

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY
ARIZONA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

19555 N. 59th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85308
888/247-9277 or 623/572-3275
admissaz@midwestern.edu
www.midwestern.edu

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE PROGRAM

The students will be awarded the degree Doctor of Optometry if they successfully complete the four-year professional curriculum in optometry. The first and second year of the curriculum emphasizes basic health sciences, optics and visual science, and students are introduced to clinical practice in clinical simulation laboratories and through introductory courses in clinical settings. Visual consequences of disease are introduced in the second year while the third year, divided between a didactic and clinical setting, emphasizes the diagnosis and treatment of ocular dysfunction and disease. The fourth year is intensive clinical training that will include some on-campus and off-campus externship rotations. Clinical settings for external rotations may include military facilities, veteran administration hospitals, public health service hospitals and specialty and/or private practices or clinics. Satisfactory completion of the curriculum will qualify the graduate to take the state licensing examination that is offered in each of the 50 states.

OPTOMETRY ADMISSION PROCESS

The Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT) considers for admission those students who possess the academic, professional, and personal qualities necessary to become exemplary optometric physicians. AZCOPT uses multiple criteria to select the most qualified candidates including cumulative grade point average, pre-requisite courses grade GPA, Optometric Admission Test scores, personal experiences and character, ability to communicate, familiarity with the profession, volunteer/community involvement, research experience, and other considerations. AZCOPT uses a competitive, rolling admissions process.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the Doctor of Optometry degree program, the applicant must:

1. Possess a minimum cumulative grade point average and science grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale.
2. A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution is required. A BA degree is acceptable but a BS degree is preferred.
3. Submit an Optometry Admission Test (OAT) score. A minimum overall OAT score of 300 is required. The OAT test must be taken and results submitted by March 1, 2009 to be accepted for Fall 2009 entry. OAT scores from tests taken prior to 2004 are not acceptable.
4. Have the necessary course prerequisites. All required prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher. Pass/fail courses are not acceptable for prerequisite courses. Only courses designed for science majors or pre-professional students are acceptable for the science prerequisites.
5. Provide two letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a practicing optometrist. The other letter must be from a pre-health profession advisor, a science professor, an employer or extracurricular activity advisor. Letters of recommendation from relatives, personal and/or family friends are inappropriate and not acceptable.
6. Have a good understanding of optometric medicine. Candidates are strongly encouraged to shadow and observe a practicing optometric physician in the clinical setting.
7. Participated in extracurricular and/or community activities that indicate a well-rounded background and demonstrate a service orientation.
8. Have interpersonal and communication skills necessary to relate effectively with others.
9. Pass a criminal background check.
10. Abide by the MWU Drug-Free Workplace and Substance Abuse Policy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for admission into the Doctor of Optometry degree programs, the applicant must submit to the Office of Admissions an application packet including the following:

1. A properly completed Application for Admission form specific for the degree program of interest.
 - All information must be completed unless designated as optional.
 - Answer the essay questions (500 word limit for each response for each question). Answers should be typed and double-spaced.
 - If you wish to withdraw your application at any time, please do so in writing.
2. A non-refundable, non-waivable application fee of \$50.
 - Make check or money order payable to Midwestern University – AZCOPT.
3. Two letters of recommendation.
 - Provide two letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a practicing optometrist. The other letter must be from a pre-health profession advisor, a science professor, an employer or extracurricular activity advisor. Letters of recommendation from relatives, personal and/or family friends are inappropriate and not acceptable.
 - Provide each recommender with a stamped envelope addressed to the Office of Admissions at the address below.
4. Official transcripts from each college or university attended.
 - Send a transcript request to the Registrar of each college or university attended.
 - Transcript envelopes must be signed and sealed by the Registrar. Photocopies of transcripts are not acceptable.
 - Have the Registrar return the transcripts to you for enclosure in your application packet or have the Registrar submit the transcripts directly to the Office of Admissions.

Address your completed application and letters of recommendation as follows:

Office of Admissions
Doctor of Optometry Program Application
Midwestern University
19555 N. 59th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85308

The application deadline is June 30, 2009.

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Optometry Program



Please type or print using black ink.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Full Legal Name: _____
Last First Middle

Other Name(s) Under Which You May Have Educational Records: _____

Preferred Nickname: _____

Preferred Mailing Address (all correspondence will be sent to this address until otherwise notified):

Street City State Zip Code+4 Digit Postal Code

Permanent and/or Legal Residence:

Street City State Zip Code+4 Digit Postal Code

CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Telephone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

The Office of Admissions requires you to have a valid e-mail address. You can obtain a free address from Hotmail.com or Yahoo.com.

U.S. Citizen or National? Yes No

If you checked no, indicate status and enclose documentation:

Permanent Resident Eligible Non-Citizen Temporary Non-Citizen

VISA Type: _____

Were you ever in the military? Yes No

Have you ever enrolled in a health profession's education/training program as a candidate for a certificate or degree?

Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The **optional** demographic and family data will be used to help evaluate our efforts relative to providing equal educational opportunity for all incoming students. These data are optional and will not be used as selection criteria during the admission process. Various accrediting agencies rely on us to provide them with an accurate portrayal of our applicant pool.

Gender

Male Female

Birth Date

____/____/____

Birthplace (city, state, country)

Ethnic/Racial Origin (check all apply):

White (non-Hispanic)

Mexican-American or Chicano

Asian

Black (non-Hispanic)

Puerto Rican

Asian Underrepresented

American Indian or Alaskan Native

Other Hispanic

Nat. Hawaiian/Pacific Islands

Other

International Students

Applicants who wish to receive credit for coursework completed outside the United States or at a Canadian institution that does not use English as its primary language of instruction must submit official scores of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum passing score is 550. You may access: www.ets.org for more information. In addition the applicant must submit an official, detailed, course-by-course evaluation from one of the following services:

Education Credential Evaluators (ECE) 414/289-3400
www.ece.org

Joseph Silny & Associates International 305/273-1616
Education Consultants www.jsilny.com

World Education Service (WES) 212/966-6311
www.wes.org

International students who do not provide documentation of acceptable United States or Canadian course/degree equivalency will not receive credit, and will be required to complete all prerequisite courses at an accredited college or university in the United States, or at a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada that uses English as its primary language of instruction and documentation.

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY PREREQUISITE REPORT

REQUIRED PREREQUISITE COURSES*	NAME OF COURSES COMPLETED	GRADE	SEMESTER HOURS COMPLETED	SEMESTER HOURS DEFICIENT	EXPECTED DATE DEFICIENCY WILL BE REMOVED
GENERAL BIOLOGY (W/LAB) 8 semester hours					
GENERAL CHEMISTRY (W/LAB) 8 semester hours					
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (W/LAB) 4 semester hours					
BIOCHEMISTRY 3 semester hours					
PHYSICS 8 semester hours					
CALCULUS 3 semester hours					
MICROBIOLOGY 3 semester hours					
STATISTICS 3 semester hours					
PSYCHOLOGY 3 semester hours					
ENGLISH 6 semester hours					

*Only grades of "C" or higher are accepted to fulfill prerequisite course requirements. Grades of "C-" will not be accepted.
 **English courses should emphasize composition, communication and language skill. It is recommended that students take human anatomy, human physiology and Spanish to prepare them better for the college curriculum and clinical practice activities.

Have you ever applied to Midwestern University before? Yes No

If yes, state program/date: _____

Currently employed? Yes No Current Profession: _____

Name of Employer: _____

How did you find out about this program? _____

CURRICULUM VITAE

Please attach Curriculum Vitae or resume which includes the following information: educational experience with degree obtained; any professional licensure (state and license number and date obtained/expiration); employment (beginning with your current position, list chronologically all full-time and part-time employment); and volunteer work related to your professional experience.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please write an essay addressing the following questions. Answers should be typed and double-spaced. Limit each of your responses to 500 words (two pages).

1. Give a brief personal history including any additional information you believe may be useful in evaluating your application.
2. What are your career goals?
3. Why did you choose Midwestern University's Arizona College of Optometry?

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, please explain on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Were you ever the recipient of any action for unacceptable academic performance (eg, academic probation, dismissal, suspension, disqualification, etc.) or were you ever the recipient of any action for conduct violations (e.g. probation, suspension, dismissal, etc) by any college or school? Yes No

If yes, were you ever denied readmission? Yes No

2. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony (excluding parking violations)? Yes No

Note: If you have a pending misdemeanor or felony, which results in a conviction, it is your responsibility to immediately inform Midwestern University if you matriculate at Midwestern University.

3. Have you ever been the recipient of any action (disciplinary, suspension, disqualification, revocation, etc.) relating to any professional license or certification you have ever held? Yes No

My signature below indicates that all information contained in this application is factually correct and complete. I understand that the misrepresentation or omission of application information is sufficient grounds for canceling my admission or registration.

Signature _____ Date _____

*Midwestern University provides equality of opportunity in its educational programs for all persons, maintains nondiscriminatory admissions policies, and considers for admission all qualified students regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, disability, status as a veteran, age, or marital status.**

**Applicants must be able (with reasonable accommodations) to meet the technical standards as outlined in the University catalog.*

Before you submit this application, please make a copy for your records.