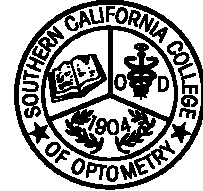


## “WHY CHOOSE SCCO”



As a future optometry student, you will be making a substantial investment of both time and resources into your optometric education. You have a responsibility of shopping for an optometry program. These are the reasons why SCCO is worth your consideration:

- 1st “Unparalleled in Optometric Clinical Education”:** SCCO's Outreach Clinical Program has been cited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association as "unparalleled in optometric clinical education." Fourth-year SCCO students perform four three-month rotations — one on campus at the Eye Care Center and the other three at one of 81 outreach clinical sites. Students decide on which sites they want based on their specific interests, allowing them to tailor the last year of their education to meet their needs. SCCO's clinical sites span the United States. We also have sites in Canada, Guam and Japan. SCCO clinical facilities have been very successful in supplying the necessary patient base and as a result, an intern will see upwards of 1,800 patients before graduation. SCCO's Outreach Program is world-renown.
- 2nd Outstanding Campus and Facilities in a Beautiful Setting:** A beautiful campus with state of the art, modern buildings and facilities; small, yet magnificently landscaped grounds and well maintained buildings. The campus is harbored in a seven-acre greenbelt. Great year-round weather and tremendous recreational attractions combine to create a wonderful environment for learning and personal growth. Beaches; mountains; professional baseball, basketball and hockey; major theme parks; and entertainment events are all part of the backdrop for SCCO.
- 3rd Professional and Available Faculty:** The majority of SCCO's faculty are full-time and are readily available to the students every day. SCCO has 34 fulltime, 31 part-time faculty members. There are 10 faculty members with more than 20 years of service. All courses and laboratories at SCCO are taught by faculty members and not graduate assistants. Students take courses from many of the same teachers from the pre-clinic courses through the clinical experience. The faculty is truly vested in their students' progress throughout the four-year educational process.
- 4th “Hit the Ground Running”:** SCCO has more practice management course hours in its curriculum than any other optometry program, preparing future practitioners for patient care and successful business practices. SCCO's Practice Management Center (PMC) provides assistance to students by helping them transition into their new career. The PMC provides consulting expertise and supportive services for the successful transfer and development of independent optometric practices. It is operated by educators in practice management and successful private practice optometrists who have the experience and commitment to help a student purchase their future dream private practice.
- 5th Great Locale:** Some optometry schools are located in urban environments where students would not want to live close to campus. Others are in “high rent” districts where a typical student's budget would not allow for housing nearby campus. SCCO is **located in a residential, suburban neighborhood** with many nearby apartments and rental houses for consideration. About 50 percent of the students live within one mile of the SCCO campus, which facilitates a real sense of community on our campus. Considering students spend many hours in the pre-clinic labs learning practicing optometric procedures on each other, it's important to have short commute times promoting student availability for this process.

**Continuity of Instruction between the Didactic and Clinical Programs:** The majority of faculty members who are instructors in the didactic courses are also clinical preceptors. In this way, the principles and concepts learned in lectures and lab are reinforced in the clinical setting during patient encounters as the same faculty work side-by-side with the students through this full circle of optometric education.

**The Office of Student Affairs is here to help.** Someone from the SCCO Student Affairs Staff is available during regular business hours to personally answer your phone calls. We are committed to assisting you with the admissions process. Dr. Jane Ann Munroe, Director of Admissions, is very prompt about answering email inquiries. She personally **hosts a Facebook Group for pre-optometry students** where potential students can get their questions answered and also, have the opportunity to interact with students currently enrolled in SCCO's program.

**Academic Assistance for Students:** Faculty are friendly and willing to assist all students in achieving their maximum potential. SCCO provides a tutoring program for didactic courses, funded through an endowment, and conducted by student members of Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK), the National Optometric Honor Fraternity. Upper classmen also conduct mock proficiency exam reviews to assist students in preparing for clinical proficiency exams.

**Early Introduction of the Pre-Clinic Curriculum:** The College recently restructured the didactic curriculum in the first professional year to provide an earlier introduction to the pre-clinic curriculum. This prepares students for their patient care experiences earlier in the professional program.

**Patient Care Begins Early in the Curriculum:** First-year interns at SCCO receive their introduction to patient care in the College's Carling Huntington Childs Family Eye Care Center. Interns begin seeing their own patients in the Eye Care Center in the third quarter of the second year.

**Leadership Experience:** SCCO fosters leadership through involvement in the Student Association, of which all students are members. Students are invited to take an active part in the governance of the College as student representatives serving on administrative and faculty committees. The mission of the Student Association Board of the Southern California College of Optometry is to represent and act on behalf of the student body to enhance the quality of education, improve student life, and promote student involvement in our profession and the community.

**Diversity in Patient Encounters:** SCCO's Outreach Clinical Program supplies a culturally diverse patient pool. It takes a vast and comprehensive clinical program to provide an adequate number and variety in patient encounters. Key to a well-rounded clinical education is having the ability to see patients from diverse ethnic backgrounds that results in developing cultural sensitivity to the needs of all patients.

**Comprehensive Clinical Experience:** SCCO relies on its expansive Outreach Clinical Program to expose students to a spectrum of optometric care. Aside from general optometry, there are five optometric subspecialties – ocular disease, vision therapy, low vision, pediatrics and contact lenses. Interns take into consideration their particular area of interest when deciding upon a rotation site within the Outreach Clinical Program. The faculty is dedicated to advancing the profession by teaching skills that will be part of their future clinical privileges. Examples of such skills include injectables, lasers and suturing.

**Assistance with Matters of Financial Aid:** The members of SCCO's Financial Aid Staff are available to assist current and prospective students and potential students with financial planning from the beginning of the admissions process and continuing throughout the four years of the program. Because of the personalized approach to financial planning, our alumni are well prepared to meet their obligations after graduation. Our graduates' loan default rates are consistently less than one percent.

**Work-Study Opportunities:** Students can apply for work-study positions, campus-wide, providing them with an increased understanding of operations and practice management skills. The Library alone employs 12-13 work-study students throughout the year. Work-study opportunities provide a variety of experience and resultant skills that can be used for whatever the future holds—private practice, a career in research or academe, just to name a few.

**Convenient Parking:** The SCCO parking structure is connected to the Academic Building that houses the lecture halls and library.

**Collaborative Academic Environment:** Decades ago, SCCO eliminated “grading on a curve.” This has promoted camaraderie and fostered such practices as group note-taking and group study. Instead of competing with your fellow classmates, SCCO students work in collaboration to prepare for class exams, clinical proficiencies and NBEO board exams, for starters. This philosophy paves the way for healthy colleague relationships lasting throughout one's career.

**Electronic Health Records—a Must for the Future Healthcare Provider:** SCCO has integrated Electronic Health Records (EHR) into both the pre-clinic and its Eye Care Center. The federal government has mandated that all health care providers convert to EHR by the year 2014. The traditional doctor's charting system that involves recording in a narrative writing style is being replaced by EHR which is a language of numeric coding. This coding system provides continuity from entering patient complaints all the way through the patient encounter and on to the billing phase where all services are logged in a series of codes. Having a command of EHR will be essential to an optometrist and therefore, should be part of any current optometric education.

**Academic Degree Offered:** SCCO offers the professional optometric degree, Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree and the academic degree, Master of Science in Vision Science (MS). This program is designed to run concurrently with the OD program.

**Assistance with Transition into a New Career:** SCCO's Practice Management Center provides consulting expertise and supportive services for the successful transfer and development of independent optometric practices. The PMC at SCCO is operated by educators in practice management and successful private practice Optometrists who have the experience and commitment to help you purchase your dream private practice.

**Unique Experience in Ocular Prosthetics:** SCCO is one of the few optometry programs providing clinical experience with ocular prosthetics. Another unique specialty service offered at SCCO's Eye Care Center is contact lens fitting for pediatric patients.

**Board Exam Preparation:** SCCO provides 3+ weeks of free time for NBEO board study preparation. Clinic responsibilities are modified for all students, providing ample time to study for this important exam.

**Campus Security:** 24/7 uniformed campus security officials with campus-wide camera monitoring. ID/access badges are worn by all members of the campus community to facilitate secure access. Should a disaster occur, a disaster preparedness team is trained with protocol to respond to the campus community.

**Emergency Alert System and Disaster Preparedness:** A 24/7 warning system. Should an emergency occur, a centrally-dispatched message alerts members of the campus community via text and email and phone.

**Private, Autonomous College Since 1904:** SCCO is the third oldest optometry school founded in 1904. It is a private, non-profit college, not part of California's U.C. system. Governed by a President and Board of Trustees, the College has the autonomy required to be flexible when administrative decisions need to be made in a timely way.

**Fitness Center:** The College is a major health care teaching facility and as such believes in the promotion of physical health and mental well-being for all of its students, faculty, staff and administration. The Fitness Center provides cardio and weight-training equipment for a complete head-to-toe workout. The Fitness Center includes sound system, televisions, lockers, showers and restrooms. It is open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

**Community involvement and the Shared Visions Art Exhibit:** SCCO hosts the international "Shared Visions Art Exhibit", an annual, juried art exhibition featuring artwork from blind and legally blind artists from around the world. It is one of four exhibits of its kind in the U.S. The collection hangs gallery-style, in the Eye Care Center. Each work describes the vision condition of the artist and thus, educates the viewer. The Shared Visions Art Exhibit is open to the general public and is enjoyed by visitors and patients alike.

**Fullerton, Home to SCCO, is the Education Community:** Fullerton is home to five colleges and universities including SCCO; California State University, Fullerton; Fullerton College; Western State College of Law; and Hope International University.

**National Reputation of Excellence:** With an outstanding reputation, SCCO is well recognized as one of the leading, exceptional schools of optometry in the country. A degree from SCCO is meaningful and worthwhile and a much-valued professional accomplishment.

**M.B. Ketchum Memorial Library:** Set amongst the trees lining Fullerton Creek, the M.B. Ketchum Memorial Library provides students with a quiet, serene place to study. As one of the top optometric libraries in the country, the library staff works diligently to provide optometric resources that are easily available from the library website. Open regularly 91 hours weekly, additional hours are added to support student study in preparation for final exams.

### **Library Special Services and Resources:**

- **Sirsi Enterprise:** A federated searching tool that searches the Library Catalog, Sirsi allows the student to search databases (PubMed, Visionet, VisionCite, and Refsight) with one search.
- **LinkOut:** Takes the user from search results directly to the online article
- **Core Reference Books:** Ophthalmic Drug Facts, Duane's Ophthalmology, and Wills Eye Manual are a few books available online from the library website.
- **Bookmyne:** This iPhone mobile app gives the user access to the library catalog through their iPhone. Book search, book due dates, and renew books options are available.
- **Study Rooms:** To support the collaborative academic environment, rooms are equipped with flat screen TV/presenters, DVD players, and white boards.
- **Great Customer Service:** A Facebook page, free interlibrary loans, individualized library literacy instruction, materials required for each course on reserve, and access to all online materials from our online catalog.

**Opportunities to Help Others:** SCCO has strong professional relationships with the community. Our students participate in many events including vision screenings at elementary schools and senior facilities, Boys and Girls Clubs, Special Olympics, etc. SCCO students even have their own public service organization called Project Concern through which they provide on-site vision screenings to needy people who otherwise would not receive vision care.

**Cutting Edge Research:** Health care delivery is a dynamic field and research is used to constantly update and improve the way we treat patients. SCCO is proud to offer many various opportunities to participate in research through studies funded by the National Eye Institute and industry in areas of vision science, including amblyopia, accommodation, convergence insufficiency, reading difficulties and discomfort symptoms, pediatric eye care, tear film and dry eye, contact lenses, and diabetes and retinal function.

**Technological Advances in Vision Therapy:** The Student Center for Vision Therapy incorporates multiple computer programs (including "3-D" activities utilizing liquid crystal glasses and Wii sports and dance games) into its weekly therapy plans for patients.

**Faculty Publications:** Faculty are active in scholarship and publications. Many referenced text books in optometry have been authored by SCCO faculty members including "Clinical Ocular Pharmacology", "Binocular Anomalies", "Manual of Primary Eye Care", and "Refractive Management of Ametropia."

**Campus Life:** The Student Association Board hosts many events and activities throughout the year to help foster relationships among students and within the community. Here are a few of them:

- **Welcome Back BBQ:** This school-wide event welcomes back students, faculty, and staff to exchange stories about their summer adventures.
- **Mentor-Mentee Program:** Every incoming student is matched up with an upperclassman who serves as their mentor. Mentors welcome the new students into the SCCO family and help them get situated in the new area by recommending places to eat, things to do, tips on certain professors, etc.
- **"Eye Ball" Formal Dance:** For all students and faculty, the Eye Ball is a formal occasion to get dressed up, unwind, and get your groove on!
- **Halloween Celebrations:** For the entire SCCO community, the Student Affairs office hosts Trick-or-Treaters. The students celebrate with their own at a costume party at night.
- **Annual Talent Show:** During spring quarter, the amphitheater becomes the main stage to showcase students' talents. Students perform choreographed dance routines, cultural dances, and songs.
- **Community Vision Screenings:** Students get a chance to serve the community and put their skills to work.
- **Intramural Sports Tournaments:** Basketball, volleyball, kickball, and more...
- **Group Outings:** SCCO is rich with regional entertainment. Students attend concerts and shows in LA, go to Disneyland a few miles away, or enjoy the beach on a day off. Sporting arenas for the Angels, Lakers, Dodgers, Ducks, and more are all within an hour of campus.
- **Student Spouse Association:** For husbands and wives of SCCO students, monthly events are held.
- **The Student Center:** Equipped with a Big Screen TV, ping pong tables, billiards, leather couches, tables, and a large kitchen, it's a comfortable place for students to relax or play games in between classes.