

NSU

Oklahoma College of Optometry

Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships and Grants *Specific Groups in the Health Professions*

Indian Health Service Scholarships - Provides financial support to students enrolled in health professions curriculum. Applicants must be an American Indian or Alaska Native (federally recognized only) and must be a tribal member. Service obligations and payback requirements apply upon acceptance of scholarship funds. Apply directly to IHS. For more information, see www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships.

Military

Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarships - The uniformed services of the United States (Army, Navy and Air Force) offer scholarships which fund the full tuition and fees, required books and equipment and pay a monthly stipend. In return for this scholarship, the student, upon graduation, incurs a service obligation of a minimum of three years. For more information, visit these sites.

<http://www.navy.com/careers/healthcare/clinical-care/optometry.html>

<http://www.airforce.com/benefits/commissioned-officer-education>

<http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/education/hpsp.html>

State Resident Programs

(A) Scholarships, Loans and Awards

Optometric Society of Greater Kansas City Scholarship – Resident of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Must be a second, third or fourth year optometry student who is not on academic or disciplinary probation. Applicant cannot be related to an optometrist. Award is \$500. Deadline: April 1

Kansas Foundation for Vision Awareness – Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited school of optometry and be a resident of the state of Kansas who demonstrates financial need. The student must maintain a C grade point average. Applicant must agree to practice optometry in the state of Kansas one year for each year of the scholarship assistance. One or two \$1,000 scholarships are available. Application Deadline: August 15

For More Information Contact:

Mary Anne Ernzen
8803 Churchill Circle
Wichita, KS 67206

or

The Kansas Optometric Association
1266 SW Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, KS 66612 785-232-0225

Kansas Optometric Foundation Scholarship – Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited school of optometry and be a resident of the state of Kansas. Applicants must agree to practice optometry in the state of Kansas one year for each year of scholarship assistance. Eligibility is limited to students who are not related to a Kansas Optometric Association member. For more information, please visit <http://www.kansasoptometric.org> or contact the Kansas Optometric Association (785-232-0225).

(B) State Resident Contracts

At the present time, the Oklahoma College of Optometry has established contracts with the states of Kansas, Arkansas and Louisiana. To be eligible, the applicants must be certified by the appropriate state authority. Information concerning these positions may be obtained from the following.

Arkansas: Arkansas Health Education Grant Program
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
114 East Capitol, Suite 520
Little Rock, AR 72201-3818
Phone: (501)371-2058
<http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid>

Kansas: Kansas Optometry Service Scholarship
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Harrison, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368
Phone: (785)296-3518
http://kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants

Louisiana: Optometry Association of Louisiana
115-B North 13th Street
Oakdale, LA 71463
Phone: (318)335-0675
<http://www.optla.org>

***Students are encouraged to contact their own optometric state associations to determine if any scholarships or grants are available.**

Industry and Clinical Awards and Scholarships *Application, CV, Essay and/or Case Study May Be Required*

A significant number of vision related industries provide awards and scholarships to students based on clinical proficiency, research projects and other criteria. In addition, students may be selected for clinical and proficiency awards by members of the faculty and/or Awards Committee based on various criteria.

AAO Student Travel Fellowships- all students are eligible. Multiple \$500 awards to be used for travel either to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting, or to the annual AAO meeting. Preliminary screening of papers is done by the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee will restrict its nominations to those students who submit 1) application form; 2) one page statement of accomplishments, etc.; 3) three nominating letters from faculty; 4) abstract of paper or poster if applicable. The AAO will waive the registration fee and attempt to get special room rates for recipients. Mailing deadlines are October 30 for AOA and early February for ARVO.

AOA Dr. Seymour Galina Grant - a \$2,500 grant to a **third** year student who is a member in good academic standing of the AOSA. Required is a 1,500 word essay on "The qualities I have developed through my financial planning/work experience during and/or before optometry school which I believe will be most useful to me in establishing an ethical/professional optometric practice." Local winning essay will be chosen by the Awards Committee and forwarded to the AOA for a national competition. National winner receives \$2,500. Deadline: April 1

AOJ J. Pat Cummings Scholarship – \$1,000 awarded to a **second** or **third** year student who demonstrates the ideal eye care standards of practice. To qualify, the recipient must demonstrate achievement in both academic performance and extracurricular activities, along with other professional pursuit (such as involvement with patients through internships, community service and other volunteer activities). Winner selected by Awards Committee. CV required. Deadline: September 1

Alcon 4th Year Case Report Award - \$1000 and a plaque awarded to one **fourth** year student. To qualify, student must write a case report involving any of the following subject matters: ocular disease, contact lenses and lens care or surgical co-management (cataract surgery or refractive surgery). The NSUOCO Awards Committee will select one winning case report and forward to the national competition. National winner is awarded \$5,000. Case report required. Deadline: January

Allergan - AOSA Travel Grant - two \$500 travel grants awarded to attend the AOSA general session each June. Essays subsequently in national competition for award of \$1,000. Selected by the Award Committee. Deadline: March

Better Vision Ahead (BVA) Excellence in Patient Care Award - a \$1,000 award given to a **third** year student who demonstrates outstanding patient care skills. Selected by the faculty.

Bob Thomason Memorial Scholarship – \$950 to a student with a highly respectable academic record in their **first, second** or **third** year. Preference given to students from a single parent family and to those with demonstrable financial need. Essay required. Deadline: April 1

COVD Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy - plaque awarded to a **fourth** year student who has demonstrated a strong interest and clinical skills in the area of vision therapy. Selected by the Vision Therapy faculty.

COVD Student Research Award - in memory of Dr. Martin Kane, award is presented annually to the **first, second** or **third** year COVD student member who has developed the best research project in the area of vision and learning. Winner to receive an award of \$750 to defray costs of attending subsequent COVD Annual Meeting where the project will be presented during the Scientific Poster Session. Completed project must be submitted to COVD Committee on Research by March 15.

Deborah Stauss Memorial Scholarship - awarded every other year to a student in their **first, second** or **third** year. Selected by the Awards Committee on the basis of academic record and a personal autobiography as it relates to the student's academic objectives. Application required. Amount of award varies with the funds available. Deadline: April 1

Dr. Alison Lindorfer Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000 awarded to a female student in their **first, second** or **third** year who has a 3.0 GPA or better. Community service will be a deciding factor. CV highlighting community service is required. Selection made by Awards Committee. Deadline: April 1

Dr. Hank Van Veen Award for Outstanding Clinician - \$1,000 to a **third** year student selected as the most outstanding clinician. Selection is made by the Awards Committee, including Dr. Van Veen.

Dr. John Pembroke Practice Management Award - \$1,000 to a **fourth** year student who has excelled in practice management coursework and has an interest in running a private practice. Preference will be given for students who have overcome difficult personal circumstances or non-traditional students. Dr. Pembroke serves with Awards Committee to make this selection.

Dr. Lynn A. Cyert Excellence in Children's Vision Care - \$750 to a **fourth** year student with the most promise in pediatrics. Selected by the clinical faculty.

Dr. Lynn Cyert Women in Optometry Scholarship – **first, second** or **third** year student in good academic standing who is a member of Women in Optometry organization at NSUOCO. Must submit financial information and CV. Decision is made based upon GPA, service activities and need. Deadline: April 1

Dr. Rick Darlington Memorial Scholarship - \$750 awarded to a **second, third,** or **fourth** year student chosen by the Awards Committee on the basis of need and a combination of civic and/or college activities that promote professionalism, dedication and integrity. Sponsored by the Stillwater Noon Lions Club. Must submit CV. Deadline: March 15

Eschenbach Low Vision Award – a diagnostic assortment tray of illuminated hand-held magnifiers to the **fourth** year student who has best shown an interest and aptitude in the field of low vision. Selected by clinical faculty.

Essilor Corneal Reflection Pupilometer Award - pupilometer awarded to a **fourth** year student who demonstrates outstanding dispensing skills. Award is a pupilometer, valued at \$450. Chosen by Awards Committee.

Essilor Labs Student Award - \$1,000 to recognize a **fourth** year student for outstanding work ethic and accomplishment in spectacle fabrication. Chosen by Awards Committee.

Essilor of America/Varilux Optometry Student Grand Award - a monetary award of \$1,000 presented to a **third** year student for the most interesting case report on Varilux lens fitting. Winner's case report will be entered into national judging for a larger monetary award. Selected by the faculty. Deadline: January 10

GP Lens Institute Clinical Excellence Award - one **fourth** year student who exhibits enthusiasm for learning more about GP lens designs and materials, wants to improve their fitting skills, promotes GP use as well as recruits patients for this lens modality. Selected by the faculty. Award is a certificate for a diagnostic set.

Golden Retinoscope Award - to the **fourth** year student who has demonstrated the most outstanding clinical skills. This award amount varies. The selection is made by a vote of the clinical faculty.

Heart of America Contact Lens Society - \$2,000 grant to one **fourth** year student nominated by the contact lens faculty as an outstanding contact lens student. Qualities considered include scholarship, leadership and civic duty. Award made at the February HOACL meeting in Kansas City. Selection made by clinical faculty.

HOYA Vision Care – a \$1,000 grant to a **third** or **fourth** year student based upon a patient case study involving HOYA products. School winner qualifies for national competition and a chance to win a \$6,000 scholarship. The winning case study at NSUOCO is selected by the faculty. The national winner is chosen by HOYA's ECP Advisory Panel. Each school winner also receives lodging and airfare to attend the AOA meeting in June. Deadline: April 1

HOYA Vision Care Wilma Mankiller Scholarship for Native American Students – an award of \$1,000 to a **first** or **second** year student (preference given to first year). Essay addressing the “Importance of Eye Care in the Native American Population” and a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card are required. Selection made by the Awards Committee. Deadline: August

InfantSEE Scholarship Grant – to a **third** year student in good standing in the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) and the American Optometric Association. Essay on the following topic required: How will you, as a primary health care provider, use your professional skills and patient treatment programs to further the goals of the InfantSEE program?

Awards committee selected local winner. That essay submitted to national judging. National winner receives \$5,000; runner-up will receive \$2,500. Deadline: Feb. 1

Marchon Eyewear Practice Management Award - a \$500 award presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated the most outstanding clinical and dispensing skills in practice management. Selected by the faculty.

NSUOCO Clinical Excellence Award – presented to a small number of **graduating** optometry students who are judged by the clinical faculty to be outstanding clinicians. Selection is made by majority vote of the faculty. Nominations will come from the faculty in the spring semester.

NSUOCO Golden Retinoscope Award – selected by the clinical faculty and awarded to the **fourth** year optometry student who has demonstrated the most outstanding clinical skills. Recipient will receive \$500 and a plaque.

OAOP Board Liaison Award - \$500 to **third** year student completing one year of service as OSA president and OAOP Board of Directors liaison.

OAOP Student Involvement Award - given to the NSUOCO student who has shown extraordinary service to the OAOP over the past year. \$500 check. Chosen by the OAOP. Application required. Deadline: March

Odyssey Medical - a punctual occlusion kit presented to two **fourth** year students in recognition of outstanding performance. Selected by the faculty.

Overcoming Adversity Award – sponsored by Drs. Les and Maryann Keverline Walls. \$1,000 to a **fourth** year student who best illustrates how he or she has overcome a difficult situation(s) during their undergraduate or graduate work in optometry that seriously threatened their success. Situation might include, but are not limited to, issues regarding family, social, health, emotional, dire financial status or other situation that were an obstacle to overcome during their course of studies. Drs. Les and Maryann Walls serve with the Awards Committee to make this selection. Essay required. Deadline: April 1

Regent's Scholarship - Awards of \$250 will be directly applied to tuition charges for the coming fall and spring semester. Recipients selected by awards committee in July. See Director of Student Affairs for details. Application required. Deadline: July 15

Southwest Contact Lens Society Scholarship Award - for **third** or **fourth** year students in recognition of demonstrated excellence in CL clinic. Minimum 3.0 GPA. Selected by the clinical faculty. Award is \$500.

TRIAD Pathology Award - \$500 and engraved plaques to one **third** year and one **fourth** year optometry student demonstrating excellence in the area of ocular disease. Selected by the faculty.

Vision Service Plan Scholarship - awarded to a **third** year student to recognize proficiency in

the area of primary care and to promote independent private practice. Must be in good academic standing. The selection process will include a written essay which encompasses the independent practice goals of the applicant. At the discretion of the dean, the selection process may also include interviews by a selected committee of faculty. One \$4,000 award. Selection to be made in spring of student's third year, with scholarship presented in the fall. Selected by faculty committee. Deadline: March

Vision Service Plan Preston Smith Memorial Scholarship for Practice Excellence - awarded to a **third** year student in good academic standing to recognize professionalism and proficiency in the area of primary care and to promote independent private practice. The selection process will include a written essay which encompasses the independent practice goals of the applicant. Selection by the Awards Committee will be based upon 1) participation in the private practice or practice management club with special consideration given to students who have served in a leadership role in the club; and 2) student's commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry. At the discretion of the dean, the selection process may also include interviews by a selected committee of faculty. One \$4,000 award. Selection to be made in spring of student's third year, with scholarship presented in the fall. Selected by the faculty committee. Deadline: March

Vistakon -AOSA Travel Grant - two \$500 travel grants awarded to attend the AOSA general session each June. Essays subsequently in national competition for award of \$1000. Selected by the Award Committee. Deadline: March

Vistakon Award of Excellence in CL Patient Care - a \$1,000 award to a **graduating** student for demonstrating excellence in contact lens patient care. To be selected by the clinical faculty.

Walman Optical Scholarship - **second** and **third** year students eligible for the award, which ranges between \$500 and \$3000. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, statement of goals and aspirations, unusual personal or family circumstances and an outside appraisal. For additional information about the Walman, please refer to <http://www.walman.com/scholarship.html>. See Director of Student Affairs for applications. Applications must be postmarked by April 15.

William Feinbloom Low Vision Award - presented to a fourth year student who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in low vision. Selected by the faculty. Award is a set of magnifiers and certificate.

Project/Research Awards *No application required*

Dr. Chester H. Pheiffer Memorial Award - Dr. Chester Pheiffer was the founding dean of the Oklahoma College of Optometry. The Pheiffer Awards for Excellence recognize the top projects produced by **fourth** year students from a one-year research study. Judged by Projects Committee. Monetary awards.

NSUOCO Symposium Presentation Awards – selected from all **fourth** year students in Optometry 6251, Optometric Case Studies IV. Presented to the top three student presentations from the 4-State Student Symposium held in February. Awards are \$500 each and winners are selected by faculty.

Honor Society and Academic Awards *No application required*

Academic Achievement Award – to the fourth year student with the highest GPA in the class. In the event of a tie, the student most active in NSUOCO and optometry will be awarded. (Award may be granted to one second year student working on a vision science degree.)

Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal - Beta Sigma Kappa member with the highest graduating GPA. Recipient receives honorary medal to be worn at commencement. Invitation to membership is extended to second, third and fourth year students possessing the following record of achievement: a grade points average of 3.5 in their first professional year, a cumulative GPA of 3.4 in the first two years, a 3.3 cumulative GPA for the first three years and a 3.2 cumulative GPA for all four professional years.

Beta Sigma Kappa Four Year Certificates- Given to BSK members who have been in the organization for the total time eligible (second, third and fourth year students). Recipients receive honorary cords to be worn at commencement.

Honor Society Awards - Students are nominated by the Awards Committee of the College of Optometry and must meet the following criteria:

1. Have completed at least two full semesters at NSUOCO
2. Have accumulated a GPA (optometry curriculum) of 3.5 or better
3. Have demonstrated other excellence in academic achievement, citizenship, leadership, and group participation, moral and social development.

Second, third and fourth year students are eligible.

Student Activity Awards - Presented to a member of the Optometric Student Association who has proven to be outstanding with a GPA of at least 3.5. Nomination is made by the Awards Committee. Second, third and fourth year students are eligible.

Note: This list is subject to revision, deletion, and addition as current information regarding the various awards is received and updated. No promise can be made or implied by either the University or the College of Optometry that the awards and scholarships indicated will be continued annually by the sponsoring agencies. Rules of eligibility for the different awards and scholarships are subject to change, and are the sole responsibilities of the indicated sponsoring organizations.

Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) - available to students from disadvantaged backgrounds that are enrolled in or accepted for enrollment as full-time students in an accredited health professions school. Must complete application and provide a copy of parent's federal income tax return. Must have complete current Free Application for Federal Student Aid and have a current copy of your Student Aid Report on file in the NSU Office of Student Financial Services. See Director of Student and Alumni Affairs for application and details. For more information, see <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/scholarshipsloans/programs/sds.html>. Deadline: August 1