



WHY CHOOSE SCCO

As a future optometry student, you will be making a substantial investment of both time and resources into your optometric education. Reasons why SCCO is a smart investment:

- 1st Amazing Faculty:** First and foremost, our faculty is committed to excellence in teaching. Whether in the clinic or the classroom, they are truly invested in their students' success.
 - Lecture and lab courses are taught by the same faculty who teach in clinic, carrying through foundational concepts to clinical application in patient care.
 - Faculty are committed to being available, mentoring, and supporting student achievement.
 - SCCO invests in faculty development, by continuing to advance their teaching skills, curriculum, and adapt technology to meet the needs of the modern student.
 - Our faculty team are recognized leaders in the profession, serving in national and state professional associations and shaping the future of the profession.
- 2nd Innovative Technology:** We invest in technology for both the classroom and clinic that enhances learning and showcases excellence in patient care. Simulation equipment, lecture capture, and flipped classrooms are all deployed strategically to help students learn more quickly and confidently.
 - VRMagic Simulators enable students to learn and practice key clinical skills such as binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy at their own pace, which promotes confidence and efficiency prior to seeing their first patients. VR simulators allow students to access real-life patient cases in the first clinical year.
- 3rd Exceptional Clinical Education:**
 - Ketchum Health, MBKU's state of the art clinical facility, showcases optometry's primary care role, and offers sub-specialty services including Cornea/Contact Lens, Pediatrics/Vision Therapy, Low Vision Rehabilitation, Dry Eye Clinic, Acquired Brain Injury, Sports Vision, among others.
 - Patient care begins early in the curriculum. First year interns conduct vision screenings and observe third and fourth year clinicians. Second year interns begin seeing their own patients during the Winter Quarter.
 - SCCO's Clinical Outreach Program has more than 80 clinical sites in the U.S. and abroad. For the fourth year of clinical education, students select three rotation sites, tailoring their last year of clinical education to meet their interest in the various areas of optometric clinical practice. The scope and variety of patient care experience provided through such an expansive program is enviable.
- 4th Interprofessional Education for a Changing Healthcare System:** Providing the majority of eye and vision care in communities, optometry's primary care role continues to evolve, helping meet gaps in patient care access. Optometrists are often the first to detect a systemic condition that affects a patient's overall health (examples include diabetes, hypertension, and neurologic disease). Increasingly, the optometrist is recognized as a key member of the primary care team of medical professionals, as patients seek efficient, effective, quality care. To prepare our students for this role, MBKU has incorporated both interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice (IPC) into the curriculum. Through IPE, optometry students learn alongside physician assistant and pharmacy students, as well as faculty about their respective roles and professions. Ketchum Health is our flagship clinical site, providing collaborative practice opportunities that highlight communication, teamwork, and quality care amongst multiple providers.
- 5th The Business of Health Care:** SCCO prepares future practitioners for both patient care and successful business practices in diverse settings. In addition to an extensive practice management curriculum, a student-led private practice club provides opportunity for leadership development, engagement with nationally recognized speakers, and networking opportunities with successful practicing optometrists that pave the way for career success.
- 6th Student-Centered Culture:**
 - *The Student Achievement Center* provides support services to help every student become a caring, inspired health care professional through academic and personal growth. Examples include peer advisor group, free tutoring services, counseling services, and more.
 - Co-curricular activities include student government, a leadership certificate program, Career Symposium, networking, and community service activities.
 - Personalized assistance with financial aid helps our students to be well-prepared to meet their obligations after graduation. Our graduates' loan default rates are consistently less than one percent.