

## Pacific University College of Optometry Master of Science in Vision Science Program

### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The Master of Science in Vision Science (MSVS) Program engages the student in advanced study and research of the visual system. Vision science is a broad and growing field. It encompasses numerous disciplines such as anatomy, optics, physiology, psychophysics, neuroanatomy, pathology, eye movements, perception, and color vision among others. The MSVS program provides students with a broad understanding of vision science and also an in depth knowledge of a particular area within the field. Each student will work with a faculty advisor to complete a thesis based upon original research. Faculty of the College of Optometry have expertise in numerous fields including contact lenses, ocular disease, binocular vision, sports vision, vision performance, and low vision, etc. The MSVS program offers students a rich variety of specialty areas within vision science.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The degree is open to students who have completed a bachelor degree in any field and meet the prerequisite requirements. The MSVS program will most likely interest those with a bachelor degree or greater in optometry, biology, psychology or a related area and aspire to be leaders in a patient care, academic, or industrial setting. The enhanced education and research skills will prepare the individual for success in those environments.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

#### Application deadline: March 15.

All applicants must have received a bachelors degree or higher, or are a candidate for a bachelor degree at the time of application.

Applicants also need to submit a completed application form, curriculum vitae, application essay, official transcripts from all college and universities attended, proof of meeting prerequisites, two letters of recommendation, and application fee (US\$40). International students need to provide valid evidence of English Language Proficiency (e.g., TOFEL score at 550 or better), although conditional admission may be offered, provided that proof of English Proficiency must be met before matriculation into the program by August of the same year. International credential evaluation is needed only upon request. GRE is not required at this time. Applicants with Bachelor degree or above in optometry, ophthalmology, or clinical optometry related fields may be considered as meeting the pre-requisites. After initial review, the MSVS program Committee will contact selected candidates for an interview.

Pacific University College of Optometry has established institutional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several academic programs worldwide. Graduates or current students of these programs may follow the admissions criteria provided in the individual MOU at your institution. Such agreement will specify the

extent to which students from that international program meet the prerequisites. The VS Graduate committee must approve the list of prerequisites contained in such agreements.

- Please see **Admissions Requirements** in our website for more details (<http://www.pacificu.edu/optometry/vs/prospective/procedures.cfm>).
- Pacific University has established institutional collaboration with Kikuchi College of Optometry in Nagoya, Japan. Interested applicants of Kikuchi graduates please check with Kikuchi University for details.



### EDUCATION AND TUITION

The master degree requires two years, or 6 semesters, of study, including 42 semester hours of course credit, clinic-observation experience, and a research project with a written thesis.

In recognition of extensive education that optometry graduates receive in vision science, students with a doctorate degree in optometry (OD) or currently matriculated in Pacific University College of Optometry may be able to complete the MS requirements concurrent with the OD program or with 1 year (3 semesters) of study in addition to their OD degree. (The tuition cost is \$1,184 per credit hour for the academic year of 2014-2015. The estimated tuition for all 6 semesters is about US\$45,000.)

### CAREER PATHS AND PROSPECTS

Vision Science is foundational for the profession of optometry and also permeates many other fields. The objective of the MSVS program is to provide advanced education and scientific research experiences in the field of vision. The program equips students to be professional vision scientists by enhancing their knowledge and skills in designing, performing, and evaluating vision research and analyzing research data. Our goal is to prepare students for careers in vision care, academic teaching or research, and industries that rely on academic strength and focus on research and application of vision science. Following completion of the program, graduates will find themselves well-prepared to take on career paths such as:

- Teaching and/or research in an academic setting, particularly to those who have or wish to pursue higher degrees in vision science;
- Clinical positions with sharpened skills in case study;
- Working in industry to develop or evaluate products or clinic tools.
- Working with electronic or entertainment industries to develop viewing devices, create visual stimuli, video games or visual learning materials, and design effective and comfort viewing environments.
- Working in government sectors, to develop public health and occupational policies or regulations regarding vision in the workplace and quality of life.



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Comprehensive Education,  
Basic Science, Clinical Care,  
Practical Research, Cutting-Edge Technology



Pacific University  
College of Optometry  
2043 College Way  
Forest Grove, OR 97116, USA

Graduate & Professional Admissions Office  
1-800-933-9308; 1-503-352-7217

[www.pacificu.edu](http://www.pacificu.edu); [GradAdmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:GradAdmissions@pacificu.edu)

### CONTACT US

For additional information on application for the MSVS Program, please contact the Graduate Admission Office by email [GradAdmissions@pacificu.edu](mailto:GradAdmissions@pacificu.edu) or call +1-800-933-9308 .

Pacific University College of Optometry is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association.

Founded in 1849, consistently recognized as one of America's best colleges by U.S. News & World Report, and named "Best Western College" by The Princeton Review, Pacific University is a private institution that offers undergraduate programs in Business, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and graduate/professional programs in Optometry, Education, and Health Professions. Today the University enrolls nearly 3,500 students from all 50 states and about 30 foreign countries, and strives to provide education of exceptional quality and prepare students for service to a changing community, nation, and world.