



### ***The Academics—The First Qualifying Round***

The admissions process consists of two serial “qualifying rounds.” The first round consists of an academic qualification and the second consists of a subjective personal and professional qualification.

Once you meet the academic qualification in the first round (based chiefly on the strength of your GPAs and OAT scores), you then advance to the second round (the interview) where you are evaluated based on your personal and professional potential. Interviewers prepare by reviewing your entire application.

The initial academic review process begins with a preliminary review of an applicant’s file and computing the applicant’s Academic Index. To compute the Academic Index, each file component to be considered is assigned a relative point value depending on its degree of importance. Because of their importance, the GPAs and OAT scores combine to generate 80% of these Academic Index points. The higher the Academic Index, the better the chances to advance to the second round and thus receive an interview invitation.

It is impossible to advise an applicant on the *exact* academic requirements necessary to clear the first round because the competitiveness of the applicant pool varies year to year. Admissions advisers may counsel you as to what academic benchmarks you should meet to be a competitive applicant.

Applicants are advised to have:

- Overall GPA of at least a 3.00
- OAT section scores of at least 300

SCCO uses rolling admissions. You may submit your application through OptomCAS prior to taking the OAT; however, your application will not advance in the process before your official OAT scores are evaluated. Official OAT scores are sent directly from ASCO to SCCO. The last date to take the OAT is April 1. If you retake the OAT after submitting your application, it will be updated with the new scores and reviewed again.

After the fall term is completed and grades are posted on your transcripts, you are allowed one opportunity to update your application. This is referred to by OptomCAS as an “academic update,” prompting a secondary review of your application. You will not be permitted to enter winter or spring quarter grades.

For more information about the interview, read the FAQ titled “The Interview —The Second Qualifying Round,” located here: [www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs](http://www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs)

Rev 8Jun2017