



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

**2012-2013**

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Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
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# Table of Contents

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<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Participating Institutions for 2012-2013</b>	
Table 1.....	3
<b>OptomCAS Trends</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Applicants and Applications.....	4
Table 2.....	4
Applicants Offers per Applicant.....	4
Table 3.....	4
Designations.....	5
Table 4.....	5
<b>Demographic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant</b> .....	<b>6</b>
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
<b>Academic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Major and Degree.....	9
Institution.....	9
GPA.....	9
<b>Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Gender.....	9
Figure 6.....	9
Age.....	10
Ethnicity.....	10
Table 5.....	10
Figure 7.....	10
Citizenship.....	11
GPA.....	11

## Introduction

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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. OptomCAS provides validated numbers for the optometry application process.

This report will focus on OptomCAS Cycle 4, which is the Admissions Cycle 2012-2013. This OptomCAS cycle opened on July 1, 2012 and closed on June 2, 2013. The application fee was \$125 for one institution and \$45 for each additional institution.

## Participating Institutions for 2012-2013

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As noted in Table 1, twenty one schools and colleges of optometry participated in OptomCAS in Admissions Cycle 2012-2013.

**Table 1.**

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

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

## OptomCAS Trends

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### Applicants and Applications

The number of OptomCAS individual mailed applicants to the twenty one schools and colleges of optometry for 2012-2013 was 2,639. These applicants submitted a total of 13,210 applications for an average of 5.01 applications per applicant. See Table 2 below for a comparison to previous cycles.

**Table 2.**

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Mailed Applicants	2,513	2,545	2,639
Mailed Applications	12,775	13,393	13,210
Total Mailed Application per Applicant	5.08	5.26	5.01

There was a slight increase in the number of applicants for 2012-2013. The total mailed applications per applicant remained consistent at five applications per applicant.

### Applicants by Offers per Applicant

Of the 2,639 applicants who applied to OptomCAS with mailed application status, 1,856 (70%) received one or more offers of admission, while 783 (30%) 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	335	165	170							
2	223	78	99	46						
3	349	98	144	90	17					
4	384	114	122	99	39	10				
5	439	103	136	128	53	17	2			
6	265	64	83	67	31	17	3	0		
7	192	57	52	37	29	13	2	2	0	
8	136	36	41	28	15	10	4	1	1	0
9	90	17	32	19	11	7	2	1	1	0
10	76	19	18	19	12	5	1	0	1	1

11	47	6	15	14	6	4	0	1	0	1
12	13	3	2	4	1	1	2	0	0	0
13	23	8	6	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
14	17	4	6	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
15	14	3	2	4	0	3	2	0	0	0
16	14	4	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	1
17	5	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
18	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	7	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
20	7	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
21	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2639</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

## 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	1175	360	815
2	IN	Indiana University School of Optometry	518	122	396
3	PR	Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry	252	115	137
4	MI	Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	319	55	264
5	AZ	Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry	644	140	504
6	MA	New England College of Optometry	830	314	516
7	OK	Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry	291	41	250
8	FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry	1056	220	836
9	OH	The Ohio State University College of Optometry	546	100	500
10	OR	Pacific University College of Optometry	590	147	443
11	PA	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University	1122	339	783
12	CA	Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University	620	171	449
13	TN	Southern College of Optometry	862	235	627
14	NY	State University of New York State College of Optometry	582	144	438
15	AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry	410	75	335
16	CA	University of California-Berkeley School of Optometry	238	79	159
17	MO	University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry	420	97	323
18	TX	University of Houston College of Optometry	605	120	485
19	CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry	832	191	641
20	TX	University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry	600	153	447
21	MA	MCPHS University School of Optometry	698	127	571
<b>Total:</b>			<b>13210</b>	<b>3291</b>	<b>9919</b>

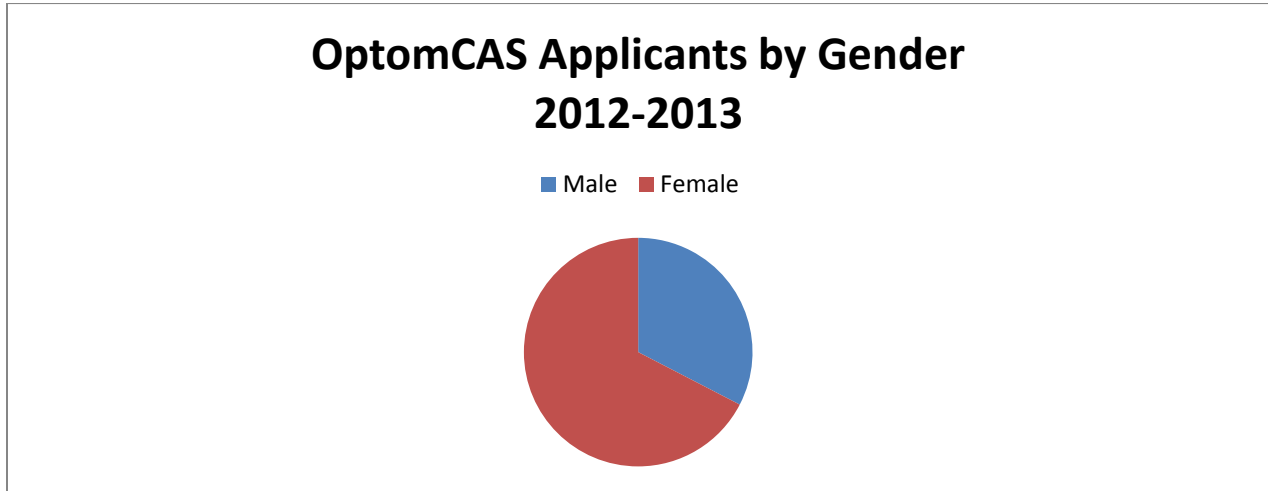
## Demographic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

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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

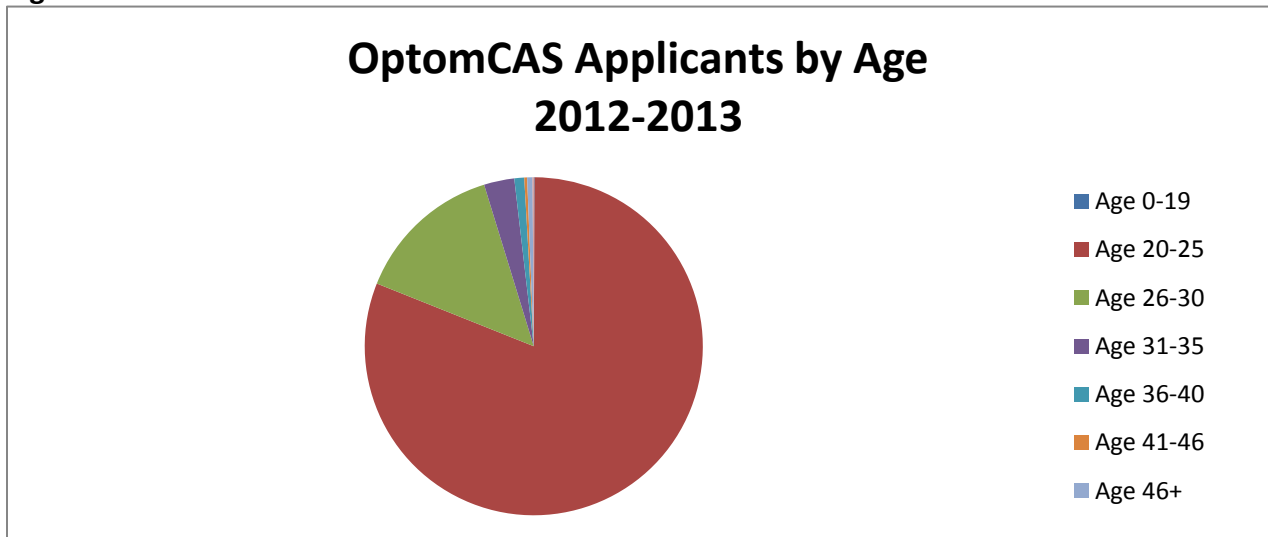
Figure 1.



As shown in Figure 1, females comprise of 67% (1,772) of the OptomCAS applicant pool with males at 33% (867). These figures remained comparable to the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle.

### Age

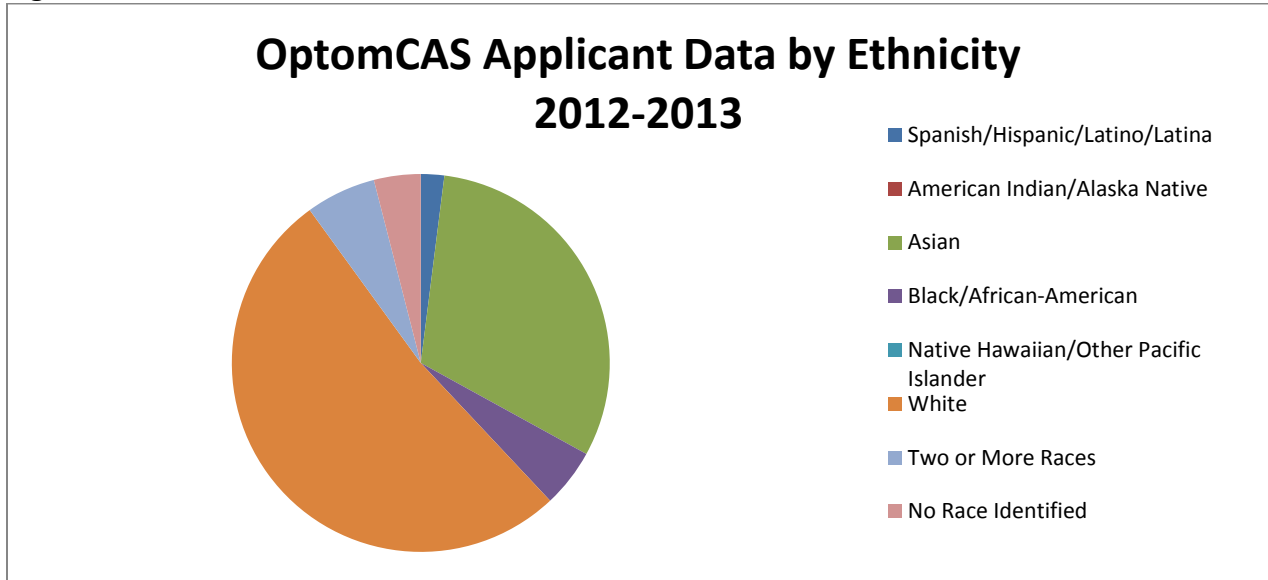
Figure 2.



As shown in Figure 2, the majority of applicants were in the 20-25 age range. The average age for all applicants was 24 with a median age of 23. The youngest applicant was 19 and the oldest was 58. There was not a change from the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle regarding the average and median age.

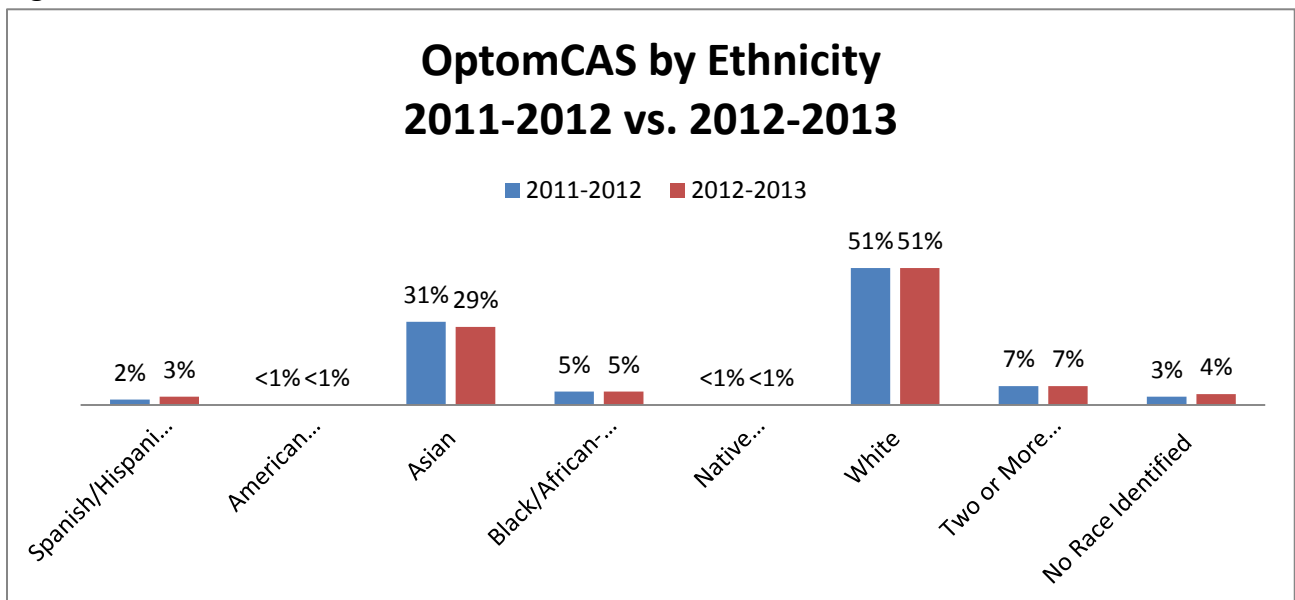
## Ethnicity

Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 3, the majority of applicants were White (51%) with the other applicants reporting Asian (29%); Two or More Races (7%); Black/African-American (5%); Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina (3%); American Indian/Alaska Native (around 1%); and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (less than 1%). Four percent of applicants did not report a race.

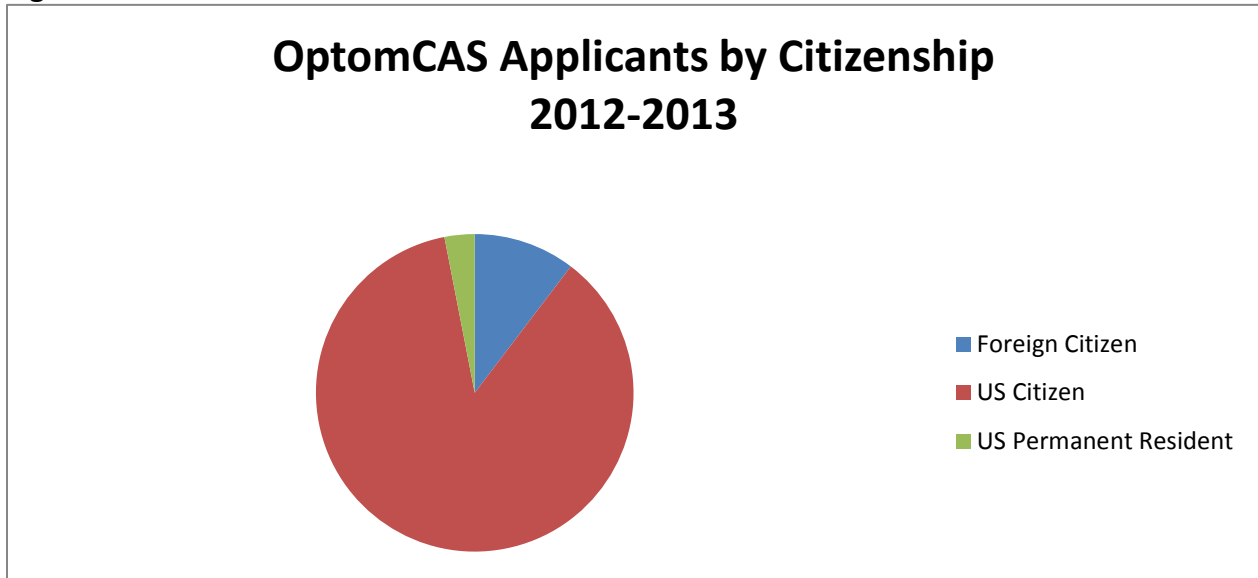
Figure 4.



There was a very slight increase in Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina and those who did not report a race in 2012-2013 according to Figure 4. There was a decrease in Asian applicants. There was no change for the other ethnicities.

## Citizenship

Figure 5.



As shown in Figure 5, the majority of applicants for 2012-2013 were US citizens at 87%. Eleven percent of applicants reported they were foreign citizens and less than 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 2012-2013 were: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. There were 258 applicants from Canada. In the 2011-2012 Admissions Cycle, these were the same top five states with 224 applicants from Canada.

## First Generation College Student

For 2012-2013, over 63% of OptomCAS applicants had a parent who has attended/graduated from college, while 31% of applicants are first generation college students. Six 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 (13%); no answer (13%); relative optometrist (10%); and other health professional (6%). These influences were similar to last admissions cycle.

## Academic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

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### 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 four of the top five spots for feeder institutions for OptomCAS applicants. These institutions are: University of California, Irvine, University of Houston, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, San Diego, and University of California, Berkeley in the fifth spot. These are the same as last year.

### GPA

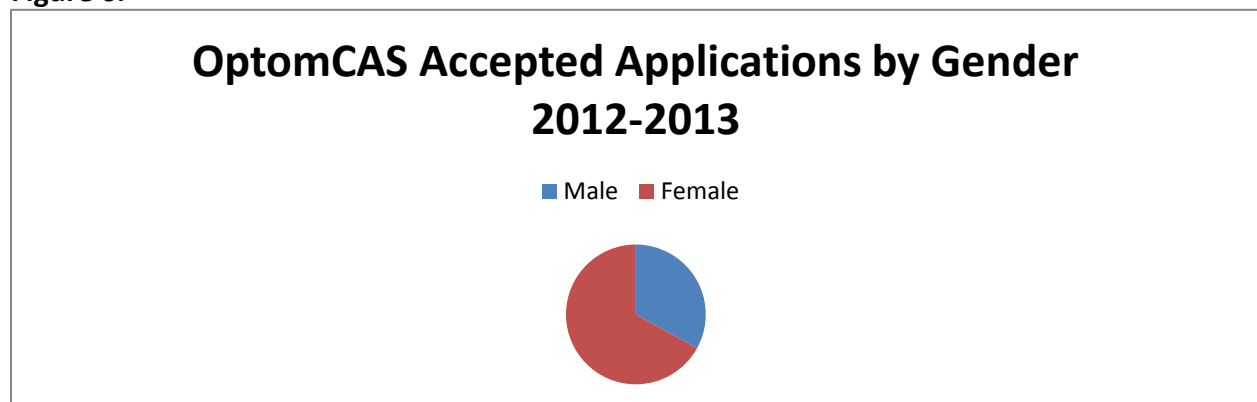
OptomCAS calculates a standardized GPA to aid the schools and colleges of optometry in evaluating applicants using uniform and consistent criteria. The overall cumulative GPA for all applicants was 3.31 – for males it was 3.30 and 3.31 for females. The GPAs were similar in last admissions cycle where the GPA was 3.28 for males and 3.32 for females.

## Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

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### Gender

Figure 6.



For both Admissions Cycle 2012-2013 and 2011-2012, 67% of accepted applications were female and 33% were male.

## Age

The median age for accepted applications was 23 years old. Last admissions cycle, the median age was 22.8 years old.

## Ethnicity

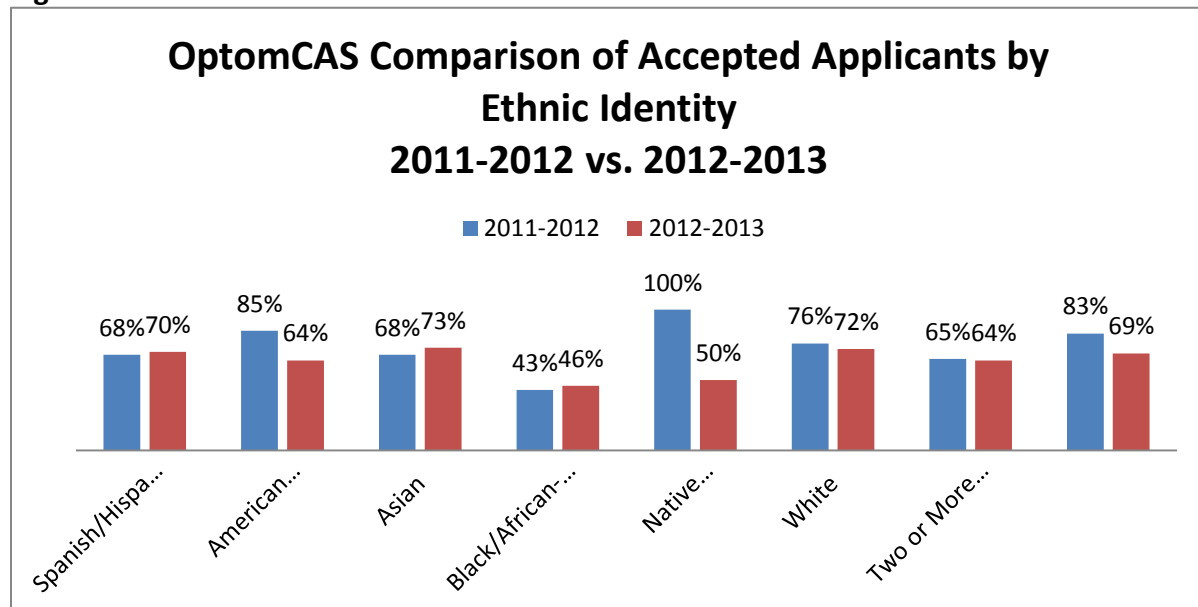
**Table 5.**

	Percentage of Applicant Pool	Percentage of Accepted Applicants
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina	3%	70%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Around 1%	64%
Asian	29%	73%
Black/African-American	5%	46%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Less than 1%	50%
White	51%	72%
Two or More Races	7%	64%
No Race Identified	4%	69%

As noted in Table 5, Asian and White had the highest rate of acceptance at 73% and 72%; followed by Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina at 70%; American Indian/Alaska Native and Two or More Races at 64%; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander at 50% and Black/African-American at 46%.

As shown in Figure 7 below, Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina, Asian, and Black/African-American increased their rate of acceptance.

**Figure 7.**



## **Citizenship**

Eighty-seven percent of applications accepted were US citizens, 11% were foreign applications (this includes Canadian residents), and 2% were permanent residents of the US. In 2011-2012, the breakdown was very similar.

## **GPA**

The average GPA for accepted applicants at the 21 schools and colleges ranged from 3.03 to 3.73.

## **More Information**

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

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