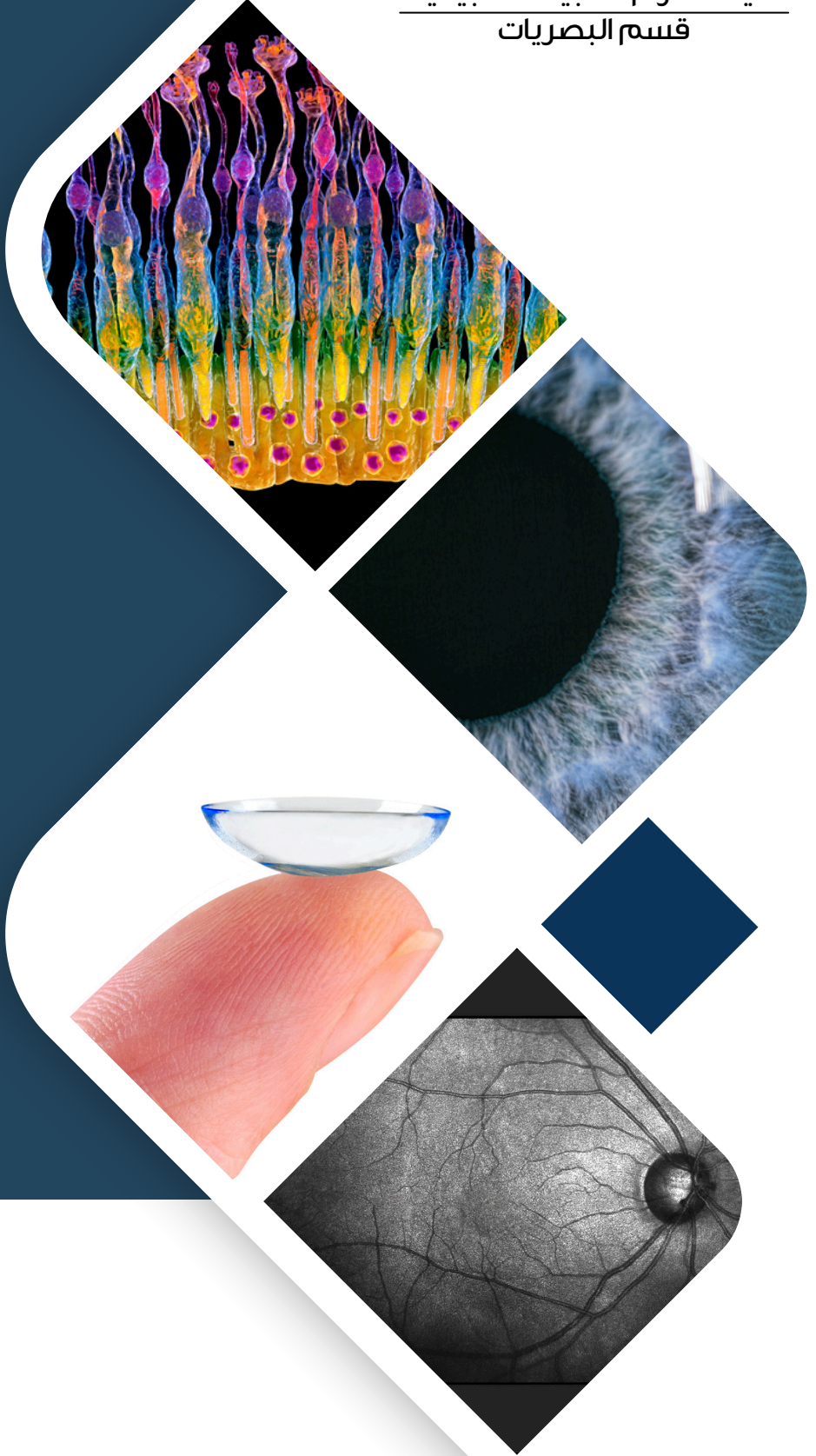


KING SAUD UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF APPLIED MEDICAL SCIENCES
OPTOMETRY DEPARTMENT

جامعة
الملك سعود
King Saud University



كلية العلوم الطبية التطبيقية
قسم البصريات



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OPTOMETRY HANDBOOK



+966114693537



<https://cams.ksu.edu.sa/en/opto>

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Vision and Mission of King Saud University

Vision

Global leadership and excellence at building a knowledge society

Mission

To provide distinguished education and produce innovative research that serves the community. Moreover, it contributes in building a knowledge economy by creating an environment that stimulates learning, intellectual creativity, optimal use of technology, and effective local and global partnerships.

Strategic Goals

- Creativity and innovation in scientific research
- Proficiency in academic programs and their outcomes
- Contributing to community service and improving the quality of life
- Supportive and enabling university governance
- Raising the efficiency of human resources at the university
- Developing self-revenues
- Diversification of investment and asset growth
- Increasing spending efficiency for a sustainable financial future

Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences

History

Optometry and Vision Sciences is one of the academic departments at the College of Applied Medical Sciences (CAMS) at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It has been established (in year 1989) to provide leadership in optometric education, practice and research and meet the Kingdom's need for qualified specialists with a Doctor of Optometry Degree. Optometry doctors (ODs) raise the level of patient care services in different ways, including but not limited to screening, diagnosing, and treating ocular conditions. They will contribute to the scientific and technical progress in the health sectors in Saudi Arabia.

Vision

Excellence, leadership and innovation in the field of optometry and vision sciences.

Mission

To prepare qualified, professional, national graduates in the field of optometry and vision sciences and contribute to serving the community by offering various learning programs and contributing to scientific research to the expectation of community, national and international standards

Goals

Goal 1: To graduate professionals who are competent and able to provide primary eye care services that are comparable to the best international standards in optometry.

Goal 2: Contribute to the Saudi Nationalization of the optometry sector and improve the quality of services provided in light of the Kingdom's vision of 2030.

Goal 3: Conduct research using evidence-based methods that contribute to the scientific advancement in the field and serve the community.

Goal 4: Collaborate with government institutions and actively participate in community service activities and initiatives to promote eye health and vision awareness.

Academic Programs Offered by the Department

The department offers three academic programs:

1. Opticianry technology program (2 years).
2. Undergraduate program: Optometry Doctor (OD) degree (6 years).
3. Postgraduate program: Master of Science in Optometry (MSc.) (2 years).

Opticianry Technology Program

The program contributes in the preparation of qualified national technical cadres with a diploma to work in the sector of selling and manufacturing eyeglasses, trained in an educational environment with international standards, encouraging community service and committed to the ethical values of the profession.

Optometry Doctor

The Optometry Doctor Program offers a comprehensive academic journey, beginning with a joint foundation academic year encompassing English language and health sciences courses. The core of the program unfolds across levels three to ten, comprising specialised Optometry courses. The internship year is a distinctive feature, providing 12 months of practical training in major hospitals offering students invaluable hands-on experience in real-world healthcare settings.

Master of Science in Optometry

The Master of Science program in Optometry contributes to the preparation of leading optometric cadres that can advance the educational process and research projects at universities and research centres. Furthermore, this program provides opportunities to those who desire to continue their postgraduate studies (PhD) in the future. The graduates of this program will contribute to the development of clinical skills and studies related to the assessment, diagnosis, and management of the visual system and vision problems.

Laboratories, Classrooms and Clinics

The Optometry department includes more than 70 optometry clinics, classrooms and laboratories.

Laboratories

- Refraction units lab.
- Optical coherence tomography (OCT) lab.
- Electro-retinography (ERG) lab.
- Corneal topography lab.
- Ultrasound lab.
- Visual field lab.
- Contact lens labs.
- Physics labs.
- Lenses dispensing lab.
- Binocular vision.
- Low vision.
- Corneal chair lab and electronic microscope lab (for research).

Clinics

- Primary eye care clinic.
- Binocular vision and vision therapy clinic.
- Low vision and rehabilitation clinic.
- Paediatric eye clinic.
- Contact eye clinic.
- Colour vision clinic.

Teaching Staff Members, Research and Community Service Activities

Teaching Staff Members

The optometry department includes 9 professors, 10 associate professors, 21 assistant professors, 16 lecturers, 9 demonstrators, 14 optometrists, and 5 opticians.

To explore the teaching staff members, please visit the website of the Optometry Department: <https://cams.ksu.edu.sa/en/opto>

Research Activity

Sixty published papers in the academic year 2022-2023 (More than 1950 citations). To explore the published research papers by the Optometry Department from 2016 up to 2021, please visit the website of the Optometry Department: <https://cams.ksu.edu.sa/en/opto>

Community Service activities

- Preparing seminars and public lectures for public education and orientation.
- Organising and supervising short courses and conferences for various community entities.
- Organising and supervising field visits by the department staff to the community.
- Organising and supervising visits to school students to introduce the department's capabilities and attract them to specialisation.
- Introducing the department's activities, the competencies and research capabilities of faculty members, and the laboratories and equipment available in the department by giving workshops and various media

Optometry Student Club

Vision

To raise awareness in society through educational initiatives on eye health and vision, as well as deepening the spirit of volunteer work among Optometry Doctor Students and refining their scientific and practical skills.

Mission

To educate society on the role and importance of the Optometry Doctor, and to increase their awareness on eye health and vision and to prepare a creative and influential generation of Optometry doctors in society.

Goals

1. To educate the community on the health and safety of the eye.
2. To conduct screening campaigns for early detection of eye problems.
3. To outline the role of an Optometry Doctor

Description of Optometry Student Club

The Doctor of Optometry Club is a student club that holds students specialising in Optometry. This club carries out volunteer work to serve the community, promote social responsibility, and contribute to the goals of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 in the voluntary and social aspects. The Kingdom aspires to reach a million volunteers by 2030. The Doctor of Optometry Club has achieved many achievements. The most important one was the award of the best student club at King Saud University during the years 2022 and 2023. The club also succeeded at being the first club to win "The Best Volunteer Work Award" at the university level. The club won the Best Event Award at the university for the year 2018 with the event "Blindness of Sight, but not Insight".

The role of the Doctor of Optometry Club is not limited to holding volunteer activities and achieving achievements. Instead, the club contributes to enriching the scientific and practical aspects of the students of the Optometry Department in general. It has also

contributed to and strengthened the research field by helping to collect samples in field activities. During the clinical field, the club refers cases to the clinics of the Department of Optometry at the College of Applied Medical Sciences and contributes to the screening of individuals in the community. The number of club members has reached approximately 300 male and female members from various regions inside and outside the Kingdom.

Student Regulations

Student regulations are divided into eight sections, which contain 36 articles. It is the responsibility of the student to explore Student Regulations Articles. Please visit <https://vrea.ksu.edu.sa/ar/node/3037>

Guidance and Counselling Services

The primary purpose of academic counselling is to facilitate the educational process for each student and to overcome obstacles through this important stage of the student's life. Thus, it is inevitable to appoint a Committee for Academic advising at the division level to regulate the counselling and then appoint a faculty member as an advisor for each grade level, who would be responsible for following up at this level until graduation.

Objectives of the Academic Counselling

- To facilitate the learning process through the active participation of students and enable them to:
 - Determine the educational objectives appropriate to their abilities and aspirations.
 - Improve their academic skills and facilitate the educational process.
 - Access academic information and guidance and increase awareness of the university's message, objectives, and regulations.
 - Participate in extra-curricular activities, discovery, and development of talent.
- To study delinquent and drop-out cases and try to reduce and treat these challenges.
- To guide and follow up with students during their study at the university.

Responsibility and Role of the Students

Students have a central role in the process of academic counselling. They have the responsibility to ask for counselling from the academic counsellor. This will assist them in developing study plans and achieving the highest return from the academic advisors.

Student must be encouraged to make use of contacts with their advisors by:

- Informing the students about the office hours of their academic advisors.
- Setting a date with the academic advisor, preferably to start the contact before each semester, and striving to identify those appointments early.
- Reviewing the college manual book, which explains all requirements of the department.
- Setting a target graduation date and consult with their academic counsellor.
- Sharing with the academic advisor to develop a syllabus with a schedule including what will be studied during the semester.
- Asking all questions that come to their mind. The academic advisor can help when a student has a clear vision of their plans.
- Bearing the responsibility for their academic progress. Where advice and guidance are important tools for success, but above all, students are primarily responsible for their success.

Students' Rights and Obligations at King Saud University

Welcome to King Saud University (KSU), where we prioritise the well-being, growth, and academic success of our students. As a student at KSU, you are entitled to certain rights that contribute to your overall educational experience. The following link outlines these rights to ensure that you are aware of the support and opportunities available to you during your time at the university:

https://sa.ksu.edu.sa/sites/sa.ksu.edu.sa/files/attach/lwthyq_wlqwd_njlyz_0.pdf

Complaints and Grievances

At King Saud University (KSU), a comprehensive system is in place to address students' complaints and grievances, ensuring a fair and transparent resolution process. This system is designed to foster an environment where students can voice their concerns,

seek resolutions, and contribute to the continuous improvement of the university experience. Key components of the system are outlined in the following link:

<https://daleel.ksu.edu.sa/sites/daleel.ksu.edu.sa/files/manuals/%D8%AF%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8.pdf>

Optometry Department Committees

The Optometry Department at KSU was established with the mission of enhancing the overall educational experience of optometry students and contributing to the advancement of the field. The department is comprised of experienced faculty members, professional optometrists, and admin staff. Several committees have been established that play a crucial role in the functioning and governance of the Optometry Department. This includes the following committees: Curriculum, Development & Quality Assurance, Recruitments, Demonstrators and Lecturers, Postgraduate Studies, Community Services and Continuing Education, Statistics and Information Technology, Strategic Plan, Scientific Research, Academic Advising, Timetables and Examination, Purchasing and Warehouse, Laboratories and Workplace Safety, Clinical Training, Internship and Graduate Affairs.

Master of Science in Optometry

The Master of Science program in Optometry contributes in the preparation of leading optometric cadres that can contribute to advancing the educational process and the research projects at universities and research centres. Furthermore, the program provides opportunities to those who desire to continue their postgraduate studies (PhD). The graduates of this program will contribute to the development of clinical skills and studies related to the assessment, diagnosis, and management of the visual system and vision complications.

Mission

The program aims to graduate students with a master's degree in Optometry Sciences, which qualifies the graduates to practice professionally in the field of Optometry and provide health services and scientific and clinical research to the expectation of community, national and international standards.

Goals

- Raise the level of service in the health and education sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by preparing highly qualified national cadres in optometry sciences.
- Encouraging scientific competencies of graduates through training on creativity and innovation in scientific and clinical research in optometry.
- Enabling distinguished students with university degrees to continue their higher studies.

Admission and Registration

The unified regulations of graduate studies at Saudi Universities and rules of graduate studies at King Saud University can be found at:

https://graduatestudies.ksu.edu.sa/sites/graduatestudies.ksu.edu.sa/files/imce_images/llyh_bllg_Injlyzy.pdf

In addition to the conditions contained in the unified regulations for postgraduate studies in the universities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the applicant must fulfil the following conditions:

- Obtaining a bachelor's degree in optometry from King Saud University or its equivalent from a recognised university or the degree of Doctor of Optometry (OD) after its equivalency.
- The GPA should not be less than good (high) or its equivalent.
- Completion of the internship year before starting the program.
- The applicant must behave well, have a fair reputation and be medically fit.
- The applicant must submit two letters of recommendation from professors who have taught them.
- The applicant, if employed, must provide a letter of consent from his current employer to join the program.

The applicant who meets the above conditions is required to pass the personal interview and the written entrance exam or any other conditions set by the department in the year in which the student applies to enrol. The University Council shall determine the quota of students to be admitted into graduate programs. The numbers are proposed by department and college councils and recommended by the Graduate Studies Deanship Council.

Tuition Fees

Accepted applicants must fulfil the obligation of paying tuition fees.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Knowledge and Understanding (K):

- K1: Discuss the anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry of the visual system along with recent theories of visual perceptions.
- K2: Compare advanced methods of detecting, diagnosing, and managing ocular diseases in the optometry practice.
- K3: Distinguish between various advanced clinical application of contact lens, laser, optical and non-optical devices in different ocular conditions.
- K4: Recognize the fundamental principles of scientific research, statistical analysis in optometry and epidemiology

Skills (S):

- S1: Combine knowledge from psychophysics, human ocular anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry in recognizing and managing diseases.
- S2: Interpret advanced cases of refractive errors, ocular motility, binocular vision, neurological conditions, low vision, refractive surgery, and other ocular diseases.

- S3: Criticize evidence-based research and ethical dilemma in the field of optometry and the vision sciences
- S4: Employ advanced research in the field, focusing on statistical data for optometric measurements using computerized statistical programs.
- S5: Construct scientific research findings effectively in both written and spoken formats

Values (V):

- V1: Adhere to academic and professional values and ethics.
- V2: Demonstrate project management skills, including responsibility, independent work, teamwork, and effective time and stress management and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Degree Requirements, Tracks, and Curricular Plans

A Master of Science degree in Optometry will be awarded after the successful completion of 42 credit units or 28 credit units, respectively, from one of the below-mentioned two tracks offered by the department:

- Track I: Courses curriculum (42 credit units).
- Track II: Courses curriculum + Master's thesis (28 credit units).

Track I: Courses curriculum (42 credit units).

First Year

Level 1 (9 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 541	Advances in Ocular Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry	2	1	3
2	OPTO 556	Visual Perception and Visual Psychophysics	2	1	3
3	OPTO 597	Visual Development	2	1	3
Level 2 (9 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 565	Advanced Management Techniques	2	1	3
2	OPTO 595	Advanced Low Vision Studies	2	1	3
3	OPTO 542	Neurology of Oculo-motor Systems	2	1	3

Second Year

Level 3 (14 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 557	Advanced Contact Lenses Studies	2	2	4
2	OPTO 571	Experimental Design and Data Management in Visual Sciences	2	1	3
3	OPTO 591	Public Health Optometry and Professional Ethics	2	1	3
4	OPTO 566	Advanced Clinical Studies	0	4	4
Level 4 (10 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 567	Optometric co-management of Refractive Surgery Patients	2	1	3
2	OPTO 592	Interactive Discussion and Visual Case Analysis	1	2	3
3	OPTO 599	Research Project	0	4	4

Track II: Course curriculum and master's thesis.

Requirement: obtain a research ethics certificate from the National Committee of Bioethics

(NCBE): <https://ncbe.kacst.edu.sa/>

First Year

Level 1 (9 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 541	Advances in Ocular Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry	2	1	3
2	OPTO 556	Visual Perception and Visual Psychophysics	2	1	3
3	OPTO 597	Visual Development	2	1	3
Level 2 (9 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 565	Advanced Management Techniques	2	1	3
2	OPTO 595	Advanced Low Vision Studies	2	1	3
3	OPTO 542	Neurology of Oculomotor Systems	2	1	3

Second year

Level 3 (10 hours)					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPTO 571	Experimental Design and Data Management in Visual Sciences	2	1	3
2	OPTO 591	Public Health Optometry and Professional Ethics	2	1	3
3	OPTO 566	Advanced Clinical Studies	0	4	4
Level 4					
	The Course's Code	The Course's Name	The Course's Hours		Total
			The Theoretical Part	The Practical Part	
1	OPT 600	Master's Thesis	-	-	-

Courses descriptions

Advances in Ocular Anatomy, Physiology & Biochemistry OPT 541 (2+1=3)

Recent advances in neuro-anatomy of the visual pathway, anatomy, biochemistry and physiology of the eye. Topics include tears, cornea, aqueous humour, lens, vitreous, retina and sclera. Structure and function of geniculostriate pathways, subcortical projections, retinal circuitry and receptive fields.

Neurology of Oculomotor Systems OPTO 542 (2+1=3)

Concentrate on the neuro-anatomical pathways for the control of eye position and movement, gaze holding, image stabilisation, tracking eye movement systems, oculomotor signs of disorders of the central nervous system including palsies, nystagmus, ophthalmoplegia, cog-wheel pursuits, saccadic dysmetria, the near visuomotor response and the synergistic coupling of accommodation and convergence.

Visual Perception and Psychophysics OPTO 556 (2+1=3)

The course covers oculo-centric and egocentric directionalization, monocular clues for depth perception, distance and size relationships, real and apparent motion, the theoretical and nonius horopter and the apparent fronto-parallel plane, stereopsis, aniseikonia, and Pulfrich effects including alley experiments and the geometry of visual space.

Advance Contact Lenses Studies OPTO 557 (2+2=4)

The course covers updates on corneal physiology and biochemistry. It provides lectures underlying an advanced knowledge of contact lens practice and research. Advanced contact lens fitting for astigmatic, presbyopic, keratoconus, aphakic designs and paediatric patients, in addition to corneal topographic analysis.

Advanced Management Techniques OPTO 565 (2+1=3)

Recent advances in the detection, diagnosis, and management of ocular disease. Types of ocular disease and the manifestations of systemic disease on the eye, commonly encountered in optometric practice, including diabetes, glaucoma and dry eye, will be covered in this course. The pathophysiology, pharmacotherapy, and clinical management of systemic and ocular diseases. The course also covers the use of medications, lasers, and other therapeutic devices in treating and managing ocular disease.

Advanced Clinical Studies OPTO 566 (0+4=4)

This mostly clinical course will put the student in the clinic for several hours a week examining patients in the Optometry Clinic with an emphasis on non-routine patients, including patients with such conditions as Down's syndrome, high myopia, oculomotor manifestations of central nervous dysfunction, as well as those patients who require posterior segment imaging and clinical electrophysiological tests. One objective of this course is to teach the students to streamline their diagnostic tests to diagnose and manage a patient's condition. The student will make presentations of interesting cases with the consent of their supervisor.

Optometric co-management of Refractive Surgery Patients OPTO 567 (2+1=3)

History, theory and clinical application of ocular laser procedures. Laser surgery for the treatment of anterior and posterior segment ocular diseases and refractive surgery for correction of myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism will be emphasised. Managing refractive surgery patients appropriately, including those seeking advice preoperatively, immediately after the procedure, and long-term follow-up. In addition to interpreting refractive surgery research.

Experimental Design and Data Management in Visual Sciences OPTO 571 (2+1=3)

Introduction to experimental design, forming a hypothesis, research methodology, sampling, clinical trials, basic data analysis, and research budgetary management. A review of descriptive statistics, probability sampling, correlation, and prediction. Measurements, probability and power. Detecting differences between parametric/non-parametric variables, analysing repeated measures designs, complex regression, statistical re-sampling techniques, analysis of clinical images, accuracy and repeatability of novel clinical and experimental techniques.

Public Health Optometry and Professional Ethics OPTO 591 (2+1=3)

Introduction to the foundation and basic sciences of public health with an emphasis on the epidemiology of vision problems in the region, how to protect vision and ways to manage these problems. It also aims to study professional ethics and human and animal research ethics.

Interactive Discussion and Visual Case Analysis OPTO 592 (1+2=3)

Designed to strengthen the student's scientific research and presentation skills as well as broaden their knowledge base of cutting-edge research in Optometry and the Vision Sciences. At least two selected topics will be presented to an audience by each student in the form of a talk covering the latest aspects in a particular field of Optometry or the Vision Sciences. Aside from the presentations, selected topics chosen by the instructor will be discussed and publications critiqued during lectures in addition to study a visual case through analysis it, presented and then discuss it.

Advanced Low Vision Studies OPTO 595 (2+1=3)

The aetiology of partial sight will be revisited with an emphasis on the etiology of partial sight specific to different regions, particularly the Gulf region. The management of all levels of partial sightedness will be covered as well as an introduction to new treatment modalities and equipment.

Visual Development OPTO 597 (2+1=3)

Concentrate on the advanced embryology and early development of the visual system from infancy to the age of ten by which time the critical development of the visual system is all but complete. Diseases and disorders, such which develop in this sensitive period, will be covered in full ranging from aetiology to management.

Research project OPTO 599 (0+4=4)

The project is supposed to be as clinical study and/or special area in one of Vision Science topics available in department, the project will be under the supervision of optometry academic staff with experience in the same field.

OPTO 600: Masters' thesis

The process of developing a Master's thesis involves several key stages. Initially, students identify a research topic of interest, demonstrating its relevance to the broader academic community and its potential to contribute to existing knowledge. Following topic selection, a thorough literature review is conducted to situate the research project, identifying gaps or areas requiring further exploration.

The formulation of a clear research question or hypothesis is a crucial aspect of the thesis development process. This question guides the subsequent data collection, analysis, and

interpretation phases. Students are expected to employ rigorous research methods, demonstrating both qualitative and/or quantitative skills as applicable to their chosen field. The thesis should also showcase critical thinking, analytical prowess, and the ability to synthesise information effectively. It is essential for students to present their findings in a coherent, well-organised manner, adhering to the academic conventions and standards of their discipline.

Graduate career opportunities

Upon attaining this degree, the candidate will possess the qualifications necessary for professional practice in the field of Optometry, enabling them to deliver advanced health services by performing comprehensive dilated eye exam. Furthermore, they will be equipped to engage in scientific and clinical research, addressing the expectations set by community, national, and international standards.

Job opportunities for graduates of the program are available in different health sectors, governmental and private hospitals, primary health care and research centres.