the steps needed to enter the best practice for their individual needs and future goals. This is a seminar type course with several lecturers, known successful optometrists from P.R. and USA, where at the end of the topic, the students will answer TQ questions in order to receive credit.

Opto PC03
Patient Care 3

Credits	**4**
Clinic hours	**180**
In-house rotations: 1 day per month.	

Besides assuring students' competence in clinical skills, at this level of clinical development special emphasis is given to students' ability to correlate basic concepts with respective clinical applications to enhance their capacity in clinical reasoning. Sessions are held at the Institution's main clinic. Also, in addition to weekly grand round sessions, once a month, students are assigned to fourth year in-house clinic rotations to start exposing them to more advanced levels of patient care. Domestic assignments continue for third year students during their spring term; to provide students with the expertise on the provision of domestic primary eye care services. Daily evaluations are submitted to assess the level of clinical development.

Elective Courses

The purpose of these courses is for the optometric student to further enhance their knowledge in specific areas within optometry in order to encourage the students to apply for optometric residency programs. All these electives are to be offered in the spring term of the third year and all will be evaluated on a pass/no pass basis. The optometric third year student must enroll in five elective courses.

Opto AVT0
Advanced Vision Therapy

Credits	**1.5**
Conference/Laboratory	**22.5**
Conference/Laboratory 1.5 hours	

This elective covers in more depth the treatment and management of complicated cases of binocular vision anomalies and visual-perceptual therapy. The course will include lectures, case presentations, and laboratory sessions to demonstrate and practice advanced therapeutic procedures.

Third year elective course

Opto ALV0
Advanced Low Vision

Credits	**1.5**
Conference/Laboratory: 1.5 hours	
Conference/Laboratory	**22.5**

This elective course covers in depth the assessment and management of complicated cases that require low vision rehabilitation. It will include eccentric viewing training techniques, advanced field enhancement equipment and training, advanced magnification equipment, and other techniques and equipment to manage complicated cases. The course will include lectures, case presentations, and laboratory sessions.

Third year elective course

Opto NOR0
Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation

Credits	**1.5**
Conference/Laboratory	**22.5**
Conference/Laboratory: 1.5 hours	

This elective course covers in depth the assessment and management of complicated cases that require neuro-optometric rehabilitation. This course will include assessment techniques for the different clinical manifestations of those patients with acquired brain injury, rehabilitation techniques, and conventional and non-conventional optical devices.

Third year elective course

Opto AEP0
Advanced Electrophysiology

Credits	**1.5**
Conference/Laboratory: 1.5 hours	
Conference/Laboratory	**22.5**

This elective course will cover in depth the use of electrophysiologic testing, their importance and clinical relevance to specific cases. The course will include case discussions.

Third year elective course

Opto SSV0
Sports Vision

Credits	1.5
Conference/Laboratory	22.5
Conference/Laboratory: 1.5 hours	

This elective course covers the skills required for different sports, the evaluation techniques, treatment, and management of binocular, sensory-integrative anomalies thatmay interfere with sports performance. The course will also include the use of optical compensation to enhance vision in athletes and vision therapy procedures to enhance athletic performance.

Third year elective course

Opto PMN0
Publishable Manuscript Submission

Credits	1.5
Conference/Laboratory	22.5
Conference/Laboratory	1.5 hours

In order to promote life-long learning and scholarly activities, students enrolled in this course will submit a publishable quality paper or submit a Poster to one of the internationally renowned optometry meetings. The publishable paper must follow the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines and structure. Must be an original experimental article, extensive literature reviews, or case report.

Third year elective course

Opto COD0
Complex Case Discussions

Credits	2
Conference/Laboratory: 2 hours	
Conference/Laboratory	22.5

Case review of advanced cases in all areas of optometry involving a thorough differential diagnosis, pertinent additional testing, including blood laboratories and neuroimaging, discussion of the relevant conditions based on the most current peer reviewed literature and professional texts. Discussion of the case prognosis involving treatment modalities as well as a follow up and co-management.

Third year elective course

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laboratory hours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
3rd Year, Term 3: 15 weeks (Spring)	18	67.5	0	142.5	0	180
Third Year Totals	38.66	277.5	60	142.5	0	390

4th Year Clinic Program

The fourth-year program is strictly devoted to patient care. Primary eye care clinical training is primarily aimed towards developing students' capacity in critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills. In addition, students are trained in specialty eye care services such as pediatrics and vision training, specialty contact lenses, low vision rehabilitation, electrophysiological studies, and ocular prosthesis; all of which are offered at the Institution's main clinic.

- Selection of clinic rotations is required to add up to 25 credits for the academic year. A total of 12.5 in one term and a total of 12.5 credits in the other term.
- The Bayamón Clinic is a mandatory rotation for all fourth-year interns. Of the remaining five (5) satellite clinics, rotation in four (4) of these clinics is mandatory.
- Each semester is composed of 20 weeks for a total of 40 weeks of clinical work for the academic year.
- Evaluation is based on Pass/No Pass.
- This 4th year includes two courses of Optometric Clinical Grand Rounds of .5 credits in the first semester and .5 in the second semester.

Patient Care 4 and 5 – 26 credits TotalClinic sites are coded as follows:

Bayamón Main Clinic

Opto PC40

Primary Eye Care Services and Specialty Clinics

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Bayamón main clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is composed of specialty clinic rotations: Specialty Contact Lenses, Binocular Vision / Vision Therapy, Pediatrics and Infants' Vision, Learning Disabilities / Visual-Perceptual Evaluation, Low Vision, Electrodiagnosis, and Primary Eye Care.

Satellite Clinics

Opto PC42

Caguas Clinic

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Caguas Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Plaza SANOS Health Care Center where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized. Additional services provided in the Caguas Clinic are Vision Therapy / Binocular Vision, and Pediatrics / Infants' Vision.

Opto PC45

Juana Diaz Clinic

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Juana Diaz Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Centro San Cristobal Health Center where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized.

Opto PC46

Bayamón Mobile Unit

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

Mobile community clinics that provide comprehensive primary care health assessment in diverse settings.

Opto PC48
Extended Bayamón Clinic

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Bayamón main clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is composed of specialty clinic rotations: Specialty Contact Lenses, Binocular Vision / Vision Therapy, Pediatrics and Infants' Vision, Learning Disabilities / Visual-Perceptual Evaluation, Low Vision, Electrodiagnosis, and Primary Eye Care.

Opto PC49
Extended Bayamón Clinic

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Bayamón main clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is composed of specialty clinic rotations: Specialty Contact Lenses, Binocular Vision / Vision Therapy, Pediatrics and Infants' Vision, Learning Disabilities / Visual-Perceptual Evaluation, Low Vision, Electrodiagnosis, and Primary Eye Care.

Opto PC51
Extended Caguas Clinic

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Caguas Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Plaza SANOS Health Care Center where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized. Additional services provided in the Caguas Clinic are Vision Therapy / Binocular Vision, and Pediatrics / Infants' Vision.

Opto PC54
Extended Juana Diaz Clinic

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

The Juana Diaz Satellite Clinic of the Inter American Eye Institute is found within the Centro San Cristobal Health Center where integrative primary care services are provided to patients of all ages. Ocular diseases diagnosis management and treatment are emphasized.

Local Externships Sites

Opto LE01
Externship site 1

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

Externship selection of four (4) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Opto LE02
Externship site 2

Credits	**2.5**
Clinic hours	**160**
Duration 4 weeks	

Externship selection of four (4) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Opto LE03
Externship site 3

Credits	**5**
Clinic hours	**320**
Duration 8 weeks	

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Opto LE04
Externship site 4

Credits	**5**
Clinic hours	**320**
Duration 8 weeks	

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks within Puerto Rico. Selection may be private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals, health care centers or additional rotations within the Inter American Eye Institute.

Externships Sites Abroad

Opto EA01
Externship site 1

Credits	2.5
Clinic hours	160
Duration 4 weeks	

Externship selection of four (4) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be in private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Opto EA02
Externship site 2

Credits	2.5
Clinic hours	160
Duration 4 weeks	

Externship selection of four (4) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be in private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Opto EA03
Externship site 3

Credits	5
Clinic hours	320
Duration 8 weeks	

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be in private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Opto EA04
Externship site 4

Credits	5
Clinic hours	320
Duration 8 weeks	

Externship selection of eight (8) weeks outside of Puerto Rico: United States or international sites. Selection may be in private optometry, ophthalmology or joint practices, that offer primary care or specialty practices, as well as hospitals or health care centers.

Clinical Experience Grand Rounds

Opto OGR1
Optometric Clinic Grand Rounds 1
(First Semester)

Credits	**5**
Lecture hours	**7.5**
Lecture: .5 hour weekly	

An asynchronous interactive Web based course covering such topics as the 4th year clinical experience, clinical self-assessment, optometric patient cases, practice management, and ethics.

Opto OGR2
Optometric Clinic Grand Rounds 2
(Second Semester)

Credits	**5**
Lecture hours	**7.5**
Lecture: .5 hour weekly	

An asynchronous interactive Web based course covering such topics as the 4th year clinical experience, clinical self-assessment, optometric patient cases, practice management, and ethics.

	Credits	Lecture hours	Laborator yhours	Conference/ Laboratory	Screening hours	Clinic hours
4th Year Totals	**26**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1600**
Fourth Year Totals	**26**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1600**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive the degree of Doctor of Optometry (OD), the candidate must:

- Pass all courses comprising the curriculum for the degree of Doctor of Optometry, as specified in the Catalog for the year in which the student enters the School, with an overall grade point average of 2.00 or better.

- Transfer and advanced placement students must complete at least two years in studies at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry.

- Receive all passing grades in the fourth year, complete the externship and in-house rotations before the graduation date.

- Receive the recommendation of the faculty of the School after motion to that effect is passed by the faculty.

- Signed clearance and graduation documents. (If awarded financial aid in any academic period, an exit interview is required by the Financial Aid Office. You will find all information at www. optonet.inter.edu, linking Financial Aid Process).

- Submission of all available National Board Scores to the School Registrar.

- Pay graduation fee. All students are required to pay a graduation fee, even if the student does not attend the graduation ceremony.

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

The distinction of honor students will be based on the cumulative general point average criteria as following:

- 3.25 to 3.49 - Cum Laude (with honors)
- 3.50 to 3.74 - Magna Cum Laude (with high honors)
- 3.75 to 4.00 - Summa Cum Laude (with the highest honors)

These distinctions are awarded only to students who have completed satisfactorily at least 50 percent of the academic credits required for the degree at Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry. This distinctions award will not apply to transfer students with less than fifty percent of the credits of the academic program.

OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Office of Continuing Education offers educational and clinical courses and workshops for optometrists and other health professionals wishing to expand their knowledge and skills.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

There is currently one residency program at the School in Primary Eyecare. The Primary Eyecare Residency emphasizes advanced post-doctorate training to develop proficiency in primary eye care optometry, gain experience within a multi-disciplinary clinical setting, and obtain training in pre-and post-ophthalmic operative care. This program will also provide the resident with experience in teaching and research.

The Primary Eyecare Residency is sponsored by the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT / ALUMNI

The main objective of this office is the search and acquisition of external funding to support the School's services. The office is in charge of identifying external funding sources, developing an annual plan of activities, and coordinating fund-raising events. This office also supports the Alumni Association's fund- raising activities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION, FEES AND OTHER CHARGES 2025-2026

TUITION	
Admission-Master in Science in Public Health	$ 31.00 with application
Regular Students **First Year** PR Residents Non- Residents **Second Year** PR Residents Non- Residents **Third Year** **Fourth** **Master in Science in Public Health**	 $31,000.00 annual (two semesters & June) $33,000.00 annual (two semesters & June) $30,500.00 annual $31,500.00 annual $30,000.00 annual (two semesters & July) $29,500 annual (two semesters) $227.00 per credit hour
Summer & Students with Special Fee Assessment	$1,500.00 per credit hour
Auditing Without Credit	50% of the regular per credit cost of special students
FEES	
General Fees	$ 100.00 per semester $ 50.00 per summer session $60.00 trimester
Students and Cultural Activities Fees/ Student Council	$ 62.00 per semester N/A summer $42.00 trimester
Center for Access to Information	$ 40.00 per semester $12.00 per summer session $27.00 trimester
Infrastructure	$ 100.00 per semester $ 55.00 per summer session $67.00 trimester
Construction, Improvements and Maintenance	$ 63.00 per semester $ 31.00 per summer session $44.00 trimester
Goods and Services Fees	$ 55.00 per semester $ 28.00 per summer session $37.00 trimester
Laboratory Fees	$ 38.00 per course requiring it
Clinic Fees (per course requiring it)	$ 38.00 1st and 2nd year $ 200.00 3rd and 4th year
OTHER FEES	
Late registration	$ 50.00 at the moment of registration
Withdrawal or Changes in courses	$ 6.00 upon withdrawal or change (during reimbursement period only)
Deferred Payment Arrangement	$ 6.00 upon arrangement
Late payment on Deferred Payment (when lateness occurs)	$25.00 for each installment

Charge made by IUPR or company contracted by the University for processing payments by checks received from students	$26.00 per returned check
Incomplete Removal	$ 19.00 per course
Transcript of Credits **Electronic Transcripts (digital)**	$ 6.00 per transcript $10.00 per transcript
Graduation	$200.00 with application $150.00 Master Science in Public Health
Late final examination	$19.00 per examination
Identification Card Replacement	$ 7.00 with application
Academic Evaluation Fee	$ 10.00 with application
Vehicles Access & Parking Fee	$30.00 per semester or trimester N/A summer session
Study Certifications	$2.00 for each application
Course additions or changes of one course by another	$6.00 upon change
HOUSING	
Contracts are signed for a period of five months, at a monthly rate of $700.00	
Total Cost per room	$3,500.00 per semester $ 700.00 per summer session $2,100 per trimester
Admission Fee for Housing	$25.00 with the application
Refunds: if for some reason the student leaves the Residence Hall before the end of the signed contract, both the current and the following month will not be refunded.	

Changes in Tuition, Fees and other charges

The University reserves the right to review charges and fees whenever:

- There is an increase in educational and general expenses and/or mandatory transfers,
- Budget projections indicate a possible increase in these costs, and/or
- After careful analysis of any particular situation, the University administration determines that such changes are reasonable and justified.

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE 2025-2026

ITEMS	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR
Tuition Resident **Tuition Non-Resident**	**$31,000** **$33,000**	**$30,500** **$31,500**	**$30,000**	**$29,500**
Fees	**$1,220**	**$1,182**	**$1,240**	**$1,240**
Books, Supplies & Equipment	**$7,310**	**$7,218**	**$1,989**	**$599**
Room on Campus **Room off Campus**	**$8,400** **$6,350**	**$8,400** **$6,350**	**$8,400** **$6,350**	**$11,244**
Food on Campus **Food off campus/ living with parents**	**$5,884** **$4,203**	**$5,884** **$4,203**	**$5,884** **$4,203**	**$5,884**
Miscellaneous Personal Expenses	**$4,557**	**$4,557**	**$4,557**	**$4,557**
Professional Credential	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$3,420**	**$3,690**
Transportation	**$2,700**	**$2,700**	**$2,700**	**$4,155**
***Total resident on campus**	**$61,071**	**$60,441**	**$58,190**	**N/A**
***Total non-resident on campus**	**$63,071**	**$61,441**	**$58,190**	**$60,869**

**Totals of First, Second and Third Year were calculated using resident and non-resident on campus items.*

DEFERRED PAYMENTS

Upon student registration, 25% of all tuition and student fees must be paid. Through a formal application, a student may arrange for deferral of the remaining 75%. This deferred payment is due in 3 equal installments of 30 days each.

There is a charge for arranging deferred payment. Overdue deferred payment fees are imposed as a penalty. An official contract will be given to the students stipulating the payments terms. Each student is responsible for making the periodic payments stipulated in the contract.

Students who do not fulfill their financial obligations within the time stipulated will be suspended from classes, will receive a grade of "W", lose the right to deferred payment arrangements in the future and may be suspended from the University. These penalties, however, do not relieve them of the obligation to pay the debts they have incurred.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid has the commitment of financing the student's education by establishing a budget for each academic year. This includes the following expenses: Tuition & Fees, Food, Housing, Equipment, Books and Supplies, Miscellaneous Personal Expenses, Transportation and other fees.

FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to receive federal financial aid:

- Be a United States Citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Be enrolled at least as a half time student
- Not be in default in any previous student loans
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Have a High School diploma or a recognized equivalent
- Be registered with Selective Service, if you're male.

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

FEDERAL DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS

Financial need is not required. Students must be enrolled at least half time. The borrower is responsible for interests during all periods. The Unsubsidized loans have a six-month grace period that starts the day after graduation, when students leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment. The repayment period begins the day after the grace period ends.

Fixed interest rate of 7.94% for loans first disbursed between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.
Origination Fee: 1.057% for loans first disbursed up to September 30, 2026.
The Annual Loan Limit for students of health professions is $40,500.

The Aggregate Loan Limit for combined Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans is $224,000.

FEDERAL GRADUATE PLUS LOAN

Financial need is not required. Student must be enrolled at least half time. A credit check is required for a Plus loan. The borrower is responsible for interest during all periods. The maximum annual amount is the student's cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.

Fixed interest rate of 8.94% for loans first disbursed between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Origination Fee: 4.228 % for loans first disbursed up to September 30, 2026.

Visit https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates for latest information on interest rates and fees.

OTHER AIDS

Institutional Scholarships

Every year an amount of institutional funds is assigned to award scholarships to students with financial needs and to meet exceptional situations presented by students.

Alternative Loans

These loans provide supplemental funding when other financial aids do not cover costs. Alternative loans are also known as private loans and are offered by private lenders (banks or other financial institutions). These loans usually require a credit check. Students should first check on federal loan eligibility.

FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

FULL TIME FACULTY

Iris R. Cabello, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Dean of School. Assistant Professor.

Angel F. Romero, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter AmericanUniversity of Puerto Rico. Residency in Vision Therapy, SUNY University of New York. Dean of Academic Affairs. Full Professor.

Ariette Acevedo, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter AmericanUniversity of Puerto Rico. Residency in Primary Care Optometry, Inter American university of Puerto Rico. Assistant Professor.

Damaris Pagán, O.D., M.P.H.
Doctor in Optometry, (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Master in Public Health -sub- specialty in Gerontology from University of Puerto Rico Health Sciences Campus. Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Dean of Clinical Affairs. Assistant Professor.

Héctor C. Santiago, O.D., PhD
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from New England College of Optometry. PhD in Biomedical Sciences, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciencesat the University of Texas at Houston. Director of Research. Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Full Professor.

Andrés Pagán, O.D., M.P.H.
Doctor in Optometry, (O.D.) from Inter AmericanUniversity of Puerto Rico. Master in Public Health from University of Puerto Rico Health Sciences Campus. Associate Professor.

Jacqueline Deval, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Director of Rio PiedrasClinic. Assistant Professor.

John Mordi, BSc. Optom., M.SC., Ph.D.
Bachelor in Optometry (B.Sc.) from University of Benin, Master in Optometry (M.Sc.) from University of Manchester, Doctor in Vision Science (Ph.D.), State University of New York, College of Optometry. Full Professor.

José M. De Jesús, O.D., M.A., M.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Master of Arts in Science (M.A.) from Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine, Doctor in Medicine (M.D.) from University of Science, Art and Technology, Monserrat College of Medicine. Associate Professor.

Karen Gil, M.D., MsHN
Doctor in Medicine (MD) from Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Residency in ophthalmology from Fundación Hospital de Nuestra Señora de la Luz, Mexico D.F., Master degree Public Health Nutrition (MsHN) University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. Associate Professor.

Luis R. Ruíz, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (OD) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty. Assistant Professor.

Manuel A. Conde, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Fellowship in Primary Eye Care, Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Assistant Professor.

Marta N. Rivera, O.D.

Fourth Year Students Coordinator (Externship Program). Doctor in Optometry (OD) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Assistant Professor.

Mayra Rullán, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from New England College of Optometry, Residency in Hospital- Based Optometry, Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Full Professor.

Neisha M. Rodríguez, O.D., M.P.H.-G

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Residency in Geriatrics and Visual Rehabilitation, Veterans Administration Center. Master's in Public Health – sub-specialty in Gerontology University of Puerto Rico Health Sciences Campus. Full Professor.

Nilda Lorente, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Director of External Optometry Clinic at Plaza de Salud SANOS, Hospital Dr. Gabriel Giménez Sanjurjo. Assistant Professor.

Vassilios Boulougoris, O.D.

Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from New England College of Optometry. Director of External Optometry Clinic at Dr. Gualberto Rabell Hospital.Full Professor.

Giam S. Vega Meléndez, Ph.D.

Doctor in Philosophy – Anatomy (Ph.D.) from University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. Assistant Professor.

PART TIME FACULTY

Adriana Santiago, M.A.
Bachelor degree in Comparative Literature University of Puerto Rico. Masters in Language and Literature, University of Notre Dame.

André Lamoutte, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Doris M. Antúnez, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Yvette Mercado, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Katherine Rivera, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Lydia Román, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Academic Faculty.

Magda Matos Cáliz, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty

Margaret Matos, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty.

Melvin Casillas
Licensed Optician. Associate Degree in Optical Sciences from PR Technical Junior College

Pablo De Gracia, Ph.D., M.Sc.
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.): Optics, Optometry and Vision from Spanish National Research Council and Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Span, Master is Science in Optics and Optometry (M.Sc.) from the School of Optics and Optometry, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, Faculty.

Rubén Román, O.D.
Doctor in Optometry (O.D.) from Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Clinical Faculty

AFFILIATE PROFESSORS

Paul Ajaimian Omni, OD	Nataly Gammoh, OD
Wilfredo Cruz, OD	Amanda Miskewicz-Zastrow OD
Manuel Del Toro, MD	Jason E. Compton, OD
Omar El- Houchaimi, OD	Minh Vu, OD
Christopher Frey, OD	Rafael Collazo, OD
Melinda Gruszka, OD	Kenneth A. Young, OD
Michael L. Haynes, OD	John Gandy, OD
Pamela Conrad, OD	Danielle Gloster Morris, OD
Tina MacDonald, OD	Pedro Goméz, OD
Frank Giardina, OD	Gabriel Martinez, OD
Danielle Ringle, OD	Javier De la Torre, MD
Rick Morris, OD	Tom Spetalnick, OD
Lanelle Williams, OD	Julia Terry, OD
Vicky Fisher, OD	James Timons, OD
Kelli Conesa, OD	Toan Tran, OD
Thanh Truong, OD	Brandy Vaughn, OD
Claude Valenti, OD	Mike White, OD
Catherine Vicci, OD	Michael White, OD
Brian R. Whitney, OD	Magaly González, OD
Kelly Huynh, OD	Gabriel Rodriguez Quijano, OD
Amber Sheikh, MD	John Nowell, OD
Laura Dalmasy, OD	Lindsay Howse, OD
Brandon Sanders, OD	Danielle Howard, OD
Mayur Bhavsar, OD	
Kelly Scherer, OD	
Owen Files, OD	
Carlos Manrique, MD	
Margaret Matos, OD	
Michele Miranda, OD	
Eleonora Orloff, OD	
Rolando Ortiz, OD	
Regina Portocarrero, OD	
Saras Rustagi, OD	
Kevy Simmons, OD	

THE OPTOMETRIC OATH

With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I **AFFIRM** that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.

I **WILL** practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I **WILL** uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I **WILL** provide professional care for the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I **WILL** work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.

I **WILL** place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I **WILL** hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I **WILL** advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I **WILL** strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I **WILL** share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow doctors of optometry and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I **WILL** do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as a doctor of optometry.

I **HEREBY** commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

Adopted by
The American Optometric Association