

# Starting a Pre-Optometry Club

Students who are interested in the profession of optometry are encouraged to join forces with other like-minded students through the pre-optometry club on their campus. If your institution does not have a pre-optometry club, this is a wonderful opportunity to set yourself apart from other pre-optometry students by starting a club on your own campus.

## Here's How.....

### *Research Campus Requirements for Starting a New Club*

Contact your campus Student Affairs Department and pre-health advisor for recommended guidelines for starting a new campus club. Also seek financial sponsorship if possible.

### *Find a Faculty Advisor*

Your faculty advisor should be someone who is committed to helping your organization succeed.

### *Form an Executive Board*

This should consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional office positions can be added as needed in your club.

### *Write Club Bylaws*

The bylaws of your pre-optometry club should be the base document by which your club is run. Make sure you consider all the aspects of your club when writing the bylaws. These bylaws can be updated periodically according to changes the club deems necessary.

### *Establish a Club Email Address, Website and Facebook Group*

The club email address should be linked to the campus and not to an individual. An example would be [preoptometry@anycampus.edu](mailto:preoptometry@anycampus.edu). A website is a great tool to recruit new members. The website should include information about meetings, events, and speakers. It is also a good idea to include the contact information of your club so schools and colleges of optometry and other outside organizations can contact you if needed. Ask your school to host a link to your website so that if someone searches "optometry" they will get directed to your club website. Start a Facebook group to help students feel connected and to share information about upcoming club events or Optometric news.

### *Keep the Pre-Health Advisor Informed*

Make sure to let the pre-health advisor(s) know about your new club! Supply them with information to help promote your club. Share SCCO information with them such as "Why Choose Optometry" and "Applicant Planning". The more they know about the profession the more likely they are to help promote the club to students!

### *Register Your Club with ASCO*

ASCO has a database for pre-optometry clubs that is useful to all of our schools and colleges of optometry. This is helpful to them during the recruitment process. If you would like your club listed on the pre-optometry section of the ASCO website, contact them at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

### *Plan Meetings*

Hold regular meetings to discuss topics about the optometric profession and exchange advice on how to be a competitive applicant. Invite local optometrists to speak about the profession, in addition to representatives from the schools and colleges of optometry to speak about the application process and what life is like as an optometry student. Clubs also conduct mock interviews, arrange community service events, and hold fundraisers.

## *Questions?*

SCCO at Marshall B. Ketchum University is happy to support you as you get your club up and running! If you have any questions during the process above, we would love to help! Contact [ODadmissions@ketchum.edu](mailto:ODadmissions@ketchum.edu) with questions!

