

# INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

800 E. Atwater Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
(812) 855-1917  
[www.opt.indiana.edu](http://www.opt.indiana.edu)



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# School of Optometry

The IU School of Optometry is one of Indiana University's health profession schools and is located on the Indiana University Bloomington campus. The school has a strong clinical presence at its Indianapolis Eye Care Center near the IUPUI campus at 501 Indiana Avenue. It is expanding its clinical and research programs in cooperation with other IU health sciences programs, including the IU School of Medicine. The IU School of Optometry is also a collaborating partner with dentistry, medicine, nursing, allied health, public and environmental affairs, law, social work, and other schools and agencies in the graduate program in public health at IUPUI.

## Mission

The mission of the IU School of Optometry is to protect, advance, and promote the vision, eye care, and health of people worldwide by:

- Preparing individuals for careers in optometry, the ophthalmic industry, and vision science
- Advancing knowledge through teaching, research, and service.

## Degree Programs

The school offers one of the best programs in the country for the education of optometrists. The American Optometric Association defines an optometrist as a primary health care provider who examines, diagnoses, treats, and manages diseases and disorders of the visual system. Students in the four-year Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program study a rigorous curriculum that prepares them to provide outstanding eye care to all patients. The students learn to diagnose and treat patients with refractive errors, binocular vision problems, ocular diseases, and other eye-related problems. Practical experience is gained in the school's clinics in Indianapolis and Bloomington and on rotations to different clinical settings in and outside Indiana.

The school also provides education for professionals who complement the work of optometrists: opticians and optometric technicians. Students in the Optician/Technician program at the IU School of Optometry earn a two-year Associate of Science (A.S.) degree.

They learn how to test visual acuity, depth perception, and field of vision, and how to help people select eyewear and learn to care for contact lenses. They also learn how to fill optical prescriptions and make spectacles. Opticians and optometric technicians are a valuable part of the eye care team.

Students interested in research can join the graduate program in vision science and study for the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. This is an interdisciplinary program intended primarily for those who wish to prepare for teaching and/or research in the sciences related to vision. Students participate in research projects in such areas as ocular physiology, psychophysics, optics, corneal physiology, infant vision, contact lenses, and low vision. They work with world-renowned faculty members to add to the body of knowledge of the vision sciences.

## Clinics

The IU School of Optometry provides a broad range of clinical services for both the general public and the experience of its students. The **Atwater Eye Care Center**, located on the Bloomington campus, provides the public with primary vision care services, contact lens fitting and care, binocular vision diagnosis and treatment, and pediatric care.

**The Community Eye Care Center** is located on the west side of Bloomington. This busy clinic provides primary vision care, pediatric care, and experience in sports vision, low vision, and other aspects of vision care.

**The Indianapolis Eye Care Center**, located next to the IUPUI campus, provides primary eye care, contact lens care, low vision services, and pediatric care to the campus and to the general public.

**The IU Eye Optometry Clinic** is located in Carmel, Indiana. This clinic provides routine eye examinations, contact lenses, management of ocular disease, low vision services, and co-management of refractive surgery in conjunction with the IU School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology.

**The Guanajuato Eye Care Center** is located in the Hospital General in the city of Guanajuato, Mexico, and is operated in cooperation with Mexico's Department of Infants and Family. Optometrists and students at this clinic provide primary eye care.

**The Rural Clinics Program**, with support from the Indiana State Department of Health, provides eye and vision care services to under-served, low-income residents of rural areas in five southern Indiana counties.

## Teaching, Research, and Service

School of Optometry faculty members help to fulfill the school's mission by providing outstanding instruction. In addition, the school has excellent research facilities, both as part of its graduate program in vision science and as part of the Borish Center for Ophthalmic Research. There are many opportunities for students in both the doctor of optometry and graduate programs to participate in ongoing studies.

The school is also strongly committed to service for the general public and to the education of its students. Some of the activities include providing vision screenings to the homeless, eye care to uninsured/low-income patients, vision screenings in elementary schools, and helping to support new optometric education programs in other countries.

Students participate in many of these activities, on campus and in the community. Members of the School of Optometry community also travel with volunteers from organizations like Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity to underdeveloped countries to provide examinations and eyewear to needy persons. This outreach effort led to the establishment of the school's clinic in Guanajuato, Mexico. Faculty, students, and staff join together to bring vision care to all people.

## For more information

Visit our Web site at [www.opt.indiana.edu](http://www.opt.indiana.edu).

E-mail: [iubopt@indiana.edu](mailto:iubopt@indiana.edu)

For information about academic requirements, call (812) 855-1917 or write to:

Office of Student Administration  
Indiana University School of Optometry  
800 E. Atwater Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47405-3680

We welcome your visit and can provide advising appointments as well as tours of the School of Optometry and the Bloomington campus.