

Bachelor of Optometry

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What makes Bachelor of Optometry a compelling choice?

Answer: Bachelor of Optometry stands out among Allied Healthcare Professional courses due to its comprehensive coverage of basic science disciplines like anatomy and physiology, coupled with professional disciplines such as Refraction and Ocular diseases.

2. How long is the duration of the course?

Answer: The Bachelor of Optometry program spans 4 years, inclusive of internship.

3. What are the eligibility criteria for this course?

Answer: Eligibility requires passing the 12th Board Exam with Biology as a compulsory subject.

4. Is this course recognized?

Answer: Yes, Bachelor of Optometry is recognized and offers excellent prospects for recruitment in esteemed medical institutions.

5. Do Optometry students engage in medical diagnosis?

Answer: While diagnosis is typically performed by Physicians or Surgeons, Optometry students receive extensive training in Clinical Sciences to support and analyse diagnoses.

6. Does the training in Clinical Sciences remain basic?

Answer: No, students are trained comprehensively to handle complete patient care, including assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients with Binocular abnormalities, prescribing Contact lenses, and managing Low vision with appropriate tools.

7. Are there research opportunities available?

Answer: Yes, given the clinical focus of Allied Health Sciences programs, there are vast opportunities for research.

8. Is the course cost-effective?

Answer: While there's a standard tuition fee, the Bachelor of Optometry program is generally more affordable compared to other institutions.

9. Is this course considered professional?

Answer: Yes, according to the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, Optometrists are classified as Healthcare professionals.

10. How is the global perception of the Optometry program?

Answer: Bachelor of Optometry is internationally esteemed, with each country having its own Optometry program.

11. Can Indian students work abroad with this degree?

Answer: Yes, many Indian students gain experience post-undergraduate and postgraduate programs before pursuing an international career. Some countries require qualifying examinations before practicing professionally.

12. Which departments require Optometry personnel?

Answer: Optometry professionals are needed across various medical specialties, including Occupational therapy, Pre-operative, Post-operative, Outpatient Divisions, and Community medicine & Public health.

13. How are Optometrists referred to?

Answer: Optometrists are addressed as Optometrists.

14. What is the duration of the Internship?

Answer: As per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the internship duration is a minimum of 1500 hours, to be completed within 1 year after passing all theory and practical exams.

15. Is there a postgraduate program available in a similar discipline?

Answer: Yes, postgraduate programs in Optometry are offered both domestically and internationally.

16. Do students have the option to pursue a doctoral program in Optometry?

Answer: Yes, upon completion of undergraduate and postgraduate studies, students qualify for doctoral programs in Optometry.

17. Are there any memberships available for students?

Answer: Yes, Optometry has memberships and alumni associations nationwide, fostering a community of professionals for knowledge sharing.

18. Where are students posted for clinical placements?

Answer: Clinical placements commence from semester 4, with postings in facilities like Smart Vision clinic. Starting from semester 6, students rotate through various Optometry department units such as Refraction, Orthoptics, Contact lens, etc., alongside Doctors.

19. Where can students apply for internships?

Answer: The University facilitates internships at Smart Vision Clinic. Alternatively, students interested in finding their own internships can apply to reputed hospitals, primary, and secondary healthcare centers.

20. What is the average salary for fresh Optometry graduates?

Answer: Fresh graduates typically start with a Pay Scale of 15,000, while experienced professionals can earn up to 35,000 depending on seniority.

21. Is a career in Optometry valued?

Answer: Yes, Optometry careers hold significant value due to the increasing demand in the healthcare industry.

22. Are projects or assignments required during the Optometry course?

Answer: Yes, assignments are part of the internal assessment in each semester, while a compulsory project must be submitted by the end of the 8th semester.

23. What electives are available in Optometry Postgraduation?

Answer: Electives include Orthoptics, Pediatric Optometry, Low vision, Contact lens, Dry eye, Community Rehabilitation, and Sports Vision, although the number of electives offered may vary by institution.

24. Can Bachelor of Optometry graduates pursue postgraduate programs in other fields?

Answer: Yes, graduates can pursue master's degrees in related fields such as Public Health, Hospital Management, provided they are connected to medicine and healthcare.

25. What are the job prospects for Optometrists?

Answer: Optometrists have a wide range of job opportunities, including setting up private clinics, working in hospitals, educational institutions, MNCs in Research and Development, or as educators. They can also venture into medical coding, transcription, content writing, and insurance claims.