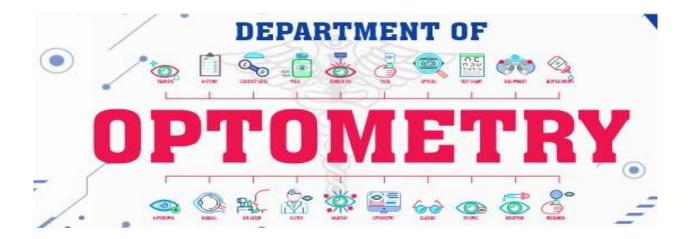
B.Sc OPTOMETRY



"Optometry is a health care profession that is autonomous and **Optometrists** are primary health care practitioners of the eye and visual system who provide **comprehensive eye and vision care**, which includes refraction and **dispensing**, **detection/diagnosis and co- management of disease in the eye and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system**"



Eligibility Criteria

- The students entering the Optometry program should have completed the recognized secondary school studies as the qualification stipulated for B. Optom is 10+2 with Sciences (Biology - BiPC/Mathematics - MPC) or equivalent from a recognized university or board which will provide the foundation for and prepare them for higher education studies
- Candidates who have completed diploma in ophthalmic techniques / diploma in optometry can also join the undergraduate course.
- Minimum 50% marks required for admission

Course duration

• 4-year program (including 1 year of clinical training /internship)

Goals of the Program:

The institution mission of excellence in health care has been incorporated into the optometry syllabus. This concentrates on primary eye care, scholarly activity and development of leaders for the professional and community. By successful completion of the optometry Bachelors program students will be able to

- Correct refractive errors and prescribe glasses
- Design and dispense of contact lenses
- Assess subjects with low vision and dispense appropriate aids
- Perform comprehensive evaluation of the health status of eye and visual system and detect ocular, associated systematic and neurological disorders and referral of patients to the specialists at appropriate stage
- Utilize the latest technology in the diagnosis of ocular anomalies including visual field devices, imaging technology including ultrasound and retinal imaging techniques, corneal topography, Electrophysiology.
- Diagnosis and orthoptic treatment of heterophoria and strabismus
- Practices of public health and community optometry in schools, colleges, urban and rural areas
- Do optometric counselling to the patients with hereditary visual defects
- Perform continuing professional education and uphold legal and ethical behavior in his/her career

Job Opportunities

The job sectors for optometrist can be divided into the following areas:

Government sector: Optometrists can provide services in managing and diagnosing the eye problems in government hospitals



Corporate Sector: Optometrists are employed as professional service people under various lens manufacturing companies as well as contact lens companies. Some pharmaceuticals and surgical instrument companies (eye related) also employ them. Depending on performance there is a career path for the professional service staff and some optometrists have also risen to regional heads.



Private practice: Optometrist upon graduation can open their optometry clinic with/without optical store. Currently many optometrists are practicing in their own clinic.



Work for optical chain: The work environment and the responsibilities for working in a chain would be similar to that of a private practitioner.



Public Health: Optometrist can also enter into the public health domain as health care providers. They could be involved in epidemiological studies, in primary health centres (PHC) and in SHC. Optometrists can collaborate with NGO in service delivery of health care.



Industries/ Companies: Optometrist can involve in pre-employment vision screening, periodic eye check-up for employees, set vision standards for various occupations, help in occupational health professional in developing eye safety policy of the company, advise on appropriate eye safety wear and can-do awareness campaign among the employees especially on the usage of eye safety wear and protection.



Eye Care Hospitals &Institutions: Optometrists can provide vision care services like prescribing glasses, contact lens, provide comprehensive low vision care services, advice on vision therapy etc. They can also provide extended role in various eye clinics like managing diagnostic services and co-manage patients in an eye care institutional set up or a hospital set up. Optometrist also acts as clinical trainer, researchers, administrators and clinical heads.



Educational Sector: Optometrists can be employed as faculty depending on experience and qualification. Optometrists also can head optometry schools or college. Academics can also be combined with clinical practice.



Research: Research areas in optometry are quiet vast ranging from optics, contact lenses, binocular vision, glaucoma, retinal diagnostics, public health, low vision to primary eye and health care. Optometrists can involve himself in vision science researches, not restricted with any specific areas.



Translational research: Vision scientists/ optometrists with higher degree can involve in transformational research wherein the scientific discoveries arises from laboratory, clinical or population studies lead into clinical applications to reduce disease incidence, morbidity and mortality.

Average Starting Salary in India

INR 4-5 Lakh/Annum

Scope of optometry in Abroad

- OPTOMETRY is a growing field in India as well as abroad, especially in the countries like Australia, Canada, the USA, Middle East, Africa etc.
- After completing graduation depending on the country, students need to clear the license exam and also get registered with concerned country's optometry council
- Optometry is one among the top 10 highest paid medical professions in abroad

Future Scope of Bachelor of Optometry

When it comes to knowing the scope of a Bachelor of Optometry in India and overseas, one can choose to work or continue their study with master's and doctoral degrees. The students and aspirants who wish to pursue higher studies in this field can opt for the, following courses:

- Fellowship in Specialty areas like contact lens, Binocular vision, Low vision etc
- Masters in Optometry
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)



