

## **NSU Assessment Form AY 2018-2019**

**Program assessed:** Doctor of Optometry

**College:** Oklahoma College of Optometry

### **Program (academic major) mission statement**

The Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) provides an educational program leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree, post-graduate clinical residency certification, and continuing optometric education.

The primary mission of NSUOCO is:

- The education of excellent optometric physicians who, through excellence in academic and clinical instruction, are able to provide the highest quality clinical care and who emphasize an ethical and caring commitment for the welfare of patients,
- To deliver quality clinical services to the patients served by NSUOCO,
- To remain committed to a teaching environment conducive to excellence in education through faculty and students who are diverse, who embrace life-long learning, independent critical thinking, research and scholarly activity, and who have a desire to contribute to society through community service.

**Name of the professional association or accrediting agency that informs the program's student learning outcomes:** Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).

This program does not have any online courses.

### **1. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students admitted to the professional optometry program will have a broad foundation in those basic sciences, which will enable them to proceed to the study of those scientific concepts directly applicable to optometry. Students applying to the College of Optometry must take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and score satisfactorily on that exam. Knowledge areas tested on the exam include mathematics, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology, and physics. Entering students must also have achieved a minimum 2.7 GPA on all undergraduate course work.

#### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Intellectual skills – emphasizing analytic inquiry, information literacy, engaging diverse perspectives, quantitative fluency, and communication fluency.

#### **Assessment Measure**

Prospective Optometry students must submit OAT (Optometry Admission Test) score reports and undergraduate transcripts as part of their application to NSUOCO. This data is reviewed by the admission committee along with other information.

#### **Performance Target**

- Minimum OAT score = 300.
- Minimum 2.7 GPA on undergraduate coursework.

#### **Number of students assessed**

112

#### **Results**

## NSUOCO Class Profile: Academic Year 2018-2019

Year Entering	2018	2017	2016	2015
Year Graduating	2022	2021	2020	2019
Average GPA	3.65	3.49	3.47	3.6
Average OAT score	320	315	310	310
Entering with BS/BA or higher	26	27	27	26
Number enrolled in fall 2018	28	29	27	28
Number of original cohort progressing	28	28	27	27
% Progressing	100%	100%	96.43%	96.43%

### **2. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will acquire a knowledge and understanding of those aspects of optics and general human biology, which will in turn allow them to study the visual process. Successful completion of basic courses in the first year of the curriculum will demonstrate that the student has acquired the foundation to continue in the program.

#### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Specialized knowledge in the major – emphasizing student competency in the program outcomes of the major field(s) of study.

#### **Assessment Measure**

First year cohort (class of 2022) advancement to second year of program.

#### **Performance Target**

Successful completion of all first-year courses.

#### **Number of students assessed**

28

#### **Results**

Twenty-eight of the twenty-eight students who entered the program in the fall of 2018 advanced to the second year of the program. 100 % of the students completing the first year of the program met this outcomes objective and advanced to the second year of the program.

### **3. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

The student will acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the optics, anatomy, physiology, and neurology of the eyes, vision, and perception. Students may demonstrate this knowledge by successful completion of the courses in years I, II and III of the program and by passing Part I of the National Board of Examination in Optometry (Applied Basic Science Section). Students are eligible to sit for this section of the exam during the spring semester of their third year of the program (March administration).

#### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Specialized knowledge in the major – emphasizing student competency in the program outcomes of the major field(s) of study.

#### **Assessment Measure**

- First-year cohort (class of 2022) advancement to second year, second- year cohort (class of 2021) advancement to third year, third- year cohort (class of 2020) advancement to fourth year.
- NBEO (National Board of Examiners in Optometry) exam scores for Part I.

**Performance Target**

- Successful completion of all first, second, and third year courses.
- Passage of the NBEO Part I by graduation.

**Number of students assessed**

84

**Results**

- Twenty-eight of the twenty-eight students who entered the program in the fall of 2018 advanced to the second year of the program.
- Twenty-nine of the twenty-nine students in the second year of the program met all requirements and advanced to the third year of the program.
- Twenty-seven of the twenty-seven students in the third year of the program met all requirements and advanced to the fourth year of the program.

The table below indicates NBEO Part I (Applied Basic Science) exam results from March 2019:

**NBEO Part I: Applied Basic Science Exam - March 2019**

Examinees	NSUOCO CANDIDATES		NATIONAL CANDIDATES	
	# Tested	% Passing	# Tested	% Passing
<b>First Timers</b>	27	67%	1698	79%
<b>All</b>	33	61%	2168	70%

**4. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will develop the skills to perform the tests, techniques, and procedures necessary for the detection of vision anomalies and ocular disease. Students are required to demonstrate these skills in successful completion of a practical examination in each of four optometry Clinical Methods courses.

**Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Specialized knowledge in the major – emphasizing student competency in the program outcomes of the major field(s) of study.

**Assessment Measure**

Practical examinations in each of the four Optometric Clinical Methods courses.

**Performance Target**

Successful completion of practical exams by all students enrolled in four Optometric Clinical Methods courses.

**Number of students assessed**

84

**Results**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, all students successfully completed their Clinical Practice Examinations.

**5. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

The student will acquire the general principles of drug action, as well as the principles of ocular pharmacology and medical treatment, clinical administration of ocular drugs, utilization of diagnostic agents and specific treatment of ocular diseases. Students may demonstrate this knowledge by successful completion of the courses and by passing Part II of the National Board of Examination in Optometry (clinical science section that includes pharmacology). Students are

eligible to sit for this section of the exam during the fall semester of their fourth year of the program (December administration of the exam).

#### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Integrative knowledge – emphasizing the ability to produce, independently or collaboratively, an investigative, creative, or practical work that draws on specific theories, evidence, tools, and methods from diverse perspectives.

#### **Assessment Measure**

- Grades in appropriate courses dealing with drug action, principles of ocular pharmacology and medical treatment, clinical administration of ocular drugs, and utilization of diagnostic agents, and the treatment of ocular diseases.
- NBEO exam scores for Part II.

#### **Performance Target**

- Successful completion of appropriate courses dealing with drug action, principles of ocular pharmacology and medical treatment, clinical administration of ocular drugs, and utilization of diagnostic agents, and the treatment of ocular diseases.
- NBEO Part II passage by graduation.

#### **Number of students assessed**

84

#### **Results**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, all students were successful in completing the appropriate courses dealing with drug action, principles of ocular pharmacology and medical treatment, clinical administration of ocular drugs, and utilization of diagnostic agents, and the treatment of ocular diseases.

Twenty-four of twenty-eight students who took the NBEO, Part II (Patient Assessment & Management) exam for the first time in December 2018 passed the examination for a first time pass rate of 85.71%.

### **6. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will be provided with enough supervised patient encounters to enable the student to put to use the knowledge gained in a clinical setting. Students may demonstrate this knowledge by successfully achieving a passing grade on daily clinical encounters.

#### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Integrative knowledge – emphasizing the ability to produce, independently or collaboratively, an investigative, creative, or practical work that draws on specific theories, evidence, tools, and methods from diverse perspectives.

#### **Assessment Measure**

Grades in all clinical courses.

#### **Performance Target**

Passing grades in all clinical courses.

#### **Number of students assessed**

112

#### **Results**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, all students in all four years of the program (who completed the year) received a passing grade in all clinical courses (100%).

## **7. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will acquire understanding of scientific methodology and have an appreciation for research and statistics in order to continue their life-long education after optometry school. Students will demonstrate this knowledge by successfully completing an optometry research project during the third and fourth years of the program.

### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Integrative knowledge – emphasizing the ability to produce, independently or collaboratively, an investigative, creative, or practical work that draws on specific theories, evidence, tools, and methods from diverse perspectives.

### **Assessment Measure**

Grades in all course requirements for research methodology and optometry research project courses.

### **Performance Target**

Successful completion of all course requirements for research methodology and optometry research project courses by all enrolled students.

### **Number of students assessed**

56

### **Results**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, all students enrolled in Research Methodology and Optometry Research Projects courses completed all course requirements.

## **8. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will be provided with appropriate information about running a private practice with all small business aspects to enable them to make a living for themselves and their families. Students will demonstrate this knowledge by successfully completing the courses in practice management.

### **Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Citizenship – emphasizing leadership and engagement, experiential learning, cultural foundations, and personal and career development.

### **Assessment Measure**

Grades of all third-and fourth-year students enrolled in practice management courses.

### **Performance Target**

Successful completion and passing letter grades for all third- and fourth-year students enrolled in practice management courses.

### **Number of students assessed**

55

### **Results**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 100% of third-and fourth-year students completed all courses in the practice management area and received passing letter grades.

## **9. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will be provided with enough supervised patient encounters to enable the student to put to use the knowledge gained in a clinical setting. Students may demonstrate this knowledge by successfully achieving a passing rate on daily clinical evaluations and by passing the clinical proficiency tests scheduled throughout years three and four of the curriculum. Students may also demonstrate clinical proficiency by passing Part III of the National Boards (administered in the student's last year.)

**Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

- Integrative knowledge – emphasizing the ability to produce, independently or collaboratively, an investigative, creative, or practical work that draws on specific theories, evidence, tools, and methods from diverse perspectives.
- Specialized knowledge in the major – emphasizing student competency in the program outcomes of the major field(s) of study.

**Assessment Measure**

- Grades in all courses in the clinical practice area for third- and fourth-year students.
- Fourth-year students' NBEO Part III exam participation and scores.

**Performance Target**

- Successful completion of all courses in the clinical practice area with passing letter grades by third- and fourth-year students.
- Fourth-year students' NBEO Part III exam passage.

**Number of students assessed**

54

**Results**

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 100% of third-year students and 100% of fourth-year students completed all courses in the Clinical Practice area and received passing grades.

Twenty-five of the twenty-seven fourth year students who graduated spring 2019 haven taken NBEO, Part III, Clinical Skills Exam. Twenty-five OS IV students have passed their Part III exam and two have elected not to take the exam due to Oklahoma State Board of Optometry rule allowances. One of the original 28 in the cohort took a medical leave, returned to the program, and will graduate with the class of 2020. The NBEO, Part III exam takes place on test dates spread over several months and exams are administered at one site in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**10. Program Student Learning Outcome Assessed**

Students will be generally prepared to pass any state licensing examination they might encounter. Students will demonstrate this level of knowledge and clinical skills by successfully completing state written and practical examinations.

**Degrees of Excellence Student Learning Outcome**

Integrative knowledge – emphasizing the ability to produce, independently or collaboratively, an investigative, creative, or practical work that draws on specific theories, evidence, tools, and methods from diverse perspectives.

Specialized knowledge in the major – emphasizing student competency in the program outcomes of the major field(s) of study.

**Assessment Measure**

Optometry state board exams.

**Performance Target**

Successful passage of optometry state board exams by all eligible students.

**Number of students assessed**

112

## **Results**

To the best knowledge of the College, all students who have graduated from the College of Optometry since 1983 and who have been eligible to sit for the State Board of Optometry in Oklahoma have been successful in passing the examination. The College has no documented information on the passage rates of our graduates on state boards outside of Oklahoma.

## **Data Analysis of the assessment results**

March 2019 NBEO Part I exam pass rates were lower than in past years. NBEO Part II results were overall much better than Part I. Faculty and administration met for the annual optometry faculty retreat on August 15, 2019 and reviewed NBEO board exam performance, trends, and other observations. In depth discussion surrounded identifying struggling students, correlation of board results to GPA, availability of tutors, assisting students with board exam preparation, stressing using their own course notes for board exam prep and not relying solely on KMK review. Discussed possibility of raising the GPA for academic probation, red flagging struggling students, helping them make a study plan for their board exams. Discussed newly proposed series of Professionalism seminars for students, modeling professionalism in clinic and class. Nineteen highly qualified applicants turned NSUOCO down and opted to attend other schools. Many chose schools with better facilities and lower out of state tuition rates. Discussed need to allocate space for a NBEO designated test prep exam lane for fourth year students for part III of the board exams. This was delegated to Space Committee to decide on location and Equipment Committee to discuss purchase of new equipment for said exam lane.

## **Plans for the Future**

The annual student meeting held by the Director of Student & Alumni Affairs re: NBEO studying strategies now includes first, second, and third year students and places more emphasis on performing well in optometry courses as preparation for the NBEO examination.

We will continue to stress early board exam preparation and use of courses notes in board studies.

We will pursue holding a Biochemistry review for students preparing for NBEO Part I with the assistance of NSU Biochemistry faculty.

We will pursue the NBEO Part III dedicated exam lane for fourth year students.

We will begin a series of Professionalism seminars for students and will model professionalism in clinic and class.

We will provide new facility exterior renderings to the President and NSU Foundation so fundraising for the new optometry facility can commence.

## **Definitions:**

**Program Student Learning Outcome** refers to the academic major's identified student learning outcomes. These are the student learning outcomes that a student in the major is expected to achieve upon program completion.

**Degrees of Excellence (D.O.E.) Student Learning Outcome** refers to the institutional student learning outcomes. These are attached as an appendix to this report.

**Assessment Measure** refers to the assessment tool employed to determine whether the program student outcome was reached.

**Performance Target** refers to the desired result (or desired level of competency) for each program student learning outcome. It is the minimum level of competency indicating the program student learning outcome is met.

**Number of students** assessed refers to the number of students participating in the specific assessment measure for the student learning outcome.

**Results** refers to the data the measure produced, e.g. specific number of students meeting the performance target, number not meeting the target, etc. Report the findings from the assessment.