



# *College of Optometry*

*Application for*

**Master of Science | Doctor of Philosophy  
in  
Vision Science Graduate Program**

*Fall Entry 2018*

*Pacific University College of Optometry  
Application for Vision Science Graduate Program  
Fall Entry 2018*

Application Fee: \$40.00 (U.S. funds) *Check or money order payable to Pacific University*  
Application Cycle: September 15, 2017 – March 15, 2018  
**Priority Application Deadline: January 15, 2018**  
**Final Application Deadline: March 15, 2018**

Thank you for your interest in Pacific University College of Optometry Vision Science Graduate (VSG) program. The VSG program offers two degrees: Master of Science in Vision Science (MSVS) and Doctor of Philosophy in Vision Science (PhDVS). Applicants must have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution to be eligible for admission. Fulfillment of the prerequisite requirements, and coursework appropriate to the areas of vision and human science are preferred.

The accuracy, completeness, and neatness of your application are determining factors in the admission decision. Failure to submit a complete and accurate application may result in disqualification for admission. The Vision Science Graduate Programs Committee will not evaluate an incomplete application.

Submitting your application on or before the priority deadline (by January 15) will allow you to be considered for an early interview. All applications submitted after the priority deadline will be scheduled for an interview in the spring after the final application deadline (March 15).

If you have questions regarding the application process once you have reviewed the instructions, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at [gradadmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@pacificu.edu) or 1-800-933-9308.

**MAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:**

*Pacific University  
Office of Graduate Admissions  
190 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97123*

**EMAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:**

**[gradadmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@pacificu.edu)**

**PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**  
**Master of Science | Doctor of Philosophy**  
**in Vision Science Program**  
**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Completed Application Form**

Type or print clearly all information requested on the Vision Science Graduate Program application form. Your signature is required to validate the information you provide.

**Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) or Resume**

**Letters of Recommendation**

Obtain two letters of recommendation from individuals who know you well and can comment objectively about your qualifications for graduate level study and research. At least one letter must be from a professor who has taught you in college.

Please ask the recommenders to write you a **Letter of Reference** and fill out **the Reference Form** available on the website.

The letters must be submitted on official letterhead with the written signature of the recommender.

Letters must be submitted using one of the following methods:

- Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope to each recommender. Ask them to enclose the Letter of Recommendation and the Reference Form in the envelope, sign it across the seal, and return the envelope to you. You should mail these envelopes, with seals unbroken and the signatures intact, to Pacific University Office of Graduate Admission along with your other application materials.
- Ask the recommender(s) to send the letter and the Reference Form as a scanned email attachment directly to the Office of Graduate Admission at [gradadmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@pacificu.edu).

**Essay**

Type the essay as instructed in the application form. It will be evaluated as a sample of your writing ability.

**Prerequisites Worksheet**

- Carefully follow the instructions at the top of the Prerequisites Worksheet (page 7 of this application). Enter coursework you have completed or plan to complete by the start of the program in August 2018. All prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last seven years.
- Applicants with a bachelor's degree or higher in Optometry or related clinical fields from a regionally accredited institution are considered meeting the prerequisite criteria for the VSG program. Please check (mark with "x") the first line on the top of the Prerequisites Worksheet. Your official transcript or a copy of your evaluated foreign transcript from an accredited transcript evaluation service.

**Official Transcripts**

Submit official transcripts with all current grades from each college or post-secondary education program you have attended. A final transcript for any course(s) in progress will be required, including graduation verification if applicable, before an admitted student will be permitted to enroll in a VSG program.

Transcripts must meet one of the following criteria to be considered official:

- A printed transcript must contain the seal and signature/stamp of the registrar office of the institute, sealed inside an envelope (do not open this envelope), and include in the application packet which you will mail to Pacific University.
- An electronic transcript is a PDF file secured with a digital certificate by the institute or sent directly from the institute to Pacific.
- An official copy of your evaluated foreign transcript from an accredited transcript evaluation service.

### ❑ **International (non-Canadian) Credentials Evaluation**

Applicants that have attended an institution outside of North America are required to submit an official copy of your evaluated foreign transcript from an accredited transcript evaluation service. There are several third-party organizations that provide this service to students, like World Education Services (WES <http://www.wes.org/>). Course descriptions, course syllabi and/or a course catalog from your former degree program may be requested on a case-by-case basis.

### ❑ **English Language Proficiency**

- Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or other qualifying English language test (e.g., IELTS), are required for applicants whose first language is not English, except for applicants who have completed a bachelor's, master's, doctorate or professional degree at a regionally accredited institution where English is the only language of instruction, and English is one of the official languages. However, the Vision Science Graduate (VSG) program reserves the right to require a qualifying English language test score from *any* applicant, regardless of the applicant's country of origin.
- The minimum acceptable score for the paper-based TOEFL test is 550 (Internet-based test 80; IELTS 6.5). The official qualifying English language test score is preferred to be received by the application deadline. Offers of conditional admission may be given to qualified applicants who have not met the English Language Proficiency requirement prior to the application deadline, but the requirement must be met before matriculation into the program.

### ❑ **Official GRE scores** (required for PhD applicants; very strongly recommended for MS applicants)

Have the Educational Testing Service (**Institution Code 4601**, no department code) send an official copy of your GRE scores (General). GRE scores must have been taken within the last 5 years. MS applicants do not need to but are encouraged to submit GRE scores. The GRE is waived for:

- Applicants with (or enrolled in) a doctorate degree in optometry from an ACOE-accredited OD program in North America.
- Applicants with a master's or doctorate degree in a clinical discipline or a field related to optometry or vision science.
- Current MS students in Pacific University Vision Science Graduate program.
- Applicants who have graduated from an institute with special institutional memorandum agreement on GRE.
- The VSG Committee may choose to waive GRE requirement for some individuals in exceptional cases. Approval of the GRE waiver does not guarantee admission to the VSG program.

### ❑ **Application Fee**

Submit a **non-refundable** application fee of \$40.00 (U.S. funds). Make the check or money order payable to *Pacific University*. If someone other than you wrote the check, include your name on the check and indicate *Application for VSG Program* in the memo field. Do not send cash. If you need a receipt for this transaction please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions once you submit your application. If you are sending your application fee internationally, please use the following information to complete your transaction:

- Bank Name: US Bank
- US Bank's SWIFT Number: USBKUS44IMT
- Pacific University's Bank Account Number: 153 606 844 451

**☐ Interview**

The VSG Committee may contact you to schedule a video-conference interview. Applicants are required to have a Skype account for the video-conference. In rare cases when internet connection is not plausible, a phone interview may be conducted.

**If you have questions regarding the application process, please contact the Graduate Admissions Office directly at: [gradadmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@pacificu.edu) or via phone at 1-800-933-9308.**



Please type or print clearly in black/blue ink.

1. Applicant's Choice of Program (choose ONE only):

- Master of Science in Vision Science (MS VS)
Goal is PhD VS program, but will switch to the MS VS program if suggested by the VSG Committee
Doctor of Philosophy in Vision Science (PhD VS)

2. Applicant's Contact Information

Legal Name (First name, Full middle name, Last name), Nickname, Other names that may appear on records, Permanent address (Street, City, State, Zip Code/Postal Code, Country), Current address (if different from above; admission information will be sent to this address. valid until: / / ), Phone number(s), E-mail address, Skype Account (for video-conference Interview)

3. Applicant's Personal Data

Gender: Female Male, Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): / /, Have you attended Pacific University before? Yes, when? No, Have you applied to Pacific University College of Optometry before? Yes, when? No, Have you ever been dismissed from any school or college? Yes (explain on a separate sheet); No, How did you first hear about Pacific University?, How did you first hear of our PhD in Vision Science Program?, Who or what influenced you to apply?

4. Citizenship: U.S citizen; U.S. Permanent Resident (please attached a copy of your Green Card); Other citizenship

For U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident: Country of birth: Legal state of residence: How many years have you been living in the United States? Years and Months U.S. Social Security Number (Optional):

For Non-U.S. Citizen:

Country of birth: Country of Citizenship:

Native Language(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently live in the U.S.?  Yes, I've been living in US for \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months;  No

Do you currently have a U.S. visa?  Yes, visa type: \_\_\_\_\_ (please include a copy with the application);  No

**5. English Language Proficiency**

Is English your native language?  Yes  No (Please mark below how the English proficiency requirement has been satisfied.)

I have received (or will receive) a Bachelor's (or higher) degree from an English-speaking institution (\_\_\_\_\_) and would like this degree considered as a demonstration of English proficiency. Name of the institute

Qualifying TOEFL score: \_\_\_\_\_ (overall) Date taken (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifying IELTS score: \_\_\_\_\_ (overall) Date taken (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** (encouraged for MS applicants; required for PhD application unless waived by VSG Committee. See the instruction page for details.) (Send official scores directly from ETS to the Graduate Admission Office; Institution Code **4601**, no department code):

Date of Exam (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_; Scores: Verbal \_\_\_\_\_, Quantitative \_\_\_\_\_, Writing \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated date of test (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Waived with a graduate-level degree (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_) in the field of \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Academic Information:** List in chronological order all institutions of collegiate standing that you have attended (even if for only one course) during and after high school. You are responsible for submitting official transcripts for each college or university attended.

From Mo/Yr	To Mo/Yr	Name of College or University (complete name - no abbreviations)	City, State, Country	Major	Cumulative GPA (if available)	Degree Earned

**8. References:** List the name and address of each individual from whom you have requested a letter of recommendation to be sent to the Admission Office. Letters of recommendation must be of recent date. One **must** be from an instructor who has taught you in college.

Reference Type	Name	Complete Mailing/Email Address	Occupation
Academic Reference			
Reference 2			

**9. Work Experience:** List employment, starting from the present and dating back to the time in college (or the last five years.)

From Mo/Yr	To Mo/Yr	Organization	Position	Hrs/ week

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**10. Publication:** List articles published, talks and posters presented/accepted at a conference, or research work completed or in progress. List also other creative work that is relevant to vision science.

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**11. Academic Honors:** List awards, honors, or scholarships received on the basis of academic achievement. Attach a description which further explains the type of award, honor, or scholarship.

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**12. Languages/Skills:** List languages that you are fluent in other than English and special skills (e.g., computer programming, statistical software) that will help your study. Rate yourself Good/Fair/Poor in Language Writing/Reading/Speaking or in practical application of computer programming.

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**13. Extracurricular/Community Activities:** List the principal activities in which you have participated and indicate any leadership positions held, including membership in learned and professional societies.

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**14. Essay**

**Type a response to the essay question on a separate sheet of paper. Number the pages and make sure your name is on every page. Your statement is an important part of your application. It should be clear, concise, and well-crafted.**

- Describe your academic and career objectives. List how studying in our program may help you achieve your goal(s) and your tentative plan after graduation.
- Describe the field(s) in which you plan to study as well as your particular research interests. If applicable, list the name(s) of the faculty members in Pacific University College of Optometry that you would like to work with.
- In addition to the information listed within your application, please highlight any additional groundwork that you have completed in preparation for graduate study within the field of vision science. Examples include the following: research projects, and/or training in one or more of the following areas: mathematics, science, and computer programming.







**SIGNATURE REQUIRED:**

*Pacific University subscribes to the ethics and moral code that characterizes professionalism and feels that academic honesty is fundamental to the intellectual enterprise. Professional conduct, including academic honesty, is the expectation of all students. When a student applies for admission, the student agrees to these principles. I understand that this application becomes the property of Pacific University and is not returnable. I further understand that the application is accessible to faculty, staff, and members of the Vision Science Graduate Programs Committee.*

*I affirm that all the information contained in my application is factually correct and honestly presented. I have read and understand all application instructions and the Application Checklist.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:**

**Pacific University  
Office of Graduate Admissions  
190 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97123**

**Email: [gradadmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@pacificu.edu)**