



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

**2009-2010**

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Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
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## 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. All eligible schools and colleges of optometry 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 1, which is the Admissions Cycle 2009-2010. This OptomCAS cycle opened on July 15, 2009 and closed on June 2, 2010. The application fee was \$125 for one institution and \$45 for each additional institution.

## Participating Institutions for 2009-2010

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As noted in Table 1, twenty schools and colleges of optometry participated in OptomCAS in Admissions Cycle 2009-2010.

**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

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### Applicants and Applications

The number of OptomCAS individual mailed applicants to the twenty schools and colleges of optometry for 2009-2010 was 2,503. These applicants submitted a total of 12,835 applications for an average of 5.13 applications per applicant.

**Table 2.**

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

### Applicants by Offers per Applicant

Of the 2,503 applicants who applied to OptomCAS with mailed application status, 1,670 (67%) received one or more offers of admission, while 833 (33%) 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	303	158	145							
2	238	95	103	40						
3	319	109	128	61	21					
4	336	99	122	80	29	6				
5	390	118	127	82	48	12	3			
6	265	80	75	53	41	14	2	0		
7	178	47	57	33	26	12	3	0	0	
8	137	33	46	30	19	5	3	1	0	0
9	94	27	27	22	13	4	0	0	1	0
10	75	29	16	17	8	5	0	0	0	0
11	39	12	11	9	6	1	0	0	0	0

12	31	3	18	5	0	4	1	0	0	0
13	28	9	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	21	7	9	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
15	10	0	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
16	16	5	5	0	4	0	1	0	0	1
17	8	0	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
18	10	1	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0
19	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
20	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	2503	833	909	451	222	69	15	1	1	2

## 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	1248	308	940
2	IN	Indiana University School of Optometry	556	151	405
3	PR	Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry	263	135	128
4	MI	Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	489	68	421
5	AZ	Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry	662	105	557
6	MA	New England College of Optometry	889	222	667
7	OK	Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry	127	40	87
8	FL	NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry	1034	185	849
9	OH	The Ohio State University College of Optometry	594	101	493
10	OR	Pacific University College of Optometry	484	110	374
11	PA	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University	1159	343	816
12	CA	Southern California College of Optometry	634	174	460
13	TN	Southern College of Optometry	845	244	601
14	NY	State University of New York State College of Optometry	756	134	622
15	AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry	341	67	274
16	CA	University of California-Berkeley School of Optometry	274	82	192
17	MO	University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry	504	103	401
18	TX	University of Houston College of Optometry	650	135	515
19	CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry	697	150	547
20	TX	University of the Incarnate Word School of Optometry	629	0	629
<b>Total:</b>			12835	2857	9978

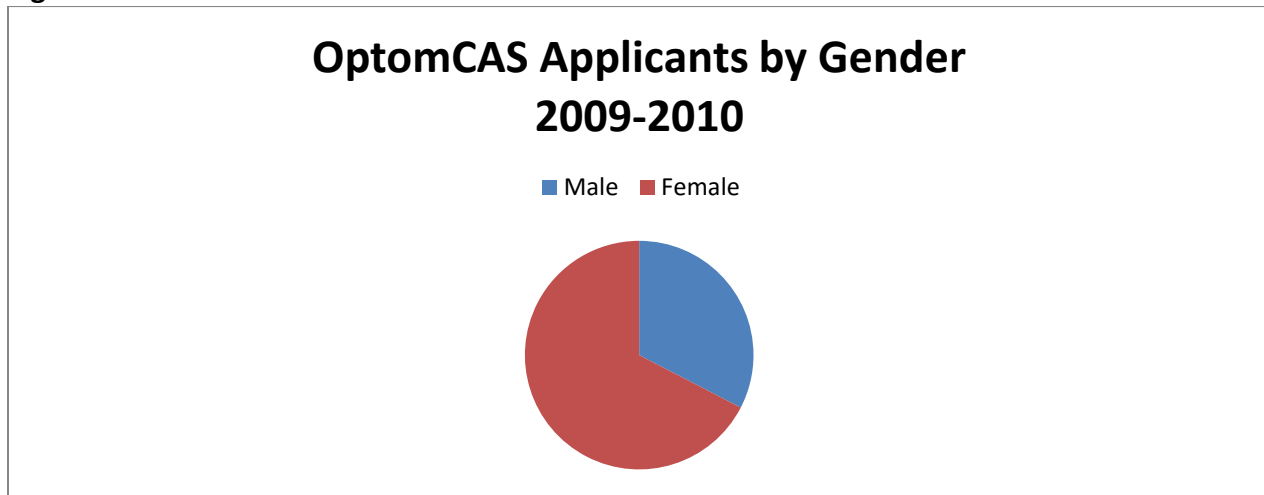
## Demographic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

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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

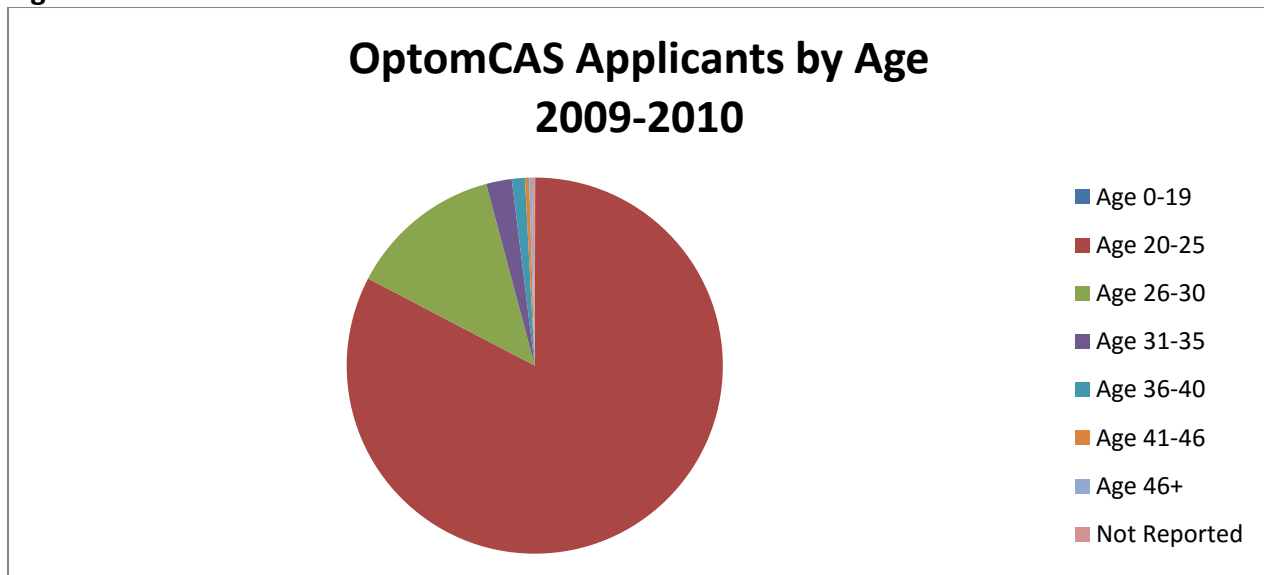
Figure 1.



As shown in Figure 1, females consist of 67% (1,672) of the OptomCAS applicant pool with males at 33% (831).

### Age

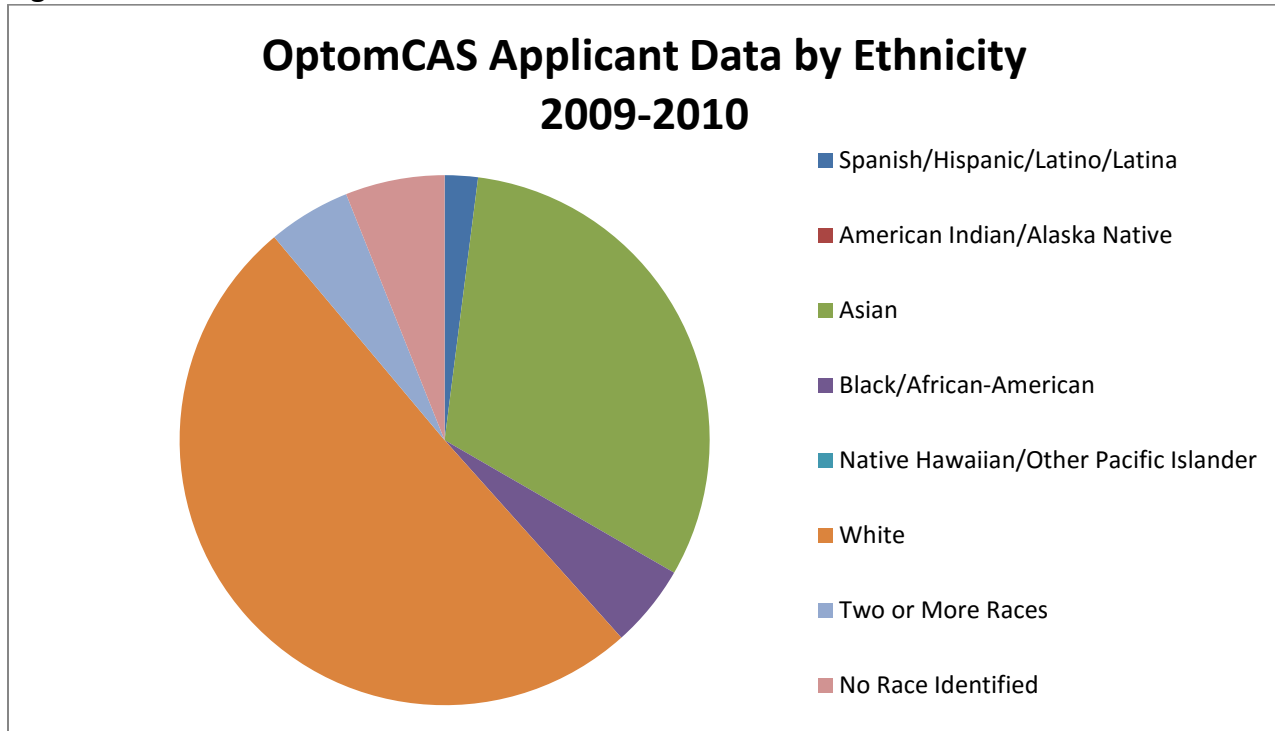
Figure 2.



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 19 and the oldest was 60.

### Ethnicity

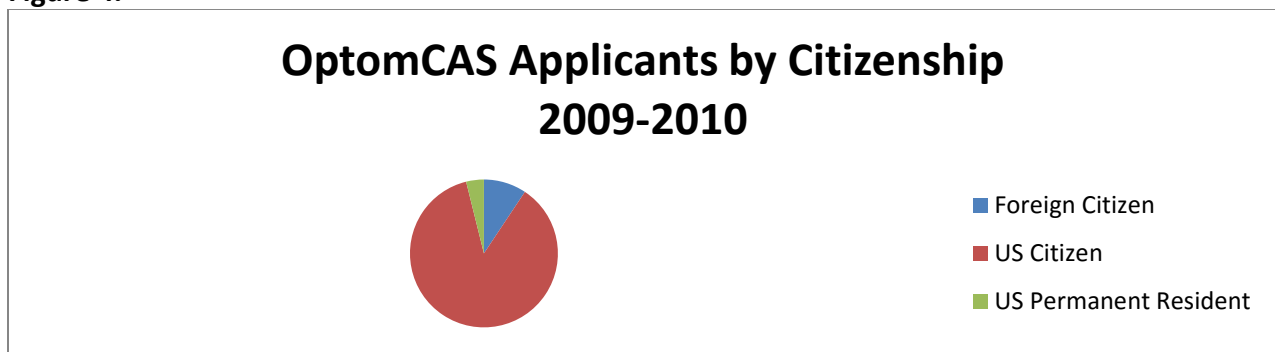
Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 3, the majority of applicants were White (50%) with the other applicants reporting Asian (31%); Black/African-American (5%); Two or More Races (5%); Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina (2%); American Indian/Alaska Native (less than 1%); and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (less than 1%). Six percent of applicants did not report a race.

### Citizenship

Figure 4.



As shown in Figure 5, the majority of applicants for 2009-2010 were US citizens at 87%. Nine percent of applicants reported they were foreign citizens and 4% US permanent residents.

### **State of Residence**

The top five states where OptomCAS applicants claimed their state of residence in 2009-2010 were: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. There were 217 applicants from Canada.

### **First Generation College Student**

For 2009-2010, 63% of OptomCAS applicants had a parent who has attended/graduated from college, while 32% of applicants are first generation college students. Four percent of applicants declined to answer the question.

### **Military Experience**

Only 1% of OptomCAS applicants had previous military experience.

### **Influences**

The top five influences on why an applicant chose to apply to a Doctor of Optometry program are: non-relative optometrist (48%); a parent who is a non-optometrist (13%); no answer (12%); relative optometrist (8%); and other health professional (5%).

## **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. 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 five spots for feeder institutions for OptomCAS applicants. These institutions are: University of California, Irvine, University of California, Davis, University of California, San Diego, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of California, Berkeley.



## GPA

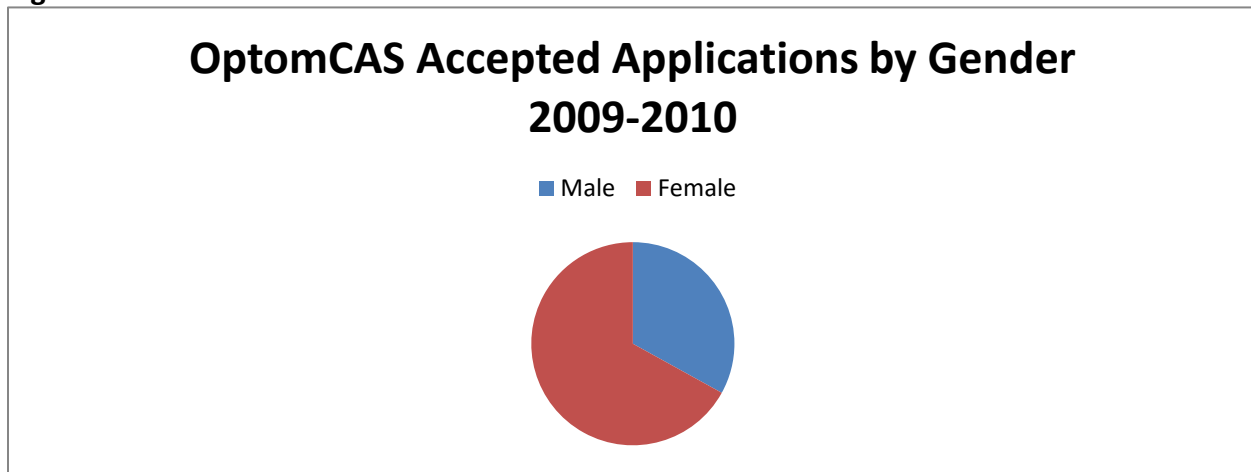
OptomCAS calculates a standardized GPA to aid the schools and colleges of optometry in evaluating applicants using uniform and consistent criteria. The overall cumulative GPA for all applicants was 3.29 – for males it was 3.27 and 3.30 for females.

## Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant\*

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### Gender

Figure 5.



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

### Age

The median age for accepted applications was 22.6 years old.

### Ethnicity

Table 5.

	Percentage of Applicant Pool	Percentage of Accepted Applicants
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina	2%	54%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Less than 1%	71%
Asian	31%	67%
Black/African-American	5%	44%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Less than 1%	0%
White	50%	68%
Two or More Races	5%	62%
No Race Identified	6%	65%

As noted in Table 5, American Indian/Alaska Native applicants had the highest rate of acceptance at 71%; followed by White at 68%; Asian at 67%, Two or More Races at 62%; Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina at 54%; Black/African-American at 44%; and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander at 0%.

### **Citizenship**

Eighty-seven percent of applications accepted were US citizens, 10% were foreign applications (this includes Canadian residents), and 3% were permanent residents of the US.

### **GPA**

The GPA range for Cycle 2 for all accepted applications 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

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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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