



# College of Optometry

*The discipline of learning. The art of caring.*

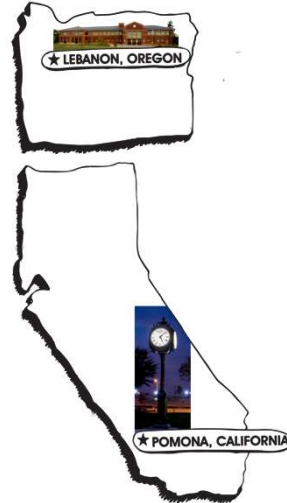


## Program Highlights



## About WesternU

- Established in 1977
- Private, non-profit university
- Over 3,800 students enrolled
- Largest health professions graduate school in California
- 9 colleges
- 21 academic programs



First a little bit about WesternU – We were founded in 1977, **Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California**, is an independent, non-profit university dedicated to educating a diverse student body of 3,200 men and women enrolled in 21 programs in the human and animal health professions.

WesternU is one of the largest graduate schools for the health professions in California. University alumni rank among the very top leaders in health care and medicine throughout the country and the world.

## Our Mission

To produce, in a humanistic tradition, health care professionals and biomedical knowledge that will enhance and extend the quality of life in our communities.



“Skilled hands and compassionate hearts will continue to be the signature of all our graduates - exactly what is needed in health care today.”

- Founding President, Philip Pumerantz



Read quote – relate the president’s quote to the College of Optometry

## What makes our program unique?

- Early entry to patient care
- Interprofessional education
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Curricular emphasis on rehabilitation, specifically neuro-optometric rehabilitation



## Early entry into patient care

- **First year**

- School Screenings for vision and vision-related learning difficulties
- Patient care begins as early as **week 5**
- Community-based screenings
- Average screening per student ~ **35**



Pomona Unified School District School Screenings – 1<sup>st</sup> year students



Note that the curriculum has early entry into patient care and a high level of patient interaction. Soon after labor day you will begin screening school-aged children for vision related learning difficulties along with possible uncorrected refractive error. School screenings occur during fall semester

## Early entry into patient care

- **First year**

- Clerkships in community offices begin 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of first year
- Participation in clubs, such as VOSH, for vision and health screenings
- Average number of 1<sup>st</sup> year clerkship patient encounters ~ 60



Dr. Yumori performing community vision screenings on infants with 1<sup>st</sup> year students



## Early entry into patient care

- **Second year**

- Clerkship patient care at private practices and the ECI
- Many offer primary and rehabilitative care such as low vision, vision therapy, and neuro-optometric rehabilitation
- Average number of 2<sup>nd</sup> year clerkship patient encounters ~ 100



Note that the curriculum has early entry into patient care and a high level of patient interaction

## Early entry into patient care

- **Third year**

- Primary Care Services
  - Comprehensive Exams
  - Contact lenses (all types)
  - Ocular Disease
- Rehabilitative and Special Care Services
  - Pediatrics
  - Children with special needs (including autism)
  - Binocular Vision
  - Geriatrics and Low Vision
  - Neuro-Optometric Rehab



**\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> yr at WUCO is distinctively different than other program because our students are working with ALL aspects of optometry and not just primary care = glasses and contacts\*\***      **During 3<sup>rd</sup> yr clinic rotations can expect to see an avg of 30 patient encounters per rotation**



## Early entry into patient care

### • Third year

- Comprehensive eye exams
- Direct co-management with retina and glaucoma specialists (including observation of retina and glaucoma laser surgeries)
- Eyecare services provided to communities outside Pomona
- Average number of 3<sup>rd</sup> year patient encounters ~ 120



3<sup>rd</sup> year students are providing direct care to ALL patients from primary care and comprehensive eye exams to specialty care and rehabilitation. Since we do NOT have any 4<sup>th</sup> yr “clinics” our 3<sup>rd</sup> yrs are exposed early to what other curriculums reserve for their 4<sup>th</sup> yr clinics. **\*\*Add in external sites such as ChapCare, Marshall Clinic, etc Our ocular disease exposure is extensive.**

## Interprofessional Education (IPE)

- First Year
  - Shared basic science courses with **DMD and/or DO and DPM**
  - IPE case based course
- Second & Third years
  - IPE case based courses
  - 2nd year emphasis is on collaborative care
  - 3rd year emphasis is on case conferences



**Our program is unique because we have all 9 Colleges** Shared courses of basic sciences is for 1<sup>st</sup> year only. OD only courses after that except for IPE case based courses

3r yr emphasis is with each profession taking the lead on grand rounds often utilizing real as well as standardized patients

**\*\*Candidates have a copy of the courses for each semester in their folder\*\***

## IPE – Embedded into our curriculum

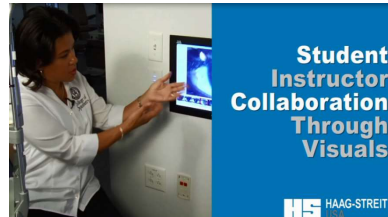
- Cross profession lectures
  - PT lectures in OD geriatrics course
  - OD lectures in DO neuroscience course
  - Nursing faculty teach injections in OD course
- Service learning
- Research
- Student club events and health fairs
- Clinical care: Interdisciplinary clinics (**Western Diabetic Institute**) during 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 4<sup>th</sup> year *externship sites*



Many of the 4<sup>th</sup> yr externship sites are VA or hospital based

## State-of-the-art Technology

- Lecture capturing system
- Top Hat technology
- Computerized acuity charts
- Computer-assisted phoropters
- Slit-lamps equipped with digital imaging
- Video BIO and simulated BIO (Vrmagic)



### Teaching state of the art

#### HEC tour will demonstrate the SL and phoropters.

All slit lamps means that we do not use any “teaching or observational” tubes. Allows for more efficient teaching methods to help the students with acquiring their clinical skills

**VR magic is the BIO simulator unit we have just acquired and will be setting up for use by Jan 2018**

## State-of-the-art Technology

- Cutting edge diagnostic equipment
- Electronic Medical Records
- On-site laser surgeries



Clinic state of the art  
Electronic medical records = "EPIC"

## State-of-the-art Technology

### Virtual Reality Learning Center (VRLC)

- Cutting-edge technology that allows students to dissect the virtual body
- The Anatomage Virtual Dissection Table brings anatomical images to life
- Solidifies concepts learned in lecture and small group activities
- Students are able to access the VRLC outside assigned lab sessions and study on their own time

<https://www.westernu.edu/virtualrealitylearningcenter/>



**Top right: Anatomage Virtual Dissection table Middle: Student using Oculus Rift technology (Secondary Anatomage display) Bottom right: Students using Ipad to study anatomy.**

## Emphasis on Rehabilitation

- Vision Therapy
- Low Vision
- Neuro Optometric Rehabilitation



Speak about the curriculum design around rehabilitation from 1st yr with ppo labs and clerkships on to 2<sup>nd</sup> yr classes. Have them reference the currillum and course in the curriculum showing rehab courses by name. All of this is in addition to primary care and disease.

## Jacob Green and WesternU College of Optometry

Jacob Green sustained a traumatic brain injury and damage to his visual processing center. He suffered from debilitating migraines induced by photophobia. Dr. Quan and her team were able to reduce his migraines by 98% through treatment with specially designed tinted lenses.



Migraines, reading comp problems, neuroocular motor dysfunctions, spatial problems. Tried physical therapy and brain injury rehab centers with some improvement but none helped his eyes causing debilitating migraines triggered by various lighting and fluorescence → **Can search YouTube “Jacob Green Ted Talk**  
**\*\*His TED Talk references our Dr. Wren who his now Dr. Quan ☺**



## Why WesternU College of Optometry?

- Experienced, content-expert faculty
- Our students
- Clinical rotations
- Research opportunities
- Graduates and alumni



## Faculty, staff, and students

- WesternU's caring and humanistic approach to the health professions extends into our students' experience as one of the University's distinctive attributes.
- Faculty "open door" policy
- Supportive staff



**Faculty and OD Students**  
**Special Olympics World Games 2015 Volunteers**

Dr. Lee and Special Olympics student volunteers Why WesternU → our faculty are content experts who have an humanistic approach to teaching as well as patient care, volunteerism

**Slide 18**

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**Office [6]1** Not sure what you want us to point out about the second bullet?? IPE? Knowledge?

Microsoft Office User, 9/19/2017

## Student Life

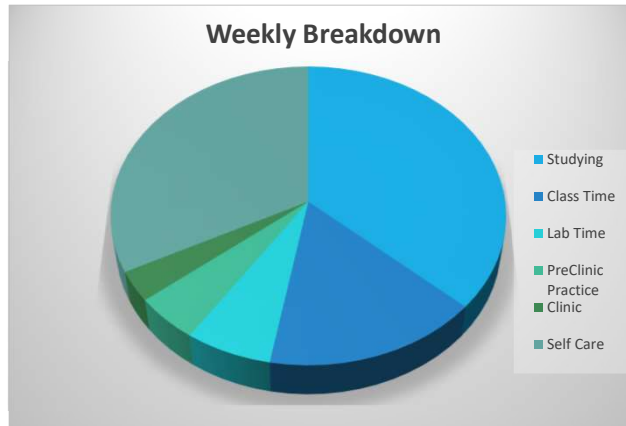
- Convenient Housing – on and off campus
- Southern California Location: 30 - 60 minutes from beach, skiing, theme parks, Hollywood, Zoos, Museums, Pantages Theatre
- Over 70 clubs on campus – OD specific as well as multidisciplinary clubs
- Students are sorted into “Houses” orientation week



Houses concept provides opportunities to learn team work, meet upper classman, faculty support

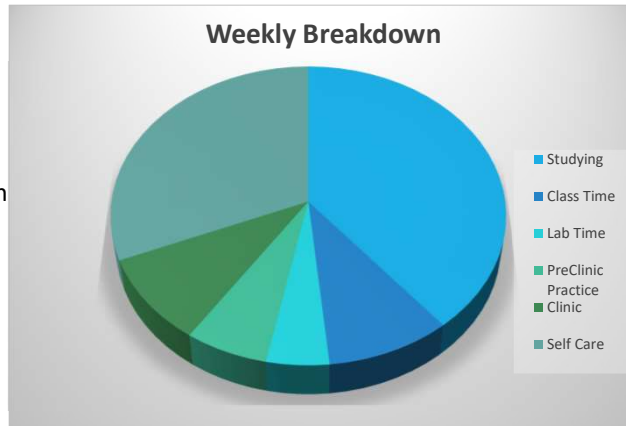
# Student Academic Life - First and Second Years

- Lecture, labs, and study time is the bulk of the week
- Clinic 4hrs/wk
- Pre-clinic skills practice time is important
- Self – Care
  - Eat
  - Sleep
  - Relax and rejuvenate



## Student Academic Life - Third Year

- Clinic increases to 12hrs/wk
- Classes decrease
- Continue practice time in skills lab
- Self – Care
  - Eat
  - Sleep
  - Relax and rejuvenate



## Extensive Externship Site Availability

- Coast-to-coast
- International
- VA, Indian Health Services, private practice, group practice, referral-based, Low Vision, Vision Therapy, NeuroRehab, and OD/OMD practices
- Average number of 4th yr patient encounters ~ **1300**



**Canadian sites = international “Lottery based selection”**

**Total number of patients for all 4 yrs on avg (2016 data) ~1698 #of patients encounters continue to increase as we expand clinical services**

<http://www.westernu.edu/optometry/optometry-welcome/optometry-student-achievement/>

## Research at WesternU College of Optometry

- Elective: semester-long lab practicum course in which they are connected with faculty members in an independent research project, including clinical research.
- Opportunities for IPE research projects
- Some students also work in research labs as work-study students or summer interns



There is tremendous opportunity for research as an optometry students. IPE research projects such as Dr. Quan, Napier, Yumori, McAllister, Harris



## Graduates and Alumni

- Many have entered private practices, VA Hospitals, HMO positions, and Military
- 12 - 14% pursue residency programs
- Several have begun a career in academia
- Several have created scholarships at WUCO
- Online job board <http://webpost.westernu.edu>



**Bottom left - right:** Thomas Wong OD2014 WUCO; Harout OD2013 private practice in Van Nuys (started scholarship);; Shirley DeLaRosa OD2015 US AirForce;; Wendy Mora OD2014; VA SanDiego Residency – works Vista Community Clinic; Katie Dugan OD2014 private practice Temecula (Ped/VT);

**Upper right:** Chrissy Hines OD2013 (on left) practices in Canada; Jen Buell OD 2013 practices in Santa Cruz

Questions?

Thank you for  
your interest in  
our program!



Western  
University  
OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
College of  
Optometry