

Scholarship Application

THE BERNARD AND SELMA BROWN OPTOMETRY SCHOLARSHIP FOR VETERANS FUND

Scholarship Background

Bernard Brown '49, OD '50 began his college career at the University of Oklahoma, attending through an Army program that was unfortunately cancelled one month later. Although he qualified to serve as an instructor in the Army Air Corps—the forerunner to the U.S. Air Force—he was reassigned to the infantry and ended up fighting in Europe during World War II. He earned a Purple Heart—the honor nobody wants to receive—when he was wounded by shrapnel while fighting in France. The French government awarded Dr. Brown the French Legion of Honor (Order of Legion d'Honneur), France's highest award for military merit.

After the war, in 1946, Bernard married the love of his life, Selma Nepom, with whom he had corresponded while away fighting. They used his G.I. Bill benefits to enroll together at Willamette University in his hometown of Salem, only the second married couple ever to do so. In 1948, Bernard transferred to Pacific to enter the optometry program and follow his father into the optometry profession.

Bernard graduated from Pacific's optometry program in 1950 and set up a practice in Salem that same year. The Salem Eye Clinic, which he named his practice, flourished, and he worked there until he retired in 2007. Bernard's son, Jordan, who joined his father's practice in the mid-1970s, now runs the Salem Eye Clinic.

Pacific University's College of Optometry has a long history with educating former GIs and active duty service members. Bernard Brown has established this scholarship to honor their legacy.

Eligibility

This scholarship is open to all current optometry students in good academic standing who have been honorably discharged from one of the branches of the United States Military, as well as those still serving on either active duty or in one of the reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces.

2020 Award: up to \$4,000 financial aid (depending on number of eligible applicants)

Recipient(s) will be selected by Deans Horn, Kinoshita and Rymer at the beginning of fall term, 2020

To apply, please complete this section:

Student Name: _____

OD Class: _____

Please describe your connection with the U.S. Military:

Application Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2020

Please submit a copy of your DD214 and/or discharge paperwork to validate honorable discharge, or if active duty, a copy of your current orders, and this completed application form to:

Marcie Brown at marcieb@pacificu.edu