



International Applicants, International Doctors Seeking Licensure, Study Abroad

To be eligible to apply to SCCO, international applicants (including those with optometric degrees granted outside the U.S. and Canada) must fulfill these requirements:

Even though you may have taken the prerequisite courses as part of your undergrad degree, an international applicant must have completed all the prerequisite courses in either the U.S. or Canada.

OptomCAS requires a course-by-course evaluation that must be done by one of the foreign credentialing agencies listed below and submitted as part of the application.

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

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 than those educated internationally.

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 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 advanced standing status in a college of optometry. To make further inquiries, contact ASCO as 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.

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 international 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.

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