



**Optometry Centralized Application Service
OptomCAS Applicant Data Report – A National Snapshot**

2010-2011

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Participating Institutions for 2010-2011	3
Table 1.....	3
OptomCAS Trends	4
Applicants and Applications.....	4
Table 2.....	4
Applicants Offers per Applicant.....	4
Table 3.....	4
Designations.....	5
Table 4.....	5
Demographic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant	6
Gender.....	6
Figure 1.....	6
Age.....	6
Figure 2.....	6
Ethnicity.....	7
Figure 3.....	7
Figure 4.....	7
Citizenship.....	8
Figure 5.....	8
State of Residence.....	8
First Generation College Student.....	8
Military Experience.....	8
Influences.....	9
Academic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant	9
Major and Degree.....	9
Institution.....	9
GPA.....	9
Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant	10
Gender.....	10
Figure 6.....	10
Age.....	10
Ethnicity.....	10
Table 5.....	10
Figure 7.....	11
Citizenship.....	11
GPA.....	11

Introduction

OptomCAS is the centralized application service for the schools and colleges of optometry. OptomCAS is a service of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and is administered by Liaison International, an education information technology company located in Watertown, MA. OptomCAS allows optometry applicants to use a single web-based application and one set of materials to apply to multiple schools and colleges of optometry. Applicants who apply through OptomCAS submit a completed web-based application comprised of biographical data, colleges and universities attended, academic course history, letters of recommendation, work experience, extracurricular activities, honors, and a personal essay. It is the applicant's responsibility to read and follow specific instructions for OptomCAS and the schools and colleges of optometry.

OptomCAS began its first year on July 15, 2009 for Admissions Cycle 2009-2010. Since its implementation, all eligible schools and colleges of optometry have participated in the centralized application service. This has provided, for the first time, validated numbers for the optometry application process.

This report will focus on OptomCAS Cycle 2, which is the Admissions Cycle 2010-2011. This OptomCAS cycle opened on July 15, 2010 and closed on June 2, 2011. The application fee was \$125 for one institution and \$45 for each additional institution.

Participating Institutions for 2010-2011

As noted in Table 1, twenty schools and colleges of optometry participated in OptomCAS in Admissions Cycle 2010-2011.

Table 1.

Illinois College of Optometry	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
Indiana University School of Optometry	Southern California College of Optometry
Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry	Southern College of Optometry
Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	State University of New York State College of Optometry
Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry	University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Optometry
New England College of Optometry	University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry
Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry	University of Missouri at St. Louis, College of Optometry
Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry	University of Houston College of Optometry

The Ohio State University College of Optometry	University of Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry
Pacific University College of Optometry	Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry

OptomCAS Trends

Applicants and Applications

The number of OptomCAS individual mailed applicants to the twenty schools and colleges of optometry for 2010-2011 was 2,513. These applicants submitted a total of 12,775 applications for an average of 5.08 applications per applicant. See Table 2 below for a comparison to Cycle 1 – Admissions Cycle 2009-2010.

Table 2.

	2009-2010	2010-2011
Mailed Applicants	2,503	2,513
Mailed Applications	12,835	12,775
Total Mailed Application per Applicant	5.13	5.08

There was a slight increase in the number of applicants for 2010-2011, but a slight decrease in number of applications submitted. The total mailed applications per applicant remained consistent at five applications per applicant.

Applicants by Offers per Applicant

Of the 2,513 applicants who applied to OptomCAS with mailed application status, 1,722 (69%) received one or more offers of admission, while 791 (31%) receive no offers (reference Table 3).

Table 3.

Number of Applications Submitted Per Applicant	Number of Total OptomCAS Applicants per Application Count	Number of Applicants with Number of Offers Received								
		0 Offer Recvd	1 Offer Recvd	2 Offers Recvd	3 Offers Recvd	4 Offers Recvd	5 Offers Recvd	6 Offers Recvd	7 Offers Recvd	>= 8 Offers Recvd
1	321	151	170							
2	230	94	107	29						
3	289	94	113	70	12					
4	348	93	122	89	38	6				
5	453	121	137	123	50	20	2			
6	242	65	64	62	32	17	2	0		
7	180	58	53	39	18	7	4	1	0	
8	109	28	37	24	13	6	1	0	0	0
9	95	25	25	14	20	7	2	1	1	0
10	73	22	20	15	11	2	3	0	0	0
11	48	11	22	6	5	2	1	1	0	0

12	40	10	12	5	9	3	1	0	0	0
13	22	4	4	8	5	1	0	0	0	0
14	16	4	3	4	1	3	1	0	0	0
15	9	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	14	3	4	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	9	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
18	14	3	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
19	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	2513	791	908	502	216	75	17	3	1	0

Designations

The top three designations for applicants to the Doctor of Optometry program were: Illinois College of Optometry, Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, and Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (reference Table 4). Please note that these are OptomCAS applicant numbers and some institutions have a supplemental application that must be completed before an applicant will be considered for their program.

Table 4.

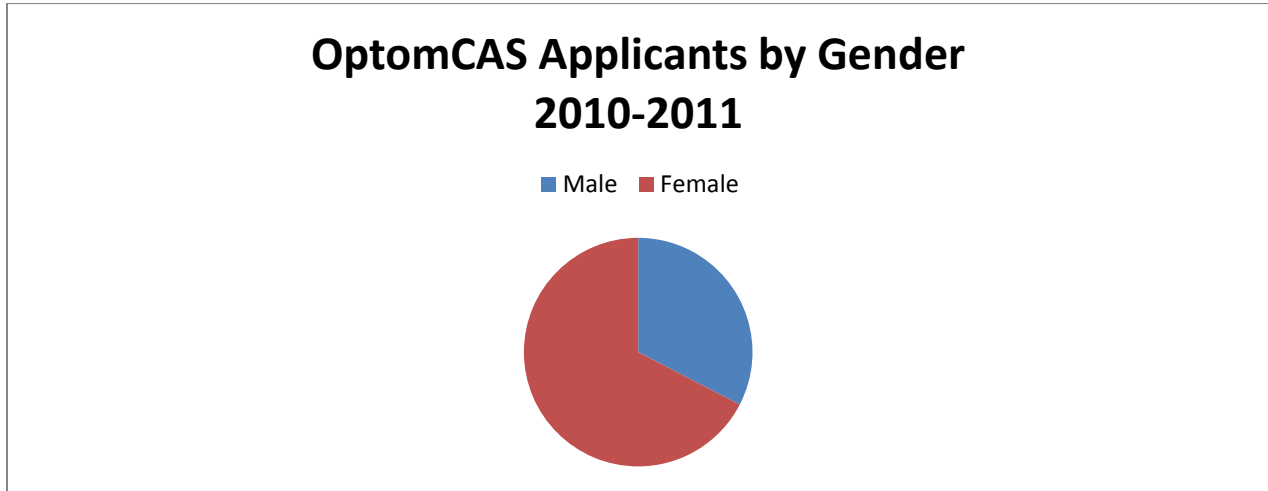
School Code	State	School	Number Applications	Number Accepted	Number Denied
1	IL	Illinois College of Optometry	1156	346	810
2	IN	Indiana University School of Optometry	562	132	430
3	PR	Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry	240	58	182
4	MI	Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	401	63	338
5	AZ	Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry	719	89	630
6	MA	New England College of Optometry	915	254	661
7	OK	Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry	142	51	91
8	FL	NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry	1070	210	860
9	OH	The Ohio State University College of Optometry	612	100	512
10	OR	Pacific University College of Optometry	476	134	342
11	PA	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University	1089	301	788
12	CA	Southern California College of Optometry	665	170	495
13	TN	Southern College of Optometry	872	230	642
14	NY	State University of New York State College of Optometry	711	141	570
15	AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry	371	67	304
16	CA	University of California-Berkeley School of Optometry	254	74	180
17	MO	University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry	523	75	448
18	TX	University of Houston College of Optometry	634	138	496
19	CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry	794	165	629
20	TX	University of the Incarnate Word School of Optometry	569	172	397
Total:			12775	2970	9805

Demographic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

OptomCAS demographic data is captured on the OptomCAS application. This information is optional for the applicant to include and cannot be verified by Liaison staff.

Gender

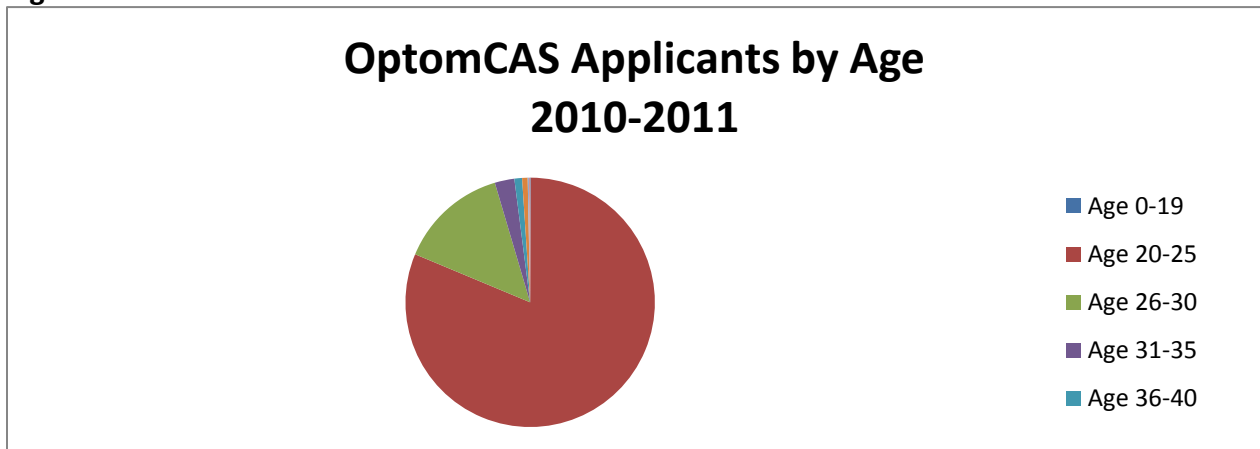
Figure 1.



As shown in Figure 1, females consist of 67% (1,694) of the OptomCAS applicant pool with males at 33% (819). These figures remained comparable to the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle.

Age

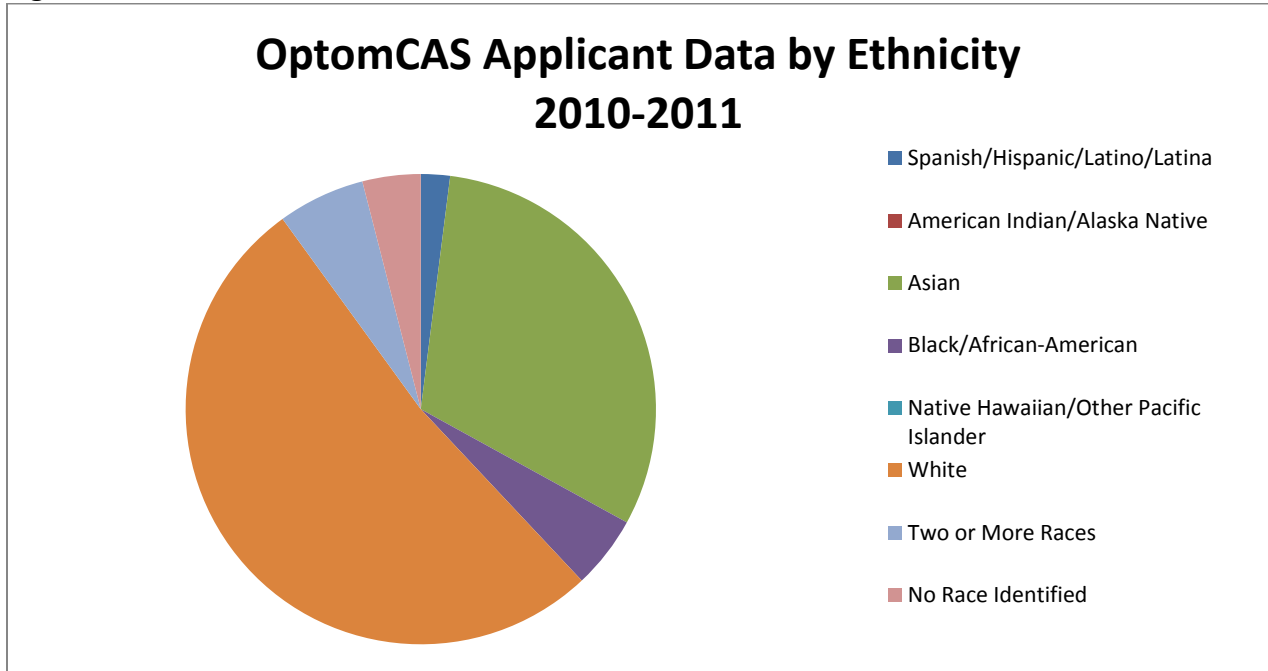
Figure 2.



As shown in Figure 2, the majority of applicants were in the 20-25 age range. The average age for all applicants was 23.9 with a median age of 23. The youngest applicant was 16 and the oldest was 56. There was not a substantial change from the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle regarding age.

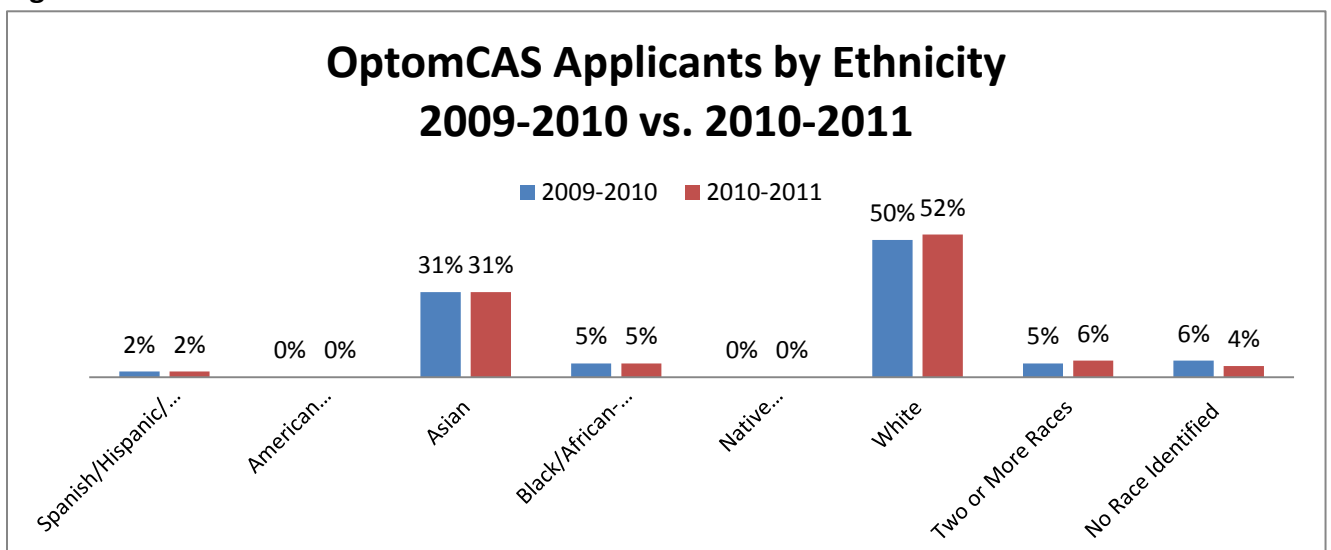
Ethnicity

Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 3, the majority of applicants were White (52%) with the other applicants reporting Asian (31%); Black/African-American (5%); Two or More Races (6%); Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina (2%); American Indian/Alaska Native (less than 1%); and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (less than 1%). Four percent of applicants did not report a race.

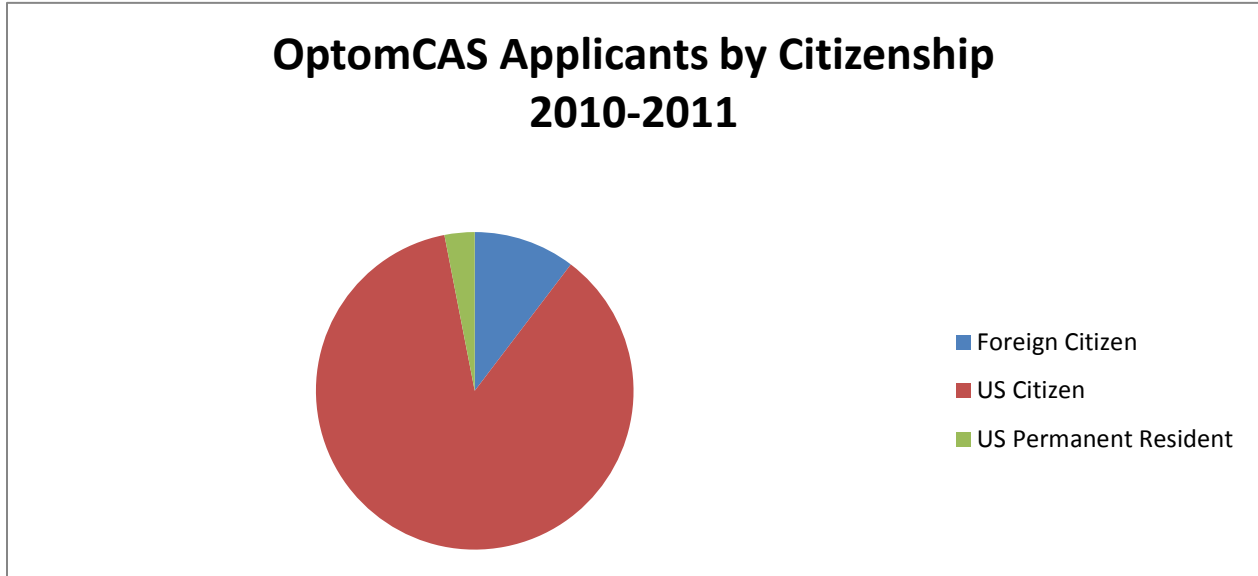
Figure 4.



There was a very slight increase in the number of White applicants and Two or More Races in 2010-2011. There was a decrease in those applicants who chose to not have their race identified. There was no change for the other ethnicities.

Citizenship

Figure 5.



As shown in Figure 5, the majority of applicants for 2010-2011 were US citizens at 87%. Ten percent of applicants reported they were foreign citizens and 3% US permanent residents. This was very similar to last year.

State of Residence

The top five states where OptomCAS applicants claimed their state of residence in 2010-2011 were: California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Illinois. There were 243 applicants from Canada. In the 2009-2010 Admissions Cycle, these were the same top five states with 217 applicants from Canada.

First Generation College Student

For 2010-2011, over 64% of OptomCAS applicants had a parent who has attended/graduated from college, while 31% of applicants are first generation college students. Five percent of applicants declined to answer the question. This was not a substantial change from last year.

Military Experience

Only 1% of OptomCAS applicants had previous military experience, which was the same as the last admissions cycle.

Influences

The top five influences on why an applicant chose to apply to a Doctor of Optometry program are: non-relative optometrist (46%); a parent who is a non-optometrist (14%); no answer (14%); relative optometrist (9%); and other health professional (6%). These influences were similar to last admissions cycle.

Academic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

Major and Degree

The most selected major on the OptomCAS application was Biology. Biology was also the top major last year. The majority of applicants have received or will have received their Bachelor's degree prior to enrollment (if accepted).

Institution

The University of California higher education system claims the top four spots for feeder institutions for OptomCAS applicants. These institutions are: University of California, Irvine, University of California, San Diego, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Berkeley, and The Ohio State University in the fifth spot. Last year, the University of California higher education system claimed all five spots.

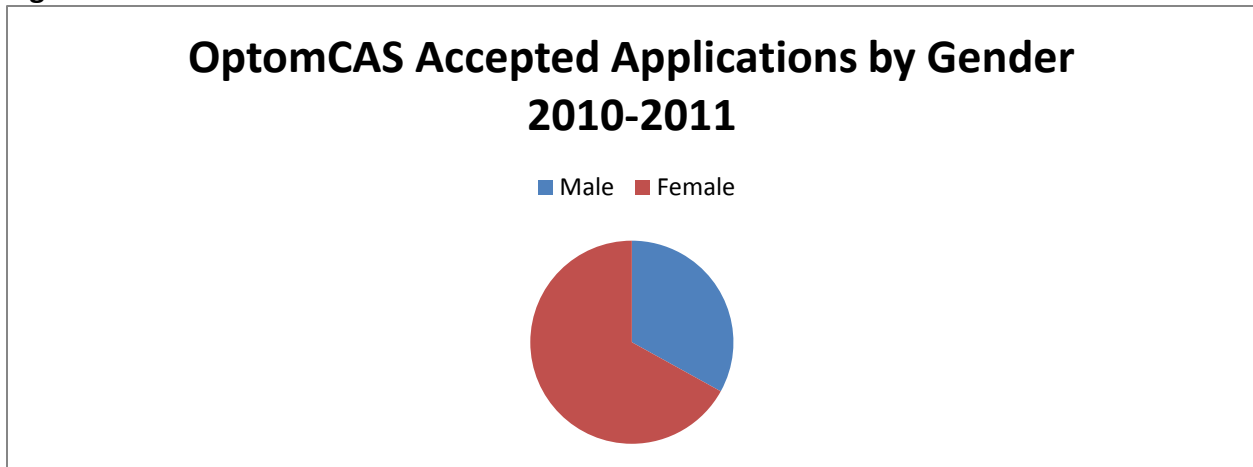
GPA

OptomCAS calculates a standardized GPA to aid the schools and colleges of optometry in evaluating applicants using uniform and consistent criteria. The overall cumulative GPA for all applicants was 3.31 – for males it was 3.27 and 3.33 for females. There was a slight improvement from last admissions cycle, where the overall cumulative GPA was 3.29 – 3.27 for males and 3.30 for females.

Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant*

Gender

Figure 6.



For both Admissions Cycle 2010-2011 and 2009-2010, 67% of accepted applications were female and 33% were male.

Age

The median age for accepted applications was 22.9 years old. Last admissions cycle, the median age was 22.6 years old.

Ethnicity

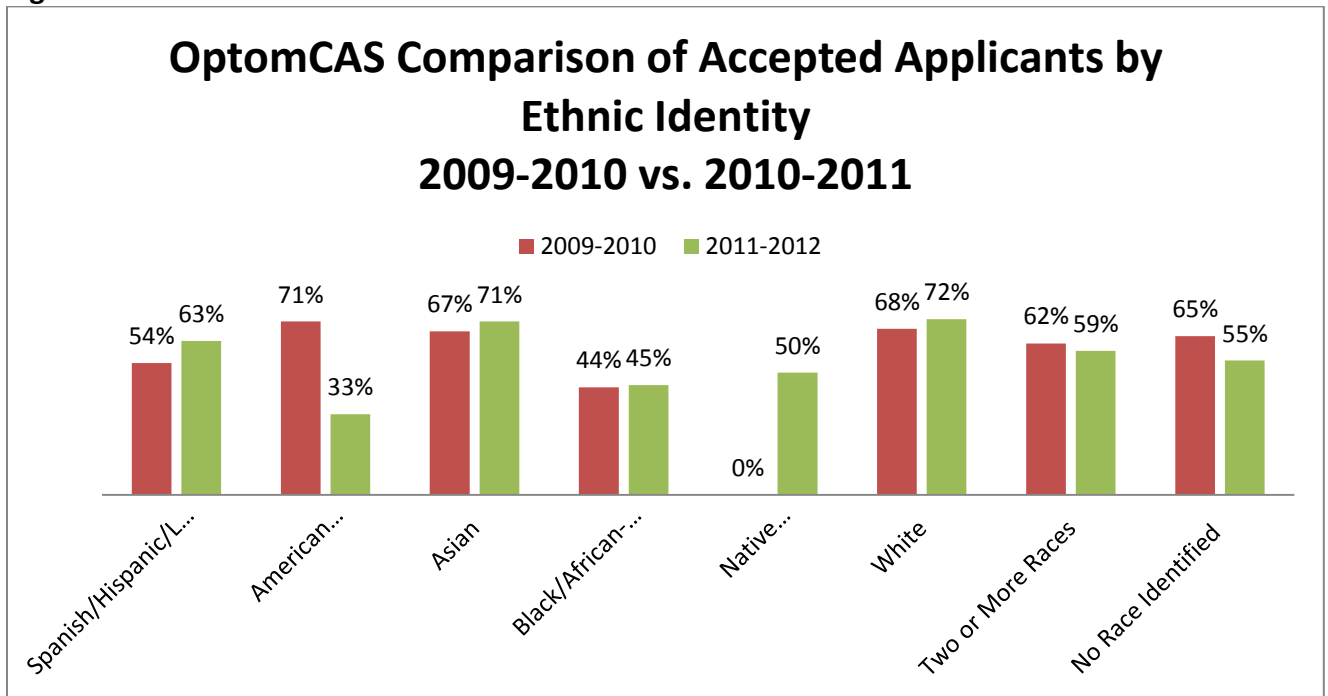
Table 5.

	Percentage of Applicant Pool	Percentage of Accepted Applicants
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina	2%	63%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Less than 1%	33%
Asian	31%	71%
Black/African-American	5%	45%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Less than 1%	50%
White	52%	72%
Two or More Races	6%	59%
No Race Identified	4%	55%

As noted in Table 5, White and Asian applicants had the highest rate of acceptance at 72% and 71%, followed by Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina at 63%; Two or More Races at 59%; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander at 50%; Black/African-American at 45%; and American Indian/Alaska Native at 33%.

As shown in Figure 7 below, Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina, Asian, Black/African-American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and White ethnicities increased their rate of acceptance. American Indian/Alaska Native and Two or More Races decreased.

Figure 7.



Citizenship

Eighty-eight percent of applications accepted were US citizens, 10% were foreign applications (this includes Canadian residents), and 2% were permanent residents of the US. In 2009-2010, the breakdown was very similar.

GPA

The GPA range for Cycle 2 for all accepted applicants was 3.33 to 3.87. Last admissions cycle, the GPA range was 3.03 to 3.57.

***Please note that for Admissions Cycle 2009-2010, one school did not include admissions decisions which would affect the acceptance data from that cycle slightly.**

More Information

Please submit any questions or comments you have on the OptomCAS Applicant Data Report – A National Snapshot to:

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