

Doctor of Optometry Program

Third Year Elective Course Catalog

Electives on special and advanced topics are offered during the summer and winter quarters of the third year. Students are required to take two elective courses in their third year.

Credits: 1

Grade Scale: Honors/Pass/Fail

QUARTER	DEPT	CODE	ELECTIVE COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR(S)
W	BVS	ELC-513	Neuro-Optometric Management of Acquired Brain Injury	Dr. Strawn
SU/W	BVS	ELC-525	Visual Field Techniques and Applications for Glaucoma	Dr. Viswanathan
W	BVS	ELC-526	Environmental Optometry	Dr. Rosenfield
SU	BVS	ELC-542	Vision and Learning Intensive	Dr. Steiner Dr. Ritter
W	BVS	ELC-544	Advanced Topics: Pediatric Eye Disease	Dr. Vaughn Dr. Leach
SU	BVS	ELC-585	Evidence-Based Myopia Management	Dr. Zhu Dr. Frantzis Dr. Leach Dr. Bui
W	BVS	ELC-601	Advanced Contact Lenses: Scleral Lenses	Dr. Keh
W	BVS	ELC-602	Management of The Irregular Cornea	Dr. Frantzis
W	BVS	ELC-603	Advanced Clinical Diagnosis & Management in Vision Rehabilitation	Dr. Rutner
SU	CLIN ED	ELC-508	The Art and Science of Effective Communication	Dr. Albieri Dr. Nguyen
W	CLIN ED	ELC-509	Change Leadership: The Missing Piece	Dr. Albieri
F/W/SP	CLIN ED	ELC-515	Personal Financial Planning for The New Optometrist	Dr. Schwartz
W	CLIN ED	ELC-520	New Issues in Glaucoma	Dr. Fingeret
SU	CLIN ED	ELC-522	Clinical Decision Making in Low Vision	Dr. Marinoff
SU	CLIN ED	ELC-523	Clinical Decision Making in Glaucoma	Dr. Bovenzi Dr. Madonna
W	CLIN ED	ELC-524	The Role of The Optometrist in Surgical Care	Dr. Laul
SU/W	CLIN ED	ELC-560	Spanish for Optometrists	Dr. Benavente
SU/W	CLIN ED	ELC-581	Independent Study in Evidence Based Practice	Dr. Nguyen Faculty Mentor

**All elective offerings are contingent on meeting minimum enrollment.*

KEY: Quarter: SU = Summer Quarter, F = Fall Quarter, W = Winter Quarter, SP = Spring Quarter

Department: BVS = Biological and Vision Science, CLIN ED = Clinical Education

Neuro-Optometric Management of Acquired Brain Injury

Quarter: Winter Instructor: Dr. Lauren Strawn
Department: BVS
Course Code: ELC-513

(May serve to fulfill the Vision Rehabilitation Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

This course is designed for students interested in the advanced optometric management of patients with acquired brain injury. It includes lectures and required readings from professionals in the areas of neuro-optometry, vestibular rehabilitation, neuro-psychology, and neurology/neuro-ophthalmology. This course will provide an awareness and understanding of this important patient population, and will be useful in preparing students who will rotate through the rehabilitation externship as fourth years or those with an interest in pursuing rehabilitation upon graduation.

Visual Field Techniques and Applications for Glaucoma

Quarter: Summer/Winter Instructor: Dr. Suresh Viswanathan
Department: BVS
Course Code: ELC-525

(May serve to fulfill the Glaucoma or Low Vision/Ocular Disease Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

This course is intended to expose students to current and emerging forms of visual field assessment techniques. The students will gain an in-depth understanding of the physiological and psychophysical basis of different visual field-testing strategies and how to interpret the clinical test results. The course will also discuss the correlation of visual field changes to optic nerve head and retinal ganglion cell structural changes and how the combined structure and function information is used for the diagnosis and monitoring progression of glaucoma. Students will get weekly reading assignments of original peer-reviewed articles which they will discuss during the class. The assessment will be based on class participation.

Environmental Optometry

Quarter: Winter Instructor: Dr. Mark Rosenfield
Department: BVS
Course Code: ELC-526

This course will discuss the effect of environmental hazards (including physical risks as well as visible and non-visible radiation) on task performance, and consider methods of minimizing these risks. The analysis of visual demands in both occupational and vocational activities will also be considered, as well as the role of the optometrist in ergonomic analysis.

Vision Development, Learning and Legal Advocacy

Quarter: Summer Instructors: Dr. Audra Steiner
Department: BVS Dr. Steven Ritter
Course Code: ELC-542

(May serve to fulfill the Vision Rehabilitation Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

This course is designed to clarify the link between visual input skills and visual perceptual skills. Students will understand standard and advanced perceptual testing for adults and children and will become familiar with the types of academic accommodations that optometrists can recommend. Students will understand the process and components of a thorough psychoeducational evaluation and be able to interpret such tests as might be provided by parents. Students will learn how to address various visual perceptual deficiencies through vision therapy.

Advanced Topics: Pediatric Eye Disease

Quarter: Winter
Department: BVS
Course Code: ELC-544

Instructors: Dr. Matthew Vaughn
Dr. Shelby Leach

(May serve to fulfill the Pediatric Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

This course will review the most common ocular conditions affecting the anterior and posterior segments of the eye in the pediatric population. In addition, common developmental syndromes will be reviewed. Each week, students will be assigned an ocular condition to research and present to the class, including the etiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, and management. Additional conditions and clinical cases will be presented by instructors. The impact on various aspects of the child's quality of life including specific medications, educational services, and the interdisciplinary care involved will be discussed. Students will be required to shadow one clinic (Children with Special Needs or Pediatric Ocular Disease) and report back to the class on what they learned.

Evidence-Based Myopia Management

Quarter: Summer/Winter
Department: BVS
Course Code: ELC-585

Instructors: Dr. Xiaoying Zhu
Dr. Irene Frantzis
Dr. Shelby Leach
Dr. Franklin Bui

This course will introduce various evidence-based myopia management modalities, with emphasis on orthokeratology, multifocal contact lenses, and low dose atropine. A special focus will be placed on management guidelines, risk assessment, treatment selection, patient/parent education, progression rates monitoring, and trouble shooting. The course will consist of frequent case discussion, as well as clinical observations in the myopia management clinic.

Advanced Contact Lenses: Scleral Lenses

Quarter: Winter
Department: BVS
Course Code: ELC-601

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Keh

(Cornea and Contact Lenses Microcredential students will be given priority enrollment.)

Building upon the Contact Lens 2 Course, this course is designed to provide an in-depth overview of the scleral lens fitting process. Students will learn to fit, handle and troubleshoot scleral lenses for both regular and irregular corneas in small groups. Various techniques will be covered from the use of vital dyes at follow-up to the incorporation of anterior segment OCT for accurate sag assessments. Numerous lab manufacturers will be represented allowing students to better understand the differences between scleral lens designs. Students who complete this course will be equipped to confidently and independently fit and troubleshoot these lenses upon graduation.

Management of the Irregular Cornea

Quarter: Winter

Instructor: Dr. Irene Frantzis

Department: BVS

Course Code: ELC-602

(Cornea and Contact Lenses Microcredential students will be given priority enrollment.)

This course will expose students to the advanced skills needed for the management of patients with irregular corneas including contact lens fitting principles as well as surgical co-management. It will enhance the basic contact lens principles taught in the contact lens courses by analyzing specific patient cases and the appropriate specialty lens design used to manage the patient. Specific contact lens fitting guides and designs will be reviewed. The course will include clinical observation and/or direct patient care as well as a seminar portion where cases are presented and required readings are discussed. This course would serve as a foundation for the student pursuing a specialty contact lens rotation.

Advanced Clinical Diagnosis and Management in Vision Rehabilitation

Quarter: Winter

Instructor: Dr. Daniella Rutner

Department: BVS

Course Code: ELC-603

(May serve to fulfill the Vision Rehabilitation Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

This elective course will give interns an introduction to upper level competencies in the clinical evaluation and management of vision rehabilitation cases. Each week a topic will be introduced and cases will be reviewed in an interactive manner that highlights exam techniques and modifications needed to evaluate each patient. Additionally, hands-on rehabilitation strategies and training techniques, including new technology such as virtual reality, will be utilized.

The Art and Science of Effective Communication

Quarter: Summer

Instructors: Dr. Guilherme Albieri

Department: Clin Ed

Dr. Quy H. Nguyen and

Course Code: ELC-508

Verbal communication skills are one of the most valued skills by practitioners and employers. It is no longer considered a soft skill. Rather, it is now considered a core professional skill that every practitioner must develop. Optometrists use verbal communication skills when interacting with patients, colleagues and the public on a daily basis. They also use it when delivering public speeches, presenting at industry meetings, communicating with their staff, and presenting research findings. This course provides participants with communication skills that will enable them to meet the challenges of today's optometrists. Competencies explored through this course are divided into two tracks - public speaking and doctor-patient communication.

Change Leadership: The Missing Piece

Quarter: Winter

Instructor: Dr. Guilherme Albieri

Department: Clin Ed

Course Code: ELC-509

This course provides participants with perspectives and competencies that will enable them to meet leadership challenges in a global community. Competencies for the change leader explored through this course include problem solving, strategic thinking, creative thinking, communication, and execution. Participants will learn through discussions, assigned readings, and by completing one project – a personal change project or a service-learning project.

Personal Financial Planning for the New Optometrist

Quarter: Summer/Winter Instructor: Dr. Steven Schwartz
Department: Clin Ed
Course Code: ELC-515

This course will provide you with the background to make prudent financial decisions. You will learn fundamental elements of personal financial planning with an emphasis on those of most importance to the new optometry graduate. Topics include basic financial principles, investments, taxes, insurance, real estate, mortgages, retirement and savings strategies. This is not a course on practice management.

New Issues in Glaucoma

Quarter: Winter Instructor: Dr. Murray Fingeret
Department: Clin Ed
Course Code: ELC-520

(May serve to fulfill the Glaucoma or Low Vision/Ocular Disease Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

The course will provide new information on glaucoma diagnosis, treatment, innovations and technologies involved with glaucoma care and how they impact care.

Clinical Decision Making in Low Vision

Quarter: Summer Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Marinoff
Department: Clin Ed
Course Code: ELC-522

(May serve to fulfill Low Vision/Ocular Disease Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

This elective course will prepare interns to make clinical decisions in the evaluation and management of low vision patients. Each week cases will be reviewed in an interactive manner that highlights exam modifications needed to evaluate each patient, the low vision device selection process for each case, and device recommendations and rehabilitation strategies that were used in the management plan. The course will include hands-on trial (if possible, or else virtual demonstration) of the recommended devices.

Clinical Decision Making in Glaucoma

Quarter: Summer Instructors: Dr. Matthew Bovenzi
Department: Clin Ed Dr. Richard Madonna
Course Code: ELC-523

(May serve to fulfill the Glaucoma or Low Vision/Ocular Disease Microcredential with coordinator permission.)

The course will be taught through the use of multiple case examples in which management of the glaucoma patient is in question. The cases will require evidence-based clinical decisions be made but will also show that there are often several appropriate management pathways that can be taken in any case. These management nuances are very difficult to teach in a beginning glaucoma course so this course can truly be thought of building upon the foundation taught in the Ocular Disease I course. Additionally, where appropriate, new ideas in glaucoma management that have the potential to change the way we manage the disease will be discussed.

The Role of the Optometrist in Surgical Care

Quarter: Winter

Instructor: Dr. Anu Lau

Department: Clin Ed

Course Code: ELC-524

This is an interactive course that will help elucidate the role of the optometrist in surgical care. As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, integrated care where optometrists and ophthalmologists work closely to provide the best patient care possible, is becoming more common. Principles of perioperative care will be discussed through interactive seminars and clinical case presentations. Students will develop an understanding of the decision that both the surgeon and patient must make before surgery. The course will focus heavily on cataract surgery, refractive surgery, and minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries. A shorter discussion on how to manage patients with retinal, corneal, or glaucoma disease necessitating surgical intervention will also be included. The final course meeting will consist of student presentations, either individually or in groups, discussing a personalized surgical plan based on an assigned case.

Spanish for Optometrists

Quarter: Summer/Winter

Instructor: Dr. Alexandra Benavente

Department: Clin Ed

Course Code: ELC-560

This elective course is designed to help students with prior Spanish knowledge develop the skills required to conduct an optometric exam in Spanish. Only students who did not take this class in summer can apply. We will work on general and specific eye vocabulary, grammar, and cultural contexts of Hispanic/Latino culture.

Independent Study in Evidence Based Practice

Quarter: Summer/Winter

Instructors: Dr. Tracy Nguyen

Department: Clin Ed

Faculty Mentor

Course Code: ELC-581

(May serve to fulfill elective requirements of microcredentials with permission of coordinator.)

Evidence Based Practice incorporates current evidence from well-designed studies, the patient's values and preferences, and the clinician's expertise, to guide clinical decision making and patient care. This elective offers students the opportunity to work independently to research and assess a clinical condition of their choosing and the best existing evidence regarding the current treatment and management of that condition. The student will work with a selected advisor (with permission of the chair of Clinic Education) and present a summary of their findings through the development of a presentation (written paper, narrated slide presentation, video, or other approved medium).