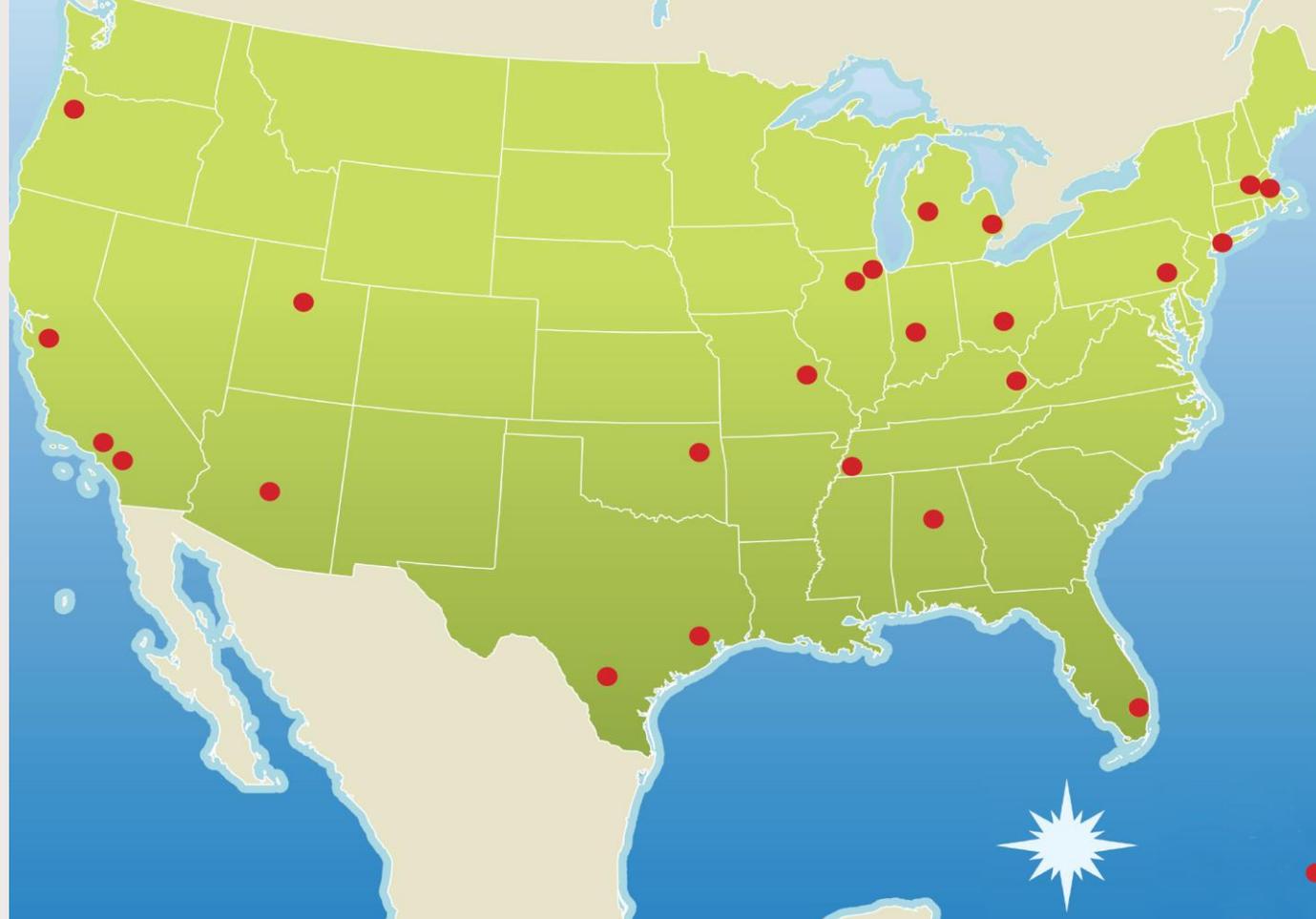




## ALICIA FEIS OD, FAAO

- President-Associated Schools and Colleges of Optometry
- Dean-Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University
  - Interdisciplinary graduate medical university
- Residency trained and practicing optometrist
- 15 years of experience in optometric education



ASCO

*23 accredited optometry programs (2 additional colleges in in pre-accreditation stages)*

**Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)**

*A competency-based model guides training for over 1,700 optometry graduates annually*



### Explore by Area of Study

[Dental Medicine](#)

[Graduate Studies](#)

[Health Sciences](#)

[Optometry](#)

[Osteopathic Medicine](#)

[Pharmacy](#)

[Podiatric Medicine](#)

[Veterinary Medicine](#)

# MEDICAL SCHOOL/OPTOMETRY SCHOOL

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4 years bachelors degree

4 years medical school

1 year- hands on general clinical training

3 years- Ophthalmology Residency

1-2 years fellowship (optional)

4 years bachelors degree

4 years of optometry school

Focused on the eye

Ocular disease management

Skills for an eye exam or  
minor surgical procedures

1 year residency (optional)

# OPTOMETRY SCHOOL

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Basic Science Clinical Foundations first two years

Ocular Disease Management for two years

Specialized areas of the eye for 2 years

2 years of patient care under supervision

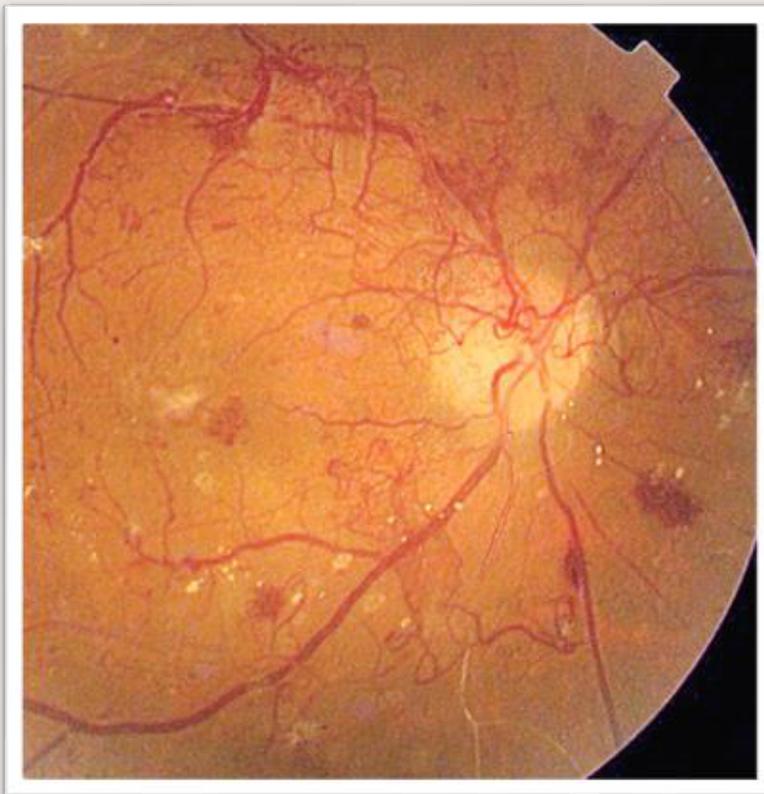
Skills practiced with classmates, standardized patients or patients in clinic through out the 4 years of training

**3 National Board Examinations:**

Part I: Applied Basic Sciences

Part II: Patient Assessment and Management

Part II: Patient Education and Patient Skills



# SCOPE OF CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

## Diagnosis and Management

*Optometrists diagnose and manage complex ocular diseases including glaucoma and diabetic eye issues.*

## Medication and Patient Care

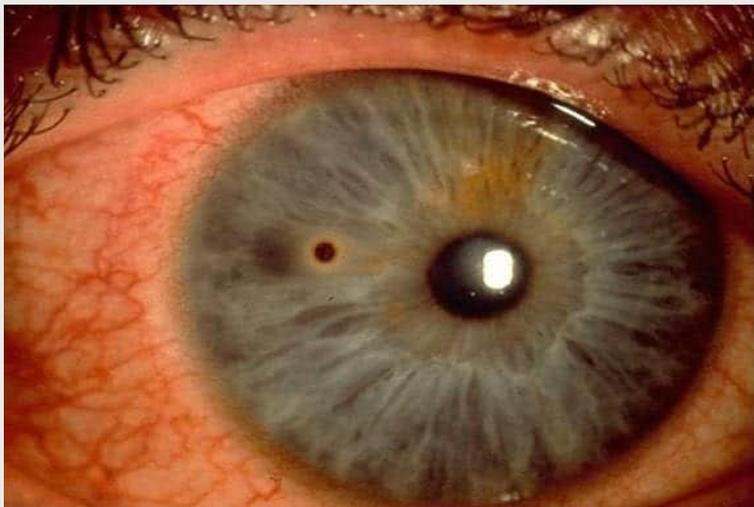
*They prescribe medications and co-manage pre- and post-operative patients for eye conditions.*

## Training and Certification

*Optometrists undergo rigorous training and national exams to ensure standardized clinical competencies.*

## Continuing Education

*Ongoing education requirements in every state reinforce optometrists' expertise and patient safety.*



# TRUST IN EDUCATION AND EXPERTISE

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## At Midwestern University: Medical Curriculum first year

1.5 hours lecture specific to the eye

1.5 hours lab on simulators (eye and ear)

1.5 hours lab on fundoscopy

3 hours of the 4.5 hours is delivered by  
Optometry faculty

Optometrists currently manage several pre and post operative complications with ophthalmology on various procedures

# 2019 CHANGES TO CURRICULUM

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2019 standardized language about surgical procedures were put into place by the ACOE for all schools and college of optometry



# EYE-FOCUSED DOCTORAL CURRICULUM

## **Comprehensive Biomedical Foundations**

*Curriculum starts with core biomedical sciences including anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology relevant to eye health.*

## **Advanced Ocular Training**

*Specialized courses cover ocular disease management, pharmacotherapy, contact lenses, and ophthalmic procedures.*

## **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

*Optometry faculty collaborate with medical school faculty to teach ocular anatomy and disease, reflecting professional trust.*

## **Competency-Based Progression**

*Students demonstrate mastery through simulation, supervised clinical practice, and assessments before advancing.*

# COMPETENCY CHECKLIST

Patient Selection and Informed consent

Ocular anatomy and pathophysiology

Aseptic injection technique

Use of topical and peri-ocular agents

Complication prevention recognition and immediate management;

Documentation; and Referral criteria.

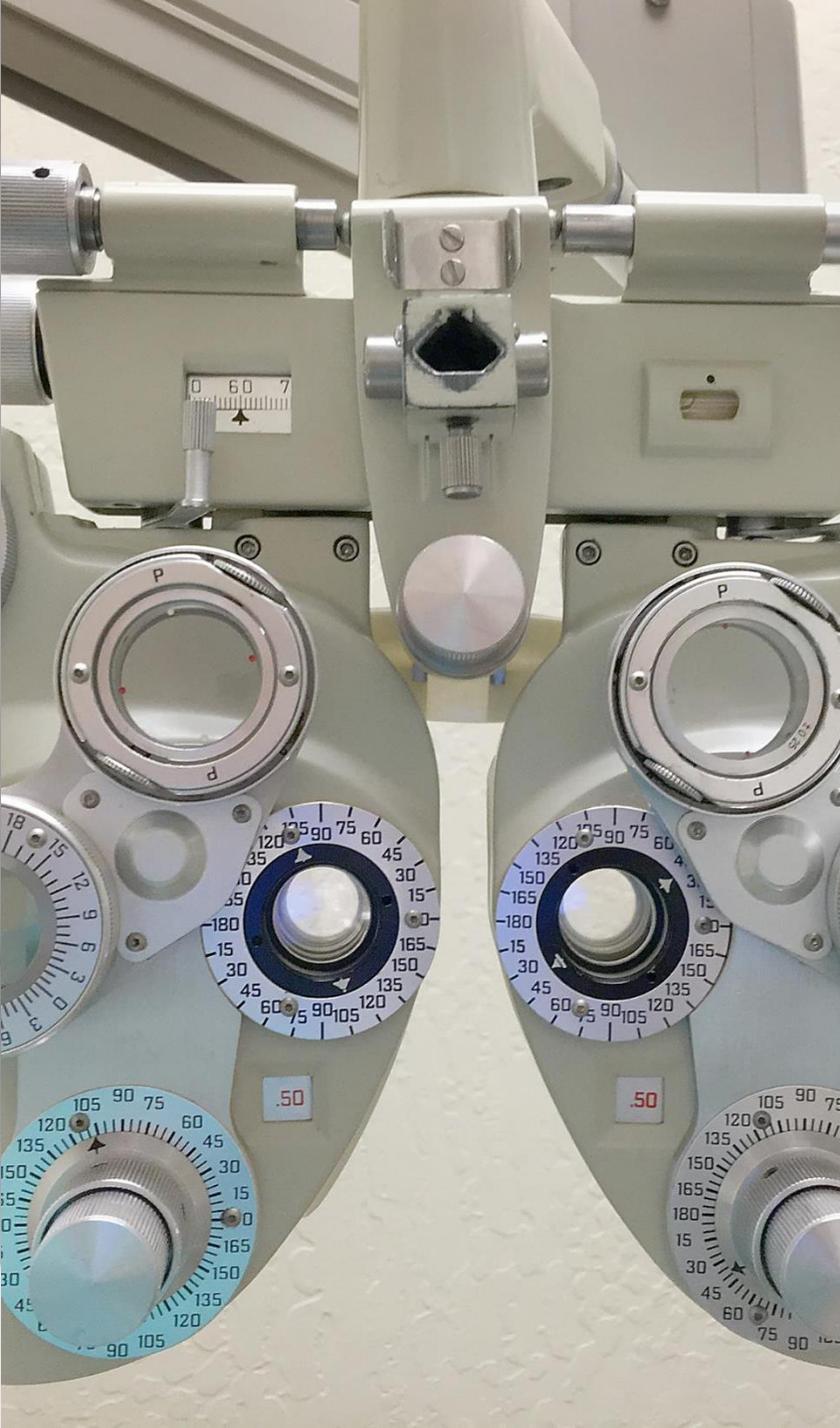
Didactic Learning

Practiced in laboratory and simulation

Verified with testing and standard assessments BOTH in classroom and lab

Observation in clinic





# NATIONAL ASCO COMPETENCY PROGRESSION

## Competency-Based Framework

*ASCO Framework guides a standardized, competency-based progression from theory to clinical practice for optometry students.*

## Broad Scope of Practice

*Programs train students to the highest scope of practice allowed nationally, not limited to state regulations.*

## Curriculum and Technology Updates

*Annual curriculum reviews incorporate evolving standards, technology, and expanded practice scopes in optometric education.*

## Comprehensive Course Content

*Courses include laser physics, ocular pharmacology, evidence-based practice, and hands-on procedural training for safe care.*



# COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO PATIENT CONTACT

## **Simulation in Optometric Training**

*Simulation-based education ensures students achieve procedural competence before live patient contact.*

## **Skills Assessed in Simulation**

*Students demonstrate aseptic technique, laser safety, anesthesia, wound management, injections, and emergency response.*

## **Objective Evaluation Process**

*Faculty use standardized checklists aligned with national frameworks to objectively measure readiness.*

## **Ensuring Patient Safety**

*Simulation guarantees students develop verified skills despite legal restrictions on live procedures.*



# SUPERVISED ROTATIONS AND PROCEDURAL OBSERVATION

## **Clinical Exposure in Teaching Clinics**

*Students gain hands-on experience in high-volume clinics working alongside full-time ophthalmologists for advanced procedure insights.*

## **Expanded-Scope Rotations**

*Students complete rotations in expanded-scope states to observe and participate in procedures beyond local scope restrictions under supervision.*

## **Building Clinical Reasoning Skills**

*Observation, guided participation, and case discussions develop students' clinical reasoning and situational awareness for safe care.*

## LASER SECTION CONTENT OUTLINE

LASER SECTION		
Content/Skills	Multiple-Choice Portion* 50 items 60 minutes	Clinical Skills Portion 40 minutes
Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty	35% (approx. 18 items)	31%
Laser Peripheral Iridotomy	30% (approx. 15 items)	31%
YAG Capsulotomy	35% (approx. 18 items)	38%

## SURGICAL SECTION CONTENT OUTLINE

SURGICAL SECTION			
Content	Multiple-Choice Portion* 50 items 60 minutes	Skills	Clinical Skills Portion 30 minutes
Suturing	19% (approx. 10 items)	Suturing	30%
Eyelid Surgery	31% (approx. 16 items)		
Injections	24% (approx. 12 items)	Chalazion Excision	70%
Anesthesia	26% (approx. 13 items)		



# ENHANCED REGULATORY SAFEGUARDS

## Specialty Credentialing

*S.64 mandates specialty credentials and national exams to ensure practitioner qualifications for eye procedures.*

## Supervised Training

*Supervised preceptorship with documented sign-off ensures practitioners complete hands-on training under expert guidance.*

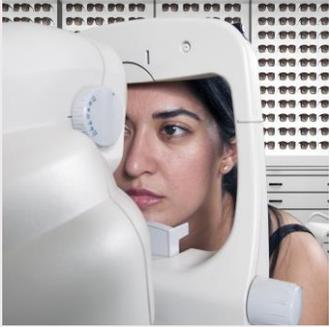
## Patient Safety Measures

*Adverse event reporting and scope restrictions protect patients by limiting procedures to low-risk office-based interventions.*

## Access to Care

*The safeguards improve access to necessary eye care, especially in underserved and rural areas of Vermont.*

# ALIGNMENT OF TRAINING AND PUBLIC SAFETY



## Competency-Based Training

The training model emphasizes competency-based education with simulation and supervised practice for optometrists.



## Measured Scope Expansion

Legislation ensures careful expansion of optometrists' scope with structured transition and ongoing oversight.



## Patient Safety and Access

The bill supports patient access while maintaining strong safety standards through rigorous education.