



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

2013-2014

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
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Introduction

OptomCAS is the centralized application service for 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 5, which is the Admissions Cycle 2013-2014. This cycle opened on July 1, 2013 and closed on June 2, 2014. The application fee was \$150 for one institution and \$50 for each additional institution.

Participating Institutions for 2013-2014

As noted in Table 1, twenty one schools and colleges of optometry participated in OptomCAS in Admissions Cycle 2013-2014.

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 | University of California-Berkeley School of |

| | |
|---|--|
| Optometry | 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

Applicants and Applications

The number of OptomCAS individual mailed applicants to the twenty one schools and colleges of optometry for 2013-2014 was 2,604. These applicants submitted a total of 13,164 applications for an average of 5.06 applications per applicant. See Table 2 below for a comparison to previous cycles.

Table 2.

| | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Mailed Applicants | 2,513 | 2,545 | 2,639 | 2,604 |
| Mailed Applications | 12,775 | 13,393 | 13,210 | 13,164 |
| Total Mailed Applications per Applicant | 5.08 | 5.26 | 5.01 | 5.06 |

There was a slight decrease in the number of applicants for 2013-2014. The total mailed applications per applicant remained consistent at five applications per applicant.

Applicants by Offers per Applicant

Of the 2,604 applicants who applied to OptomCAS with mailed application status, 1,846 (71%) received one or more offers of admission, while 758 (29%) 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 | 304 | 144 | 160 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 273 | 105 | 117 | 51 | | | | | | |
| 3 | 318 | 104 | 132 | 58 | 24 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|
| 4 | 316 | 62 | 104 | 97 | 42 | 11 | | | | |
| 5 | 474 | 116 | 147 | 114 | 68 | 27 | 2 | | | |
| 6 | 280 | 54 | 75 | 77 | 42 | 26 | 6 | 0 | | |
| 7 | 185 | 53 | 49 | 32 | 30 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| 8 | 142 | 36 | 42 | 30 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | 80 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | 70 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | 45 | 18 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 35 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 20 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 16 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 2604 | 758 | 899 | 525 | 264 | 115 | 33 | 5 | 5 | 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.

| State | School | Total Applicants | Applicants Denied | Applicants Offered |
|-------|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| IL | Illinois College of Optometry | 1177 | 802 | 375 |
| IN | Indiana University School of Optometry | 554 | 430 | 124 |
| PR | Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry | 286 | 203 | 83 |
| MI | Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University | 293 | 240 | 53 |
| AZ | Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry | 669 | 526 | 143 |
| MA | New England College of Optometry | 832 | 532 | 300 |
| OK | Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry | 277 | 232 | 45 |
| FL | Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry | 1007 | 821 | 186 |
| OH | The Ohio State University College of Optometry | 582 | 482 | 100 |
| OR | Pacific University College of Optometry | 576 | 414 | 162 |
| PA | Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University | 1034 | 646 | 388 |
| CA | Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University | 632 | 479 | 153 |
| TN | Southern College of Optometry | 817 | 577 | 240 |
| NY | State University of New York State College of | 614 | 444 | 170 |

| | Optometry | | | |
|----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| AL | University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry | 366 | 270 | 96 |
| CA | University of California-Berkeley School of Optometry | 257 | 175 | 82 |
| MO | University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry | 407 | 315 | 92 |
| TX | University of Houston College of Optometry | 618 | 482 | 136 |
| CA | Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry | 837 | 655 | 182 |
| TX | University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry | 674 | 513 | 161 |
| MA | MCPHS University School of Optometry | 655 | 495 | 160 |
| | | | | |

Decision Codes Reflected in the Denied Column:

Offer Withdrawn
 Not Admitted
 Admitted, No Response, Institution Declined
 Denied Due to Criteria
 Denied Due to Incomplete Application
 Withdrew Before Decision
 Incomplete File, Supplemental Incomplete

Decision Codes Reflected in Offered Column:

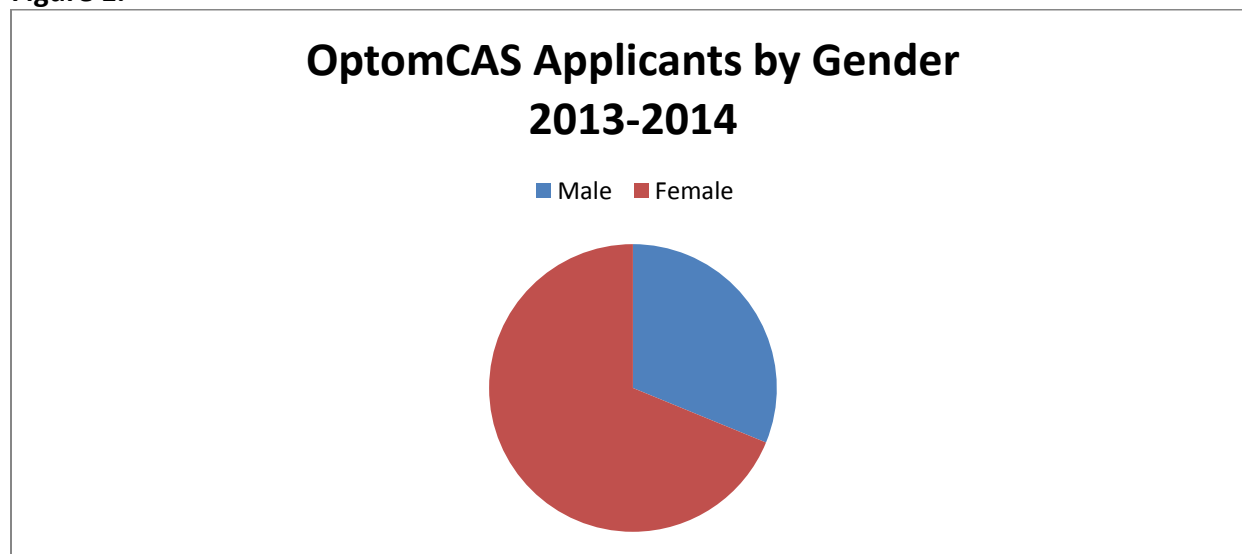
Conditionally Admitted
 Admission Recommended to Graduate College
 Admitted, Deposited (accepted), Enrolled
 Admitted, Declined Before Deposit (acceptance)
 Admitted, Deposited (accepted), Later Declined
 Admitted, Deferred

Demographic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

OptomCAS demographic data are 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 69% (1,789) of the OptomCAS applicant pool with males at 31% (811). These figures remained comparable to the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle.

Age

Figure 2.

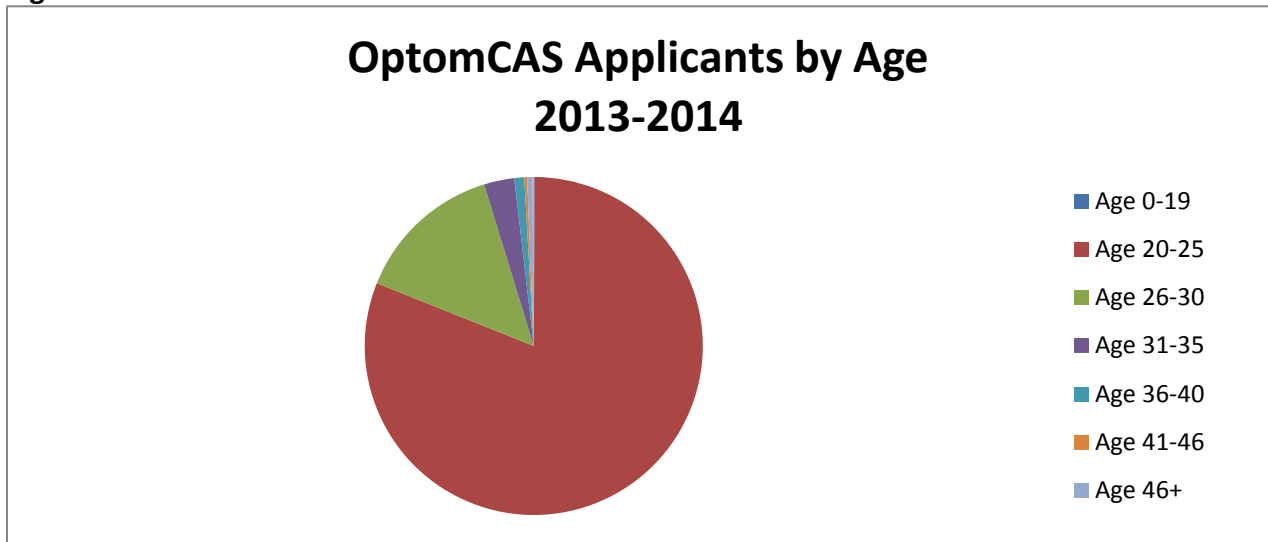
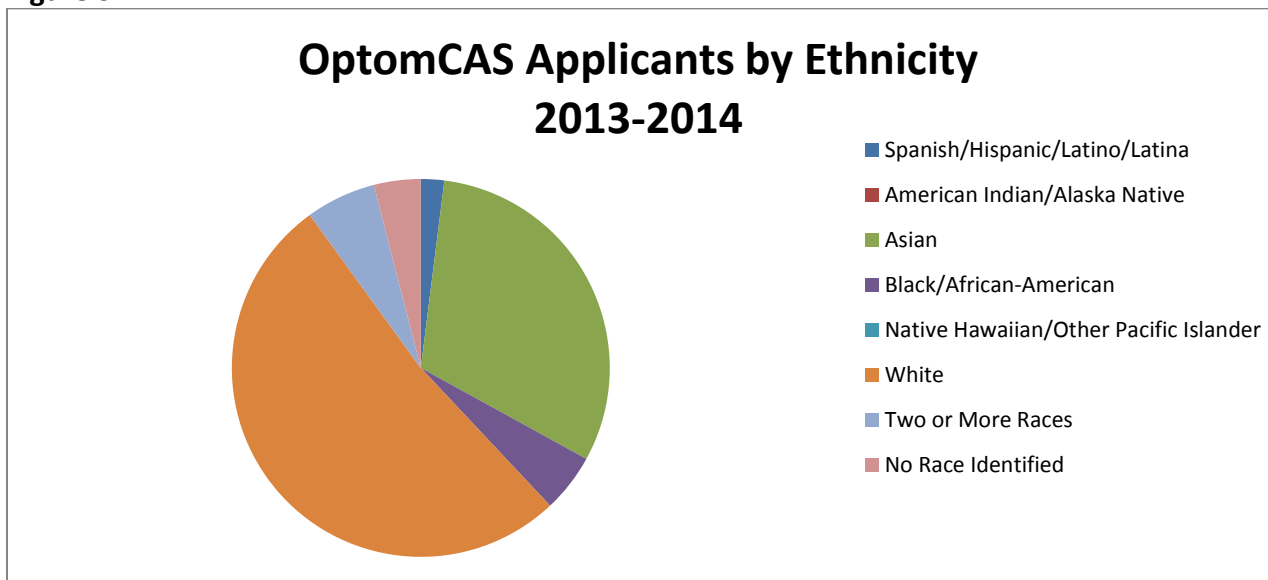


Figure 2 shows that the majority of applicants were in the 20-25 age range. The average age for all applicants was 24 with a median age of 23. The youngest applicant was 19 and the oldest was 59. There was not a change from the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle regarding the average and median age.

Ethnicity

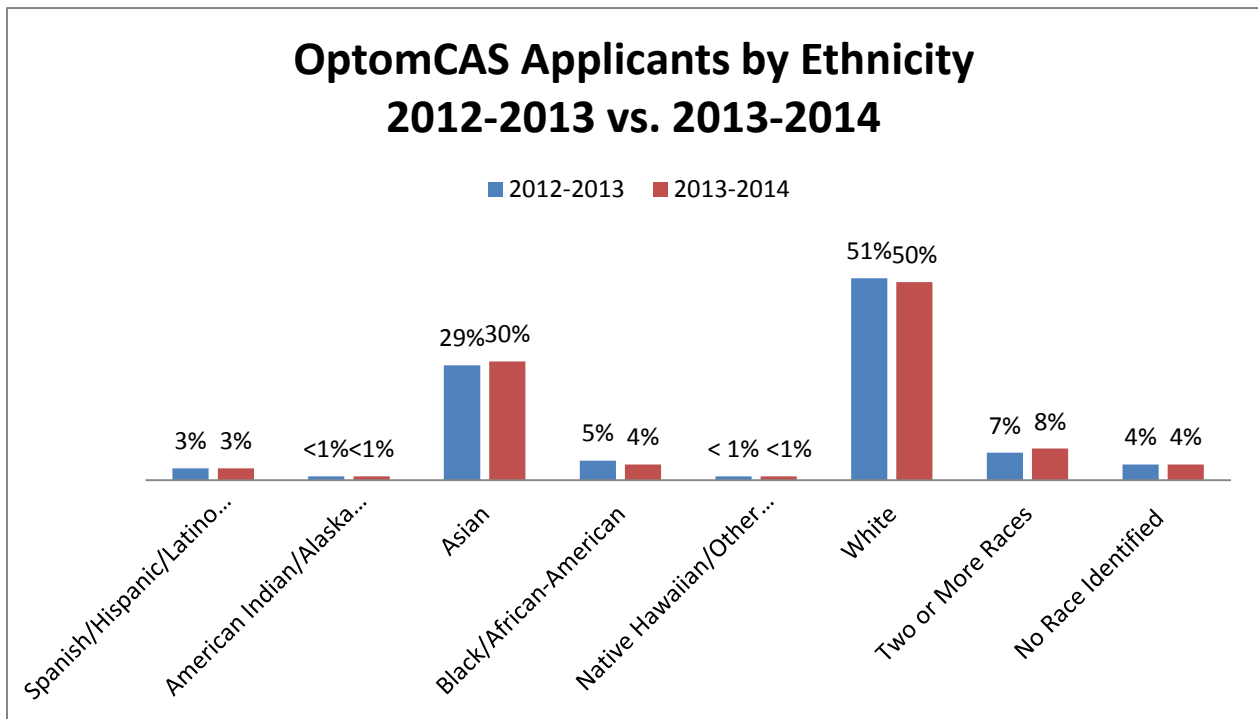
Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 3, the majority of applicants were White (50%) with the other applicants reporting Asian (30%); Two or More Races (8%); Black/African-American (4%);

Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina (3%); 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.

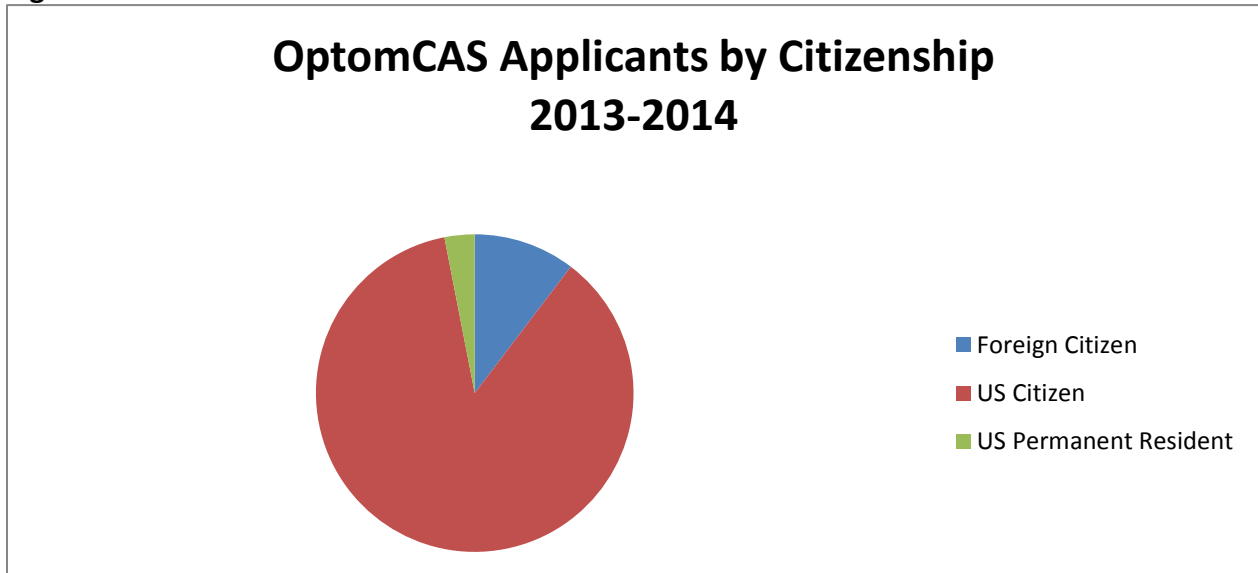
Figure 4.



There were no major shifts in the ethnicity categories for Cycle 5 from last application cycle.

Citizenship

Figure 5.



As shown in Figure 5, the majority of applicants for 2013-2014 were US citizens at 88%. Nine 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 2013-2014 were: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. There were 216 applicants from Canada. In the 2012-2013 Admissions Cycle, these were the same top five states with 258 applicants from Canada.

First Generation College Student

For 2013-2014, 63% of OptomCAS applicants had a parent who has attended/graduated from college, while 30% of applicants are first generation college students. Seven percent of applicants declined to answer the question. This was not a substantial change from last year.

Military Experience

Less than 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 (44%); a parent who is a non-optometrist (16%); no answer (13%); 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. Almost all 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 three 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,

Berkeley, and University of Texas in the fifth spot. These schools were the same as last year with the exception that University of California, San Diego was included.

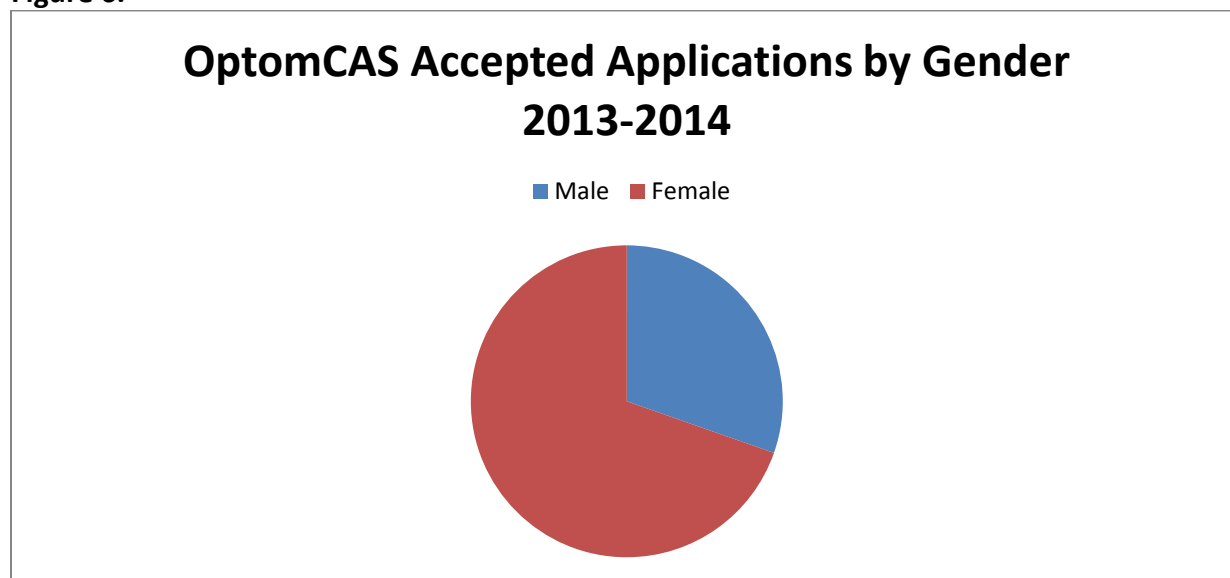
GPA

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 3.29 and 3.32 for females. The GPAs were similar in the last admissions cycle – 3.30 for males and 3.31 for females.

Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

Gender

Figure 6.



For Admissions Cycle 2013-2014, 70% of accepted applications were female and 30% were male. In Cycle 2012-2013, 67% of accepted applications were female and 33% were male.

Age

The median age for accepted applications was 23 years old. This was the same for last admissions cycle as well.

Ethnicity

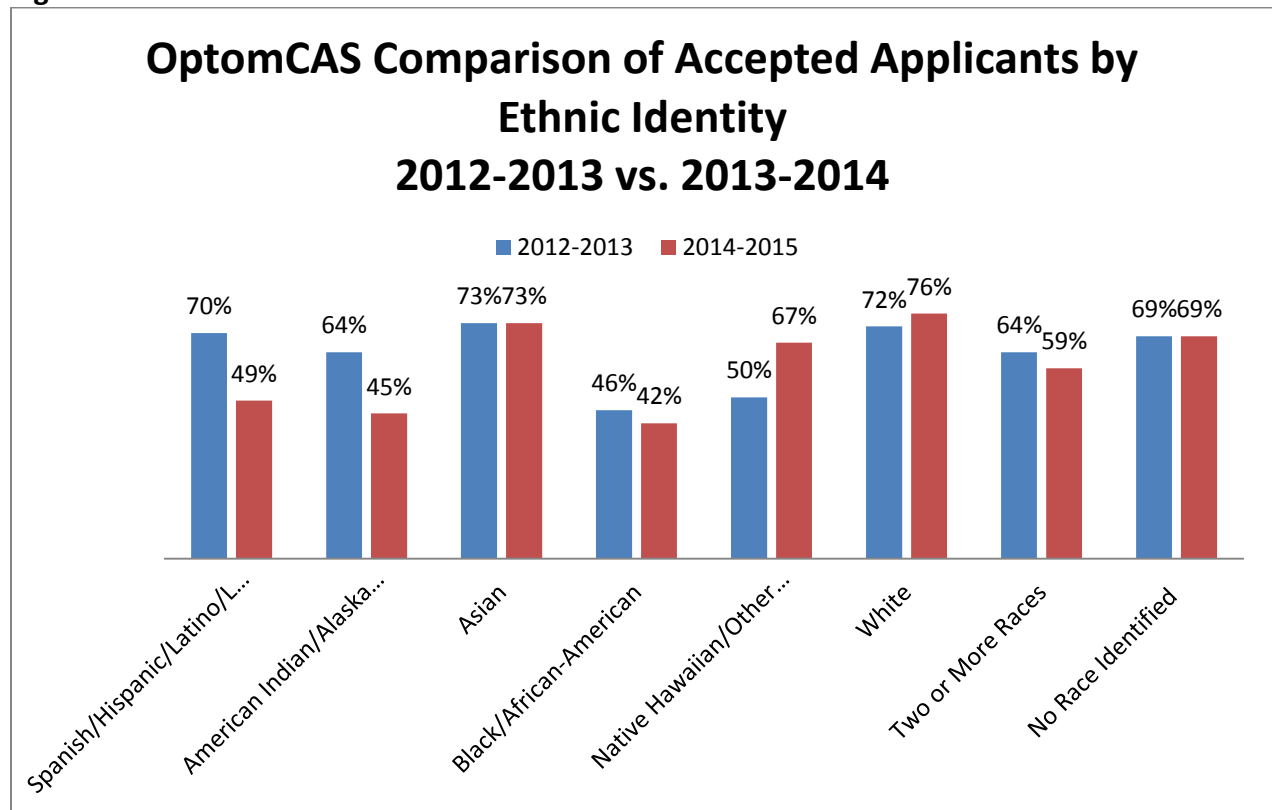
Table 5.

| | Percentage of Applicant Pool | Percentage of Applicants Accepted |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina | 3% | 49% |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | Less than 1% | 45% |
| Asian | 30% | 73% |
| Black/African-American | 4% | 42% |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | Less than 1% | 67% |
| White | 50% | 76% |
| Two or More Races | 8% | 59% |
| No Race Identified | 4% | 69% |

As noted in Table 5, White and Asian had the highest rate of acceptance at 76% and 73%; followed by No Race Identified at 69%; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander at 67%; Two or More Races at 59%; Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina at 49%; American Indian/Alaska Native at 45% and Black/African-American at 42%.

As shown in Figure 7 below, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and White increased their rate of acceptance.

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 2012-2013, the breakdown was very similar.

GPA

The average GPA for accepted applicants at the 21 schools and colleges ranged from 3.02 to 3.65.

More Information

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

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