



Essay Questions:

What are the essay questions that I will be expected to answer through OptomCAS?

Through OptomCAS in the “Program Materials” section, you will compose a personal statement for the general application and also answer SCCO’s supplemental application questions. Please note that because some word processor characters will not translate to text correctly, applicants are strongly encouraged to **compose their statement in a text-only word processor** (e.g., Notepad, not Word), cut and paste the final version into the text box and then do a final review for errors.

Personal Statement:

A personal statement essay is required as part of the OptomCAS centralized application. Typically applicants use the same essay for all schools, and only if necessary, slightly personalize the message for each school.

The personal statement prompt is: **“Please describe what inspires your decision for becoming an optometrist, including your preparation for training in this profession, your aptitude and motivation, the basis for your interest in optometry, and your future career goals.”** (4500 character limit including spaces)

SCCO’s Supplemental Application Questions:

SCCO hosts supplemental essay questions within OptomCAS. Once an applicant submits these essays, no further essays are required by our program. Here are the supplemental questions:

- 1) Which resource provided the most help when making your decision to apply to SCCO? (200 character limit including spaces)
- 2) When considering optometry as your future career, where do you see yourself in ten years? (1000 character limit including spaces)
- 3) Is there any special area of focus within optometry that interests you? (e.g. private practice, one of optometry's subspecialty areas of practice, organized/political optometry...etc.) (200 character limit including spaces)
- 4) If you are a reapplicant, please tell us what season you applied (i.e. 2016-17) and what you have done to improve your application since then. If you are not a reapplicant, please enter “N/A.” (1000 character limit including spaces)
- 5) If you are in the process of completing SCCO prerequisites, please list the courses that you are completing, the term when you will be taking each course, and if known, the college/university where you will be completing the course. If you are finished with all of the prerequisite requirements, please enter, "All prerequisite requirements are complete." (1000 character limit including spaces)

6) If you have shadowed or worked with an alumnus of SCCO, enter only his/her first and last name(s) so that we may send a thank you letter. If you have not shadowed an alumnus, enter "N/A." *(100 character limit including spaces)*

7) Is either a parent or a relative an Alumnus of SCCO's program? If so, please explain. *(100 character limit including spaces)*

8) Will you matriculate into SCCO's program with a bachelor's degree? *(Yes or No)*

9) If your bachelor's degree will be completed, enter the undergrad institution granting the degree. If a bachelor's degree will not be completed, enter "N/A." *(1000 character limit including spaces)*

10) AP credits for the prerequisite will be accepted as long as the appropriate number of credit hours was received. If you wish to use AP credits to fulfill any of the prerequisite requirements, list them here. An example may be, "AP credits for 2 English courses, statistics, and 1 semester of chemistry with lab." If no AP credits are applicable, enter "No AP credits claimed." *(1000 character limit including spaces)*

Revised 7Jun2018 JAM