



***Foreign Applicants, Foreign Doctors Seeking Licensure, Study Abroad:***

**My undergrad degree was granted by a college outside the U.S. Will I be eligible to apply to SCCO?**

SCCO does not accept foreign/international degrees. Should you wish to locate an optometry school in the U.S. that does accept foreign/international degrees, contact ASCO at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org). To be eligible to apply to SCCO, foreign/international applicants must fulfill these requirements:

1. You must have completed all the prerequisite courses in either the U.S. or Canada. Please note that **even though** you have taken the prerequisite courses as part of your undergrad degree, **you will need to repeat the pre-requisite courses** at a college or university in the U.S. or Canada.
2. OptomCAS is the centralized application service utilized by all colleges and schools of optometry. To apply, you must send all non-U.S./Canadian transcripts to OptomCAS.
3. OptomCAS requires a course-by-course evaluation is required that provides an equivalency of the documents and a report of the courses completed in terms of U.S. college-level semester hour credits. Applicants should have their foreign (Non U.S./Canadian) transcripts evaluated by one of the approved services and the evaluation forwarded to OptomCAS.

<b>Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.</b> P.O. Box 514070 Milwaukee, WI 53203-3740 414.289.3400 <a href="http://www.ece.org">www.ece.org</a>	<b>World Education Services, Inc.</b> <b>Bowling Green Stations</b> P.O. Box 5087 NY, NY 10274-5087
<b>Joseph Silny &amp; Associates, Inc.</b> International Educational Consultants P.O. Box 248233 Coral Gables, FL 33124 305.666.0233	<b>American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)</b> Foreign Education Services One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 520 Washington DC 20036
<b>International Education Research Foundation, Inc.</b> P.O. Box 3665 Culver City, CA 90231-3665 310.258.9451 <a href="http://ierf.org/">http://ierf.org/</a>	

## **Can an optometrist or ophthalmologist from another country get a license to practice in the United States through SCCO?**

Optometry's scope of practice varies greatly from country to country. Optometrists in the United States practice medicine and as such, their training and licensing requirements are different.

SCCO does not facilitate the process whereby a foreign doctor would gain licensure in the U.S.

If you are an optometrist, contact the state board of optometry in the state in which you seek licensure to determine the particular requirements. Also, contact ASCO (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry) at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org) to find out which schools may accept students for advanced standing status. Transfer credit and advanced standing are the terms used by colleges and universities for the procedure of granting credit to a student for educational experiences or courses undertaken at another institution.

If you are an ophthalmologist, contact the medical licensing board in the state in which you seek licensure to practice medicine. If you wish to pursue a career in optometry, you may be eligible for advance standing status in a college of optometry. To make further inquiries, contact ASCO as [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org).

Should you wish to take the NBEO (National Board of Examiners in Optometry) exam, you are advised to contact the particular state in which you desire to practice to find out about their particular requirements. You would then need to send your request to a state's licensing board along with all credentials (degrees, schools, curriculum...etc.). The licensing board would act as your sponsor and would make the determination as to whether you would be eligible to sit for the NBEO exam.

## **How do I list Study Abroad coursework in OptomCAS?**

Study abroad is identified by OptomCAS as courses that are taken through a foreign institution while the student is enrolled at a U.S. Institution. Applicants will list all study abroad courses that appear on a U.S. or Canadian transcript in English with itemized grades and credit hours. For each study abroad course, applicants will select the name of the U.S. or English-speaking Canadian institution in which the study abroad credits and grades appear. If the U.S. or Canadian transcript does not itemize the grades and/or credits for study abroad, applicants will follow policies for foreign coursework evaluations.

If your primary U.S. institution granted your study abroad original credit, then you do NOT need to enter your foreign institution in your application and do NOT need the transcripts sent to OptomCAS. Please enter the coursework exactly like your other coursework, just with the classification of "STUDY ABROAD."

If your foreign institutions granted your study abroad original credit, you MUST list the foreign institution in your application and contact your schools to determine whether a foreign transcript

evaluation is required. If so, you may send it to OptomCAS, but this is NOT required. Please do not enter the coursework.

*Revised 1/31/14 JAM*