

Michigan College of Optometry

Internal Scholarship Opportunities

- To be considered for any scholarship in which you meet the criterion for, apply from January 1 to March 1st with the general optometry scholarship application at: <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/scholarship/Incoming/myscholarships.htm>
- The MCO Scholarship and Awards Committee will determine the recipients based on those from the information in your application

Opportunities for incoming 1st year students

Charles G. Peterson and Dorothy E. Peterson Memorial Scholarship

- Eligibility:* First year student
Criteria: -3.2 GPA or higher
-Financial need
-Preference to non-Michigan residents
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Dr. Donald H. Lakin Optometry Endowed Scholarship

- Eligibility:* First year student
Criteria: -Financial need
-Student in good standing in the Optometry program
3.5 or higher GPA

Dr. Robert and Kim Buckingham Endowed Scholarship

- Eligibility:* Incoming first year student
Criteria: -3.0 or higher GPA
-Full-time student
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Frank A. Muehlenbeck Memorial Scholarship

- Eligibility:* Incoming first year student
Criteria: -3.0 GPA
-No application necessary
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Hinkley & Casselman Families Endowment

- Eligibility:* Incoming first year student (automatically renewable for 3 additional years)
Criteria: -Preference given to current/former FSU Honors Program students or FSU student with high GPA
-Admissions Committee makes selection

John E. Christie Memorial Scholarship

- Eligibility:* Any student
Criteria: -Preference to student of color
-3.0 GPA
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Michigan College of Optometry Alumni Endowment

- Eligibility:* Incoming first year student

Criteria: -Minimum 3.0 GPA
-No application necessary
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness (MFVA-MCO)

Eligibility: First year student
Criteria: -3.5 or higher GPA
-High OAT score
-Resident of Michigan
-No application necessary
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Robert E. Brand Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Incoming first year student
Criteria: -Financial need
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Robert “Bob” Carter Scholarship

Eligibility: First year student
Criteria: -Financial need
-No application necessary
-Admissions Committee makes selection

The Damari Family Scholarship for Optometry

Eligibility: Incoming first year student (automatically renewable for 3 additional years)
Criteria: -3.0 GPA
-Admissions Committee makes selection

The Dr. Bradley and Mrs. Catherine Taylor Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility: Incoming first year student (automatically renewable for 3 additional years if recipient remains enrolled full-time with a minimum 3.0 GPA)
Criteria: -3.0 GPA
-Financial need not required.
-Preference given to a student who has shown the initiative in developing and/or participating in programs aimed at improving health outcomes in individuals at the local/state/national/global level.
-Admissions Committee makes selection

The MCO Family Scholarship

Eligibility: Incoming first year student
Criteria: -3.5 GPA
-OAT score of 340 or higher
-Demonstrated leadership skills
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Weeks-Lakin Scholarship

Eligibility: Incoming first year student
Criteria: -3.2 or higher GPA
-Financial need a consideration
-No application necessary
-Admissions Committee makes selection

Opportunities for 2nd year students

Dr. Henry R. Racki Optometry Scholarship Endowment Scholarship

Eligibility: Second year student

Criteria: -Preference to students who have demonstrated interest in liberal arts and/or are residents of Macomb County, Michigan
-No application necessary
-Awards Committee makes selection

Hodge Family Optometry Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility: Second year student

Criteria: -Financial need
-In good standing in the Optometry program. If no qualified student's, recipient shall be a student in good standing in the Pharmacy program.
-Preference shall be given to students who volunteer in their community.

Opportunities for 3rd year students

Dr. Jack W Bennett Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Third year student

Criteria: -Awards Committee makes selection

Dr. Joseph D. Sasaki Scholarship

Eligibility: Third year student

Criteria: -Awards Committee makes selection

Dr. Robert Van Hoven Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Third year student

Criteria: -Awards Committee makes selection

Frederick W. Kellogg Scholarship

Eligibility: Third year student

Criteria: -3.0 GPA or higher
-Financial need
-Awards Committee makes selection

Opportunities for all students

Dr. Paul E. Borton Scholarship

Eligibility: Full-time student

Criteria: -3.0 minimum GPA

Dr. Merrill R. Murray Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Full-time student

Criteria: -3.00 GPA or higher
-First preference given to student who attained their primary and or secondary education in Mecosta County, Michigan or Henry Country, Indiana

Dr. Robert T. Kocembo Optometry Scholarship Endowment

Eligibility: Full-time student
Criteria: -2.75 GPA or higher
-Unmet financial need
-Awards Committee makes selection

Pole Family Scholarship Endowment

Eligibility: Full-time student
Criteria: -2.75 or higher GPA
-Financial need is required
-Awards Committee makes selection

Pole Family Scholarship Endowment

Eligibility: Full-time student
Criteria: -3.0 or higher GPA
-Demonstrated high ideals of professionalism and leadership
-Awards Committee makes selection

Friar Family Endowed Scholarship in Optometry

Eligibility: Full-time student
Criteria: -3.9 or higher GPA
-Preference to students with financial need
-Awards Committee makes selection

Opportunities for 4th year students
Awards for 4th year are selected during capstone

Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Highest GPA
-Associate Dean and Dean of MCO make selection

Michigan College of Optometry Academic Recognition Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Highest GPA

George N. Holcomb Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Graduating optometry student who intends to pursue further education in either a graduate or residency program in preparation for a career in optometric education and/or research.
-Written proposal detailing postgraduate plans and professional goals that are consistent with the intent of the scholarship
-Awards Committee makes selection

Walter C. Betts Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Intends to pursue further education in either postgraduate or residency program
-Awards Committee makes selection

Eschenbach Low Vision Student Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Interest in low vision considered
-Awards Committee makes selection

Kurt Hellthaler Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Awards Committee makes selection

William Feinbloom Low Vision Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: - Interest in low vision considered
-Awards Committee makes selection

The Volk Optical Low Vision Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: - Interest in low vision considered
-Awards Committee makes selection

Excellence in Low Vision Achievement Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: Interest in low vision considered
Awards Committee makes selection

College of Optometrists in Vision Development Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy

Eligibility: Fourth year students
Criteria: - BV/VT interest considered
-Awards Committee makes selection
http://www.covd.org/?page=Grants_Awards

Good-Lite Equipment Scholarship Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: - BV/VT interest considered
-Awards Committee makes selection

AOF J&J Award for Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Interest in contact lens considered
-Awards Committee makes selection

GP Lens Institute Clinical Excellence Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: Interest in contact lens considered

Daniel Peterson Memorial Award

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -No application necessary
-OSG representatives makes selection

Michigan College of Optometry Senior Research Awards

Eligibility: Fourth year student
Criteria: -Research paper
-1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners

Michigan College of Optometry

External Scholarship Opportunities

- External scholarships require student application to funding source
- The information below includes web-site and criteria to apply

Opportunities for 2nd or 3rd year students

J. Pat Cummings Scholarship

Eligibility: Second- and third-year students
Criterion: -Member of American Academy of Optometry
-Demonstrates the ideal eye care standards of practice, achievement in both academic performance and extracurricular activities and participation in professional pursuits
Deadline: Application materials to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by August 25
Information: <https://aaopt.org/awards-grants/student-awards/>

Walman Optical Company Scholarship Program

Eligibility: Second or third year
Criteria: -US citizen
-Supply Scholarship America with complete transcripts when requested
-Scholarship America selects winner
Deadline: April 10
Where to apply: www.walmanoptical.com/files/walmanpdfs/WALMNOC_BRO_APP.pdf
<https://www.walman.com/about-us/scholarships>

Opportunities for 3rd year students

American Optometric Foundation InfantSEE® Scholarship Grant

Eligibility: Third year student
Criteria: -Member of AOSA and AOA
-Student in good academic standing
-Submit paper (not to exceed 1000 words)
-Video (not to exceed 3 minutes)
Deadline: Application materials to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by October 17
Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by October 31
Information: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/endowment-fund/scholarship-grant-information/infantsee-scholarship-grant-information/>

Dr. Seymour Galina Grant

Eligibility: Third Year Student
Criteria: -Member of AOSA and AOA
-Financial need
-Paper- maximum 1500-see webpage for paper topic
Deadline: Application materials to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by October 17
Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by October 31
Information: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/endowment-fund/scholarship-grant-information/dr-semour-galina-scholarship-grant-information/>

Bernard Maitenaz Scholarship, Sponsored by Essilor

Eligibility: Third Year Student
Criterion: -Member of the AOSA and AOA
-In good academic standing
-Demonstrate financial need
-Submit Essay, Video, and letters of recommendation to MCO Awards and Scholarships Committee
Deadline: Application materials to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by October 17
Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by October 31
Information: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/endowment-fund/scholarship-grant-information/bernard-maitenaz-scholarship-sponsored-by-essilor/>

Dr. Larry Alexander Scholarship

Eligibility: Third Year Student
Criterion: -Member of AOSA and AOA
-In good academic standing
-Demonstrate financial need
-Submit 1000 word essay
Deadline: Application materials to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by October 17
Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by October 31
Information: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/endowment-fund/scholarship-grant-information/dr-larry-j-alexander-scholarship/>

Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness (MFVA-MOA)

Eligibility: Third year student
Criteria: -3.0GPA
-Financial need
-Intent to practice in Michigan following graduation
- Application
-Transcript from Optometry College
-Letter of reference from optometry faculty member
Deadline: May 1
Where to apply: <https://www.themfva.org/scholarship-application>

VSP Scholarship Program

Eligibility: Third year student
Criteria: -Top half of class by GPA
-Commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry
-No application necessary, you will be contacted by Scholarship and Awards Committee if eligible
Deadline: August 15
Information: <https://aaopt.org/awards-grants/student-awards/>

Walmart/Sams Optical Scholarship

Eligibility: Third year student
Criteria: -3.0 minimum GPA
-Financial need
-Community practice desire and experience
-Business development competition-1. Teams of two students will first submit an entry form to Ramon Ralldo and then be sent a link to answer a Virtual Questionnaire via GreenJob showcasing "It's Your Practice, Your Community and Your Success".
2. A select number of teams will then develop and present their concept in the form of a presentation and business plan to a panel of judges at the Regional School Level Competitions. The presentation will be limited to twenty minutes with an additional ten minutes for a question and answer session.
3. There will be one winning team per Region, eight total.
4. The winning team from each Region will be invited to compete at the National Competition at the 2017 Optometry's Meeting
Deadline: February 4th entrance form submitted Ramon.Yalldo@walmart.com

Opportunities for 3rd or 4th year students

ASCO Student Award in Clinical Ethics

Eligibility: Third- and fourth-year student
Criteria: -Essay describing a patient-based case study- The essay must describe and discuss the ethical theories and values that were used in the decision-making process and address relevant state laws relating to the case (if applicable)
Deadline: Application to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by Feb 15
Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by March 1
Information: <http://www.opted.org/about-asco/special-awards/student-award-in-clinical-ethics/>

Opportunities for 4th year students

Alcon 4th Year Student Scholarship Award-Case Study

Eligibility: Fourth Year Student

Criteria: -Case Report
- MCO Scholarship and Awards Committee determines nominee to submit

Deadline: Case Report to MCO Scholarship and Awards Committee by February 29
Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by March 15

American Optometric Association Dr Pat & Patrick Cummings Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Fourth Year Student

Criteria: -Resume to summarize academic accomplishments and service
-Paper on specified topic-(criteria subject to change based on company requirements) Dr. Pat Cummings was passionate about improving the overall health of the public. How do you exemplify this passion and what are your goals in the area of public health? Do you plan to take a leadership role in optometry? Please tell us about leadership roles you have had in optometry school and your future leadership goals.
-Awards Committee determines one nominee to submit

Deadline: Application materials to MCO Scholarship & Awards Committee by October 17

Scholarship and Awards Committee selection submitted by October 31

Information: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/endowment-fund/scholarship-grant-information/dr-pat-patrick-cummings-scholarship/>

Award of excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care

Eligibility: Fourth Year Student Clinicians

Criteria: -Clinicians who have demonstrated excellence in contact lens patient care during their optometric education.

Deadline: April 1st

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://www.aao.org/education/scholarships-students)

VSP and AAOF Practice Excellence Scholarship

Eligibility: Entering fourth year

Criteria: -Clinical Performance:
-Candidates must excel in delivering primary eye care services to clinical patients.
-Academic Performance: Candidates must have a grade point average that ranks in the top half of the class
-Student should have a commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry.
-Participation in the private practice or practice management club on campus recommended with special consideration given to students who have served a leadership role.
-At the discretion of the selection committee, the selection process may include a written essay that encompasses the independent practice goals of the applicant.

Deadline: -July 1st-August 6th

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://www.aao.org/education/scholarships-students)

Opportunities for all MCO students

Vistakon Award for Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Nominations by contact lens faculty to Scholarship and Awards Committee

Vincent Salierno Scholarship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Must be an Academy member
-Must have financial need
-Must have and maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://www.aao.org)

Travel Grant for all MCO students

AAO Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Accomplishment or potential in optometric or vision research
-Academic abilities, including clinical abilities if relevant
-One letter of recommendation is required
- Applicants must have had an abstract accepted as a first presenter/author of a scientific paper or poster.

Deadline: -June 21- July 22

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://www.aao.org)

AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grant

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Students are challenged to raise \$750 through fundraising initiatives and/or gifts from fellow students. For every \$750 raised, the AAOF will then match that amount. (Ex. If \$1,500 is raised, the AAOF will match \$1,500 and award four travel fellowships). These travel fellowships will be awarded for the student to attend the Academy annual meeting for that year.
-Finalists must be student members of AAO
- Institutions and industry are prohibited from contributing
-Students should donate only what they personally can afford

Deadline: -August 5th

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://www.aao.org)

Brazelton Low Vision Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Awarded to a student primarily for accomplishment or potential in optometric Low Vision research. Academic abilities, including clinical abilities if relevant, are considered. One letter of recommendation is required.

Deadline: -June 21st-June 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://www.aao.org)

David Lewerenz Low Vision Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Awarded to an optometry student or resident for their work in the field of Low Vision.

Deadline: -June 21st-July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

Edward I. Goodlaw Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Awarded to an optometry student or resident for their work in the field of Low Vision. If an appropriate application is not received in Low Vision in a particular year, an optometry student or resident in the field of Contact Lenses will be considered.

-Letter of recommendation is required

Deadline: -June 21st-22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

Frank W. Weymouth Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Accomplishments or potential in optometric or vision research
- Academic abilities, including clinical abilities if relevant, are considered.
-One letter of recommendation is required.

Deadline: -June 21st -July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

International Myopia Travel Grants

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Member of AAO
-Submitted a Scientific abstract relating to myopia for Academy 2023 New Orleans.
-CV with applicant's education and clinical, research, and employment experience
-Personal statement, including interest in myopia (1 page, double-spaced, no smaller than 11pt font)
-References

Information: [Optometrists & Vision Scientists – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

Irvin M. Borish Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Accomplishment or potential in optometric or vision research.
-Academic abilities, including clinical abilities if relevant, are considered.
-Applicants must have had an abstract accepted as a first presenter/author of a scientific paper or poster.
-One letter of recommendation is required.

Deadline: -June 21st-July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

Michael G. Harris Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Awarded to the current President of the American Optometric Student Association

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

N. Rex Ghormley Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: - Academic abilities, including clinical abilities if relevant, are considered
- Selection as a presenter of a scientific paper or a poster is required.
- One letter of recommendation also is required.

Deadline: -June 21st-July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](https://www.aaopt.org)

NJAO Chapter Student Travel Fellowship Grant

Eligibility: All students

Criteria: -Have an accepted abstract in the Academy Scientific Program
Deadline: -June 21st -July 22nd
Information: - [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)

Travel Grant/Fellowship for 3rd or 4th year students

Bence Family Leadership Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Third- or fourth-year optometry student

Criteria: -500-word essay describing any leadership experience they have acquired to date and outline how they plan to use this experience in future leadership roles in the profession and in their practice and community.
-Two letters of recommendation are required from Fellow in good standing with at least one being a faculty member of their school.

Deadline: June 21st- July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)

Elmer H. Eger Memorial Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Third-or fourth year student

Criteria: -Candidates professional goal is to be in a private practice.
-One-page statement about why the candidate is pursuing a career in private practice.

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)

Kirschen Family Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Third- or fourth-year student

Criteria: - Professional goal is pursuing a career in private practice
-Member of AAO
- Submit a one-page statement
- Selection as a presenter of a scientific paper or a poster is desired but not required.
- One letter of recommendation is required

Deadline: -June 21st-July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)

Lois Schoenbrun Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Third- or fourth-year student

Criteria: - Plans to pursue a career in private practice
-Member of the academy
-One letter of recommendation from a faculty member
- 500-word explanation about why they have chosen private practice; and a description of any acquired experiences enabling them to contribute to a future leadership role in the profession.

Deadline: -June 21st -July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)

Luxottica Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Third- or fourth-year students

Criteria: -Minimum GPA of 3.0
-Member of the Academy
-Presentation of a paper or poster at the Academy annual meeting is desired but not required.

Deadline: -June 21st -July 22nd

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)

Travel Grant/Fellowship for 2nd, 3rd or 4th year students

Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) Student Travel Fellowship

Eligibility: Second, third, or fourth year students.

*Criteria: -Applicants must be a current member of BSK
 -Submit an essay between 300-500 words.
 -Selection as a presenter of a scientific paper or poster is desired but not
 required.*

Information: [Students – American Academy of Optometry \(aaopt.org\)](http://aaopt.org)