



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

**2011-2012**

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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. 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 3, which is the Admissions Cycle 2011-2012. This OptomCAS cycle opened on July 1, 2011 and closed on June 2, 2012. The application fee was \$125 for one institution and \$45 for each additional institution.

## Participating Institutions for 2011-2012

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As noted in Table 1, twenty one schools and colleges of optometry participated in OptomCAS in Admissions Cycle 2011-2012.

**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
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences School of Optometry	State University of New York State College of Optometry
Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	University of Alabama-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	University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg

Optometry	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 2011-2012 was 2,545. These applicants submitted a total of 13,393 applications for an average of 5.26 applications per applicant. See Table 2 below for a comparison to Cycle 2 – Admissions Cycle 2010-2011.

**Table 2.**

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

There was a slight increase in the number of applicants and applications for 2011-2012. The total mailed applications per applicant remained consistent at five applications per applicant.

### Applicants by Offers per Applicant

Of the 2,545 applicants who applied to OptomCAS with mailed application status, 1,820 (72%) received one or more offers of admission, while 725 (28%) 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	297	125	172							
2	222	92	100	30						
3	319	99	127	79	14					
4	344	81	125	87	45	6				
5	413	99	143	98	55	15	3			
6	248	52	87	52	44	10	2	1		
7	210	55	58	49	33	11	4	0	0	
8	133	29	36	33	23	8	4	0	0	0
9	89	20	26	24	10	4	5	0	0	0
10	74	19	20	14	14	5	2	0	0	0
11	50	14	19	8	7	1	1	0	0	0
12	36	7	10	8	4	5	2	0	0	0

13	27	8	9	4	4	2	0	0	0	0
14	20	6	8	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
15	18	5	6	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
16	13	5	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0
17	6	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	11	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	1
20	8	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
21	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	2545	725	960	499	263	70	24	1	2	1

## 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.**

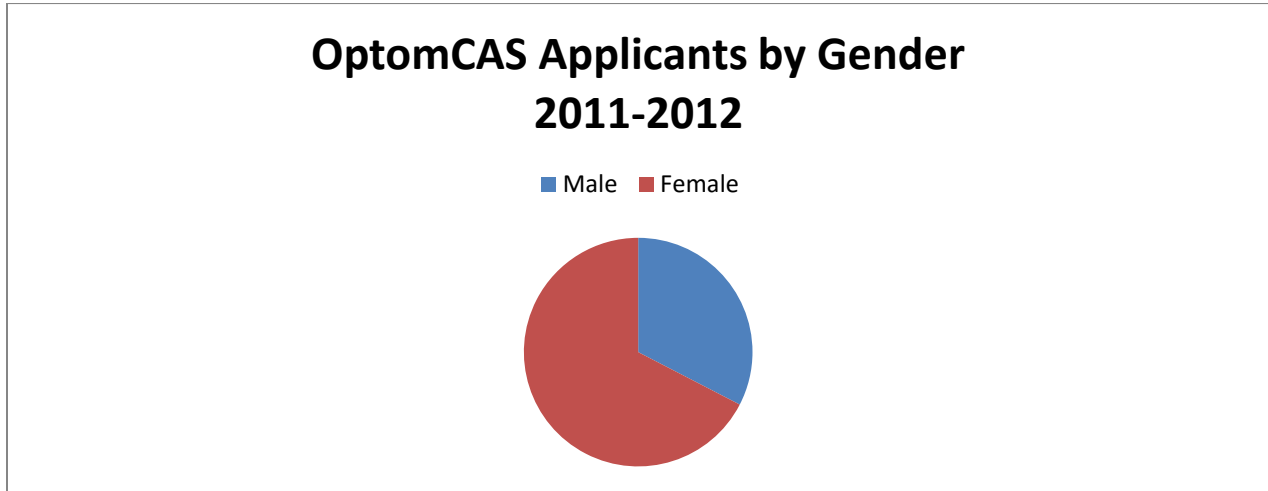
School Code	State	School	Number Applications	Number Accepted	Number Denied
1	IL	Illinois College of Optometry	1203	314	889
2	IN	Indiana University School of Optometry	538	117	421
3	PR	Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry	263	124	139
4	MI	Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	368	60	308
5	AZ	Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry	684	67	617
6	MA	New England College of Optometry	923	284	639
7	OK	Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry	283	48	235
8	FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry	1018	193	825
9	OH	The Ohio State University College of Optometry	591	113	478
10	OR	Pacific University College of Optometry	593	145	448
11	PA	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University	1156	308	848
12	CA	Southern California College of Optometry	662	150	512
13	TN	Southern College of Optometry	833	237	596
14	NY	State University of New York State College of Optometry	598	163	435
15	AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry	378	80	298
16	CA	University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry	294	79	215
17	MO	University of Missouri at St. Louis, College of Optometry	526	90	436
18	TX	University of Houston College of Optometry	653	135	518
19	CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry	812	162	650
20	TX	University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry	572	185	387
21	MA	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences School of Optometry	445	121	324
<b>Total:</b>			13393	3175	10218

# 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

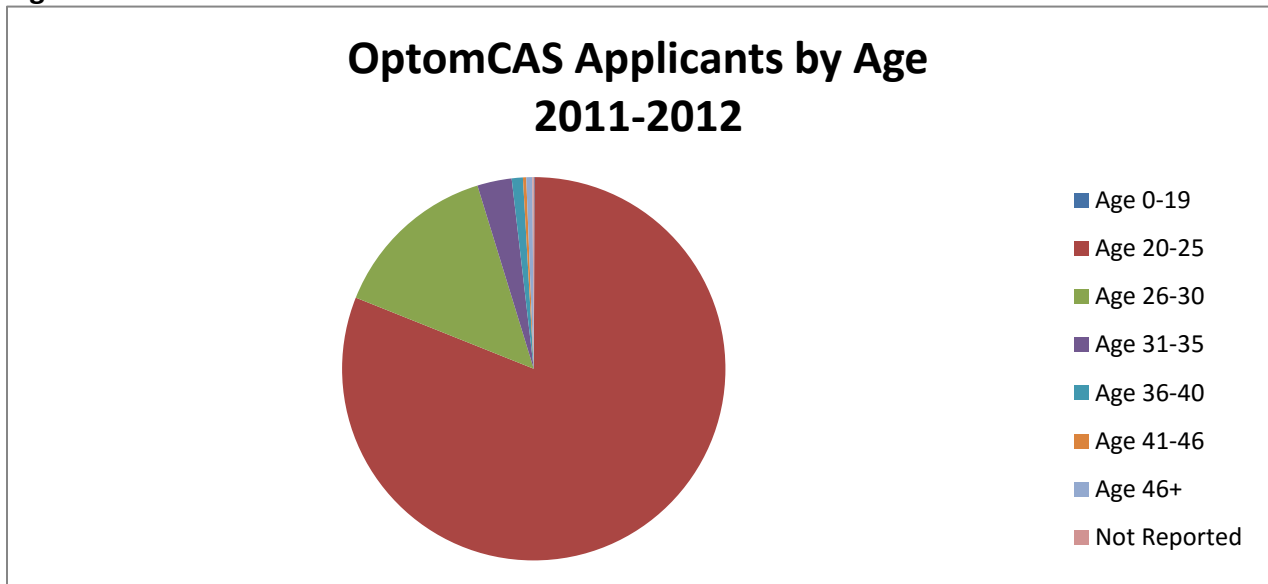
Figure 1.



As shown in Figure 1, females consist of 67% (1,701) of the OptomCAS applicant pool with males at 33% (844). These figures remained comparable to the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle.

## Age

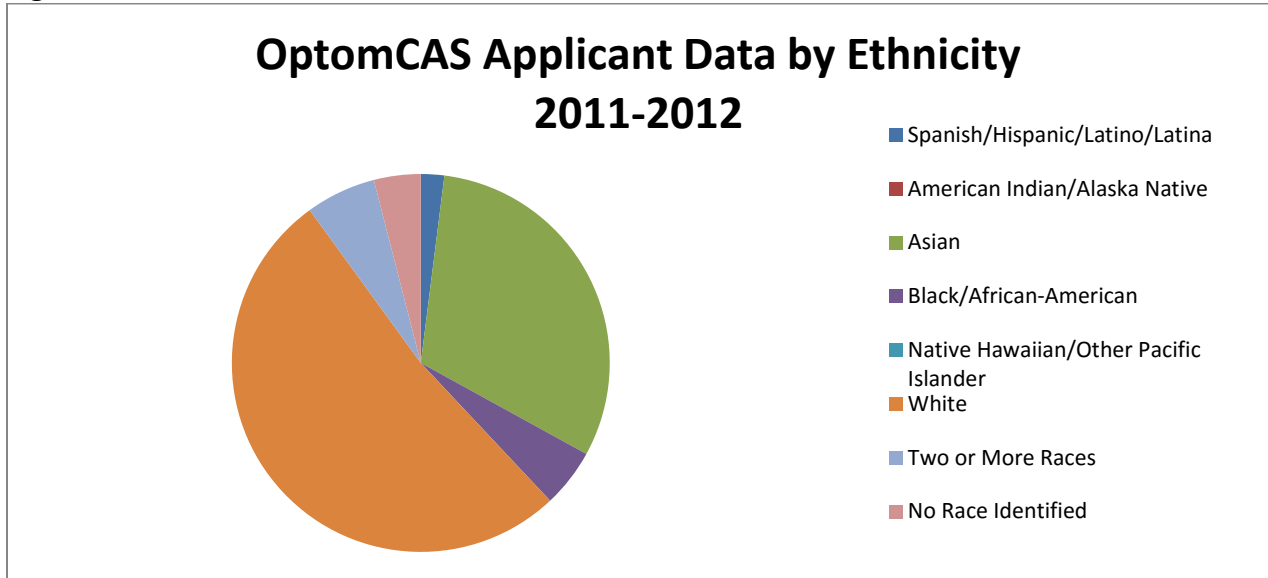
Figure 2.



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 14 and the oldest was 60. There was not a substantial change from the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle regarding age.

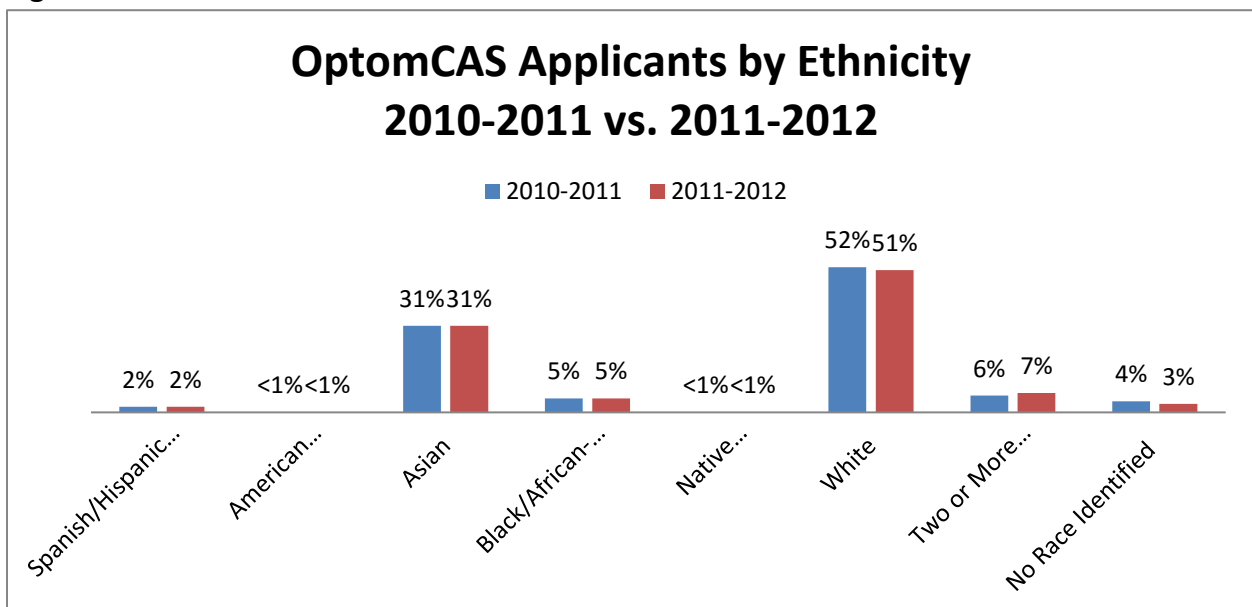
## Ethnicity

Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 3, the majority of applicants were White (51%) with the other applicants reporting Asian (31%); Two or More Races (7%); Black/African-American (5%); Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina (2%); American Indian/Alaska Native (less than 1%); and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (less than 1%). Three percent of applicants did not report a race.

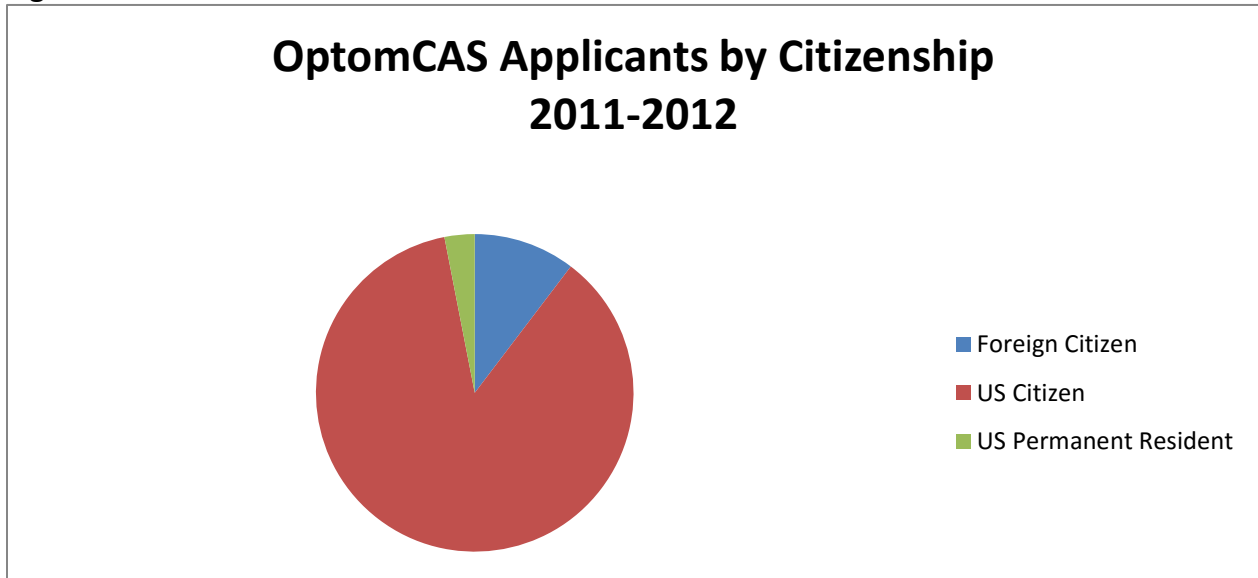
Figure 4.



There was a very slight increase in Two or More Races in 2011-2012 according to Figure 4. There was a decrease in White applicants. There was no change for the other ethnicities.

## Citizenship

Figure 5.



As shown in Figure 5, the majority of applicants for 2011-2012 were US citizens at 88%. Ten 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 2011-2012 were: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. There were 224 applicants from Canada. In the 2010-2011 Admissions Cycle, these were the same top five states with 243 applicants from Canada.

## First Generation College Student

For 2011-2012, over 65% of OptomCAS applicants had a parent who has attended/graduated from college, while 31% of applicants are first generation college students. Four 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 (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**

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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 California, Los Angeles, University of California, San Diego, University of Houston, and University of California, Berkeley in the fifth spot. Last year, The Ohio State University was represented in the top five.

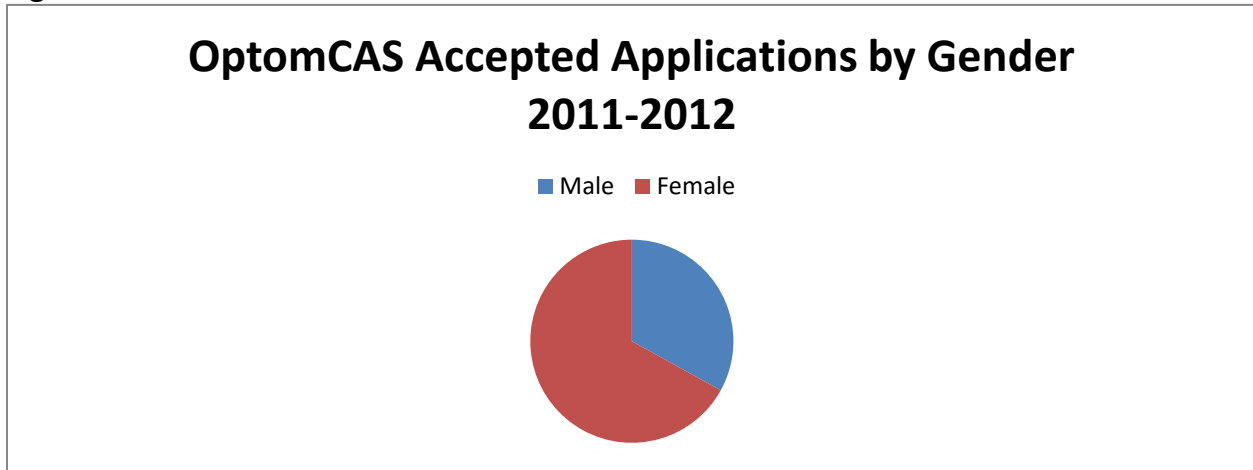
### **GPA**

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 3.28 and 3.32 for females. The GPAs were similar in last admissions cycle where the GPA was 3.27 for males and 3.33 for females.

# Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

## Gender

Figure 6.



For both Admissions Cycle 2011-2012 and 2010-2011, 67% of accepted applications were female and 33% were male.

## Age

The median age for accepted applications was 22.8 years old. Last admissions cycle, the median age was 22.9 years old.

## Ethnicity

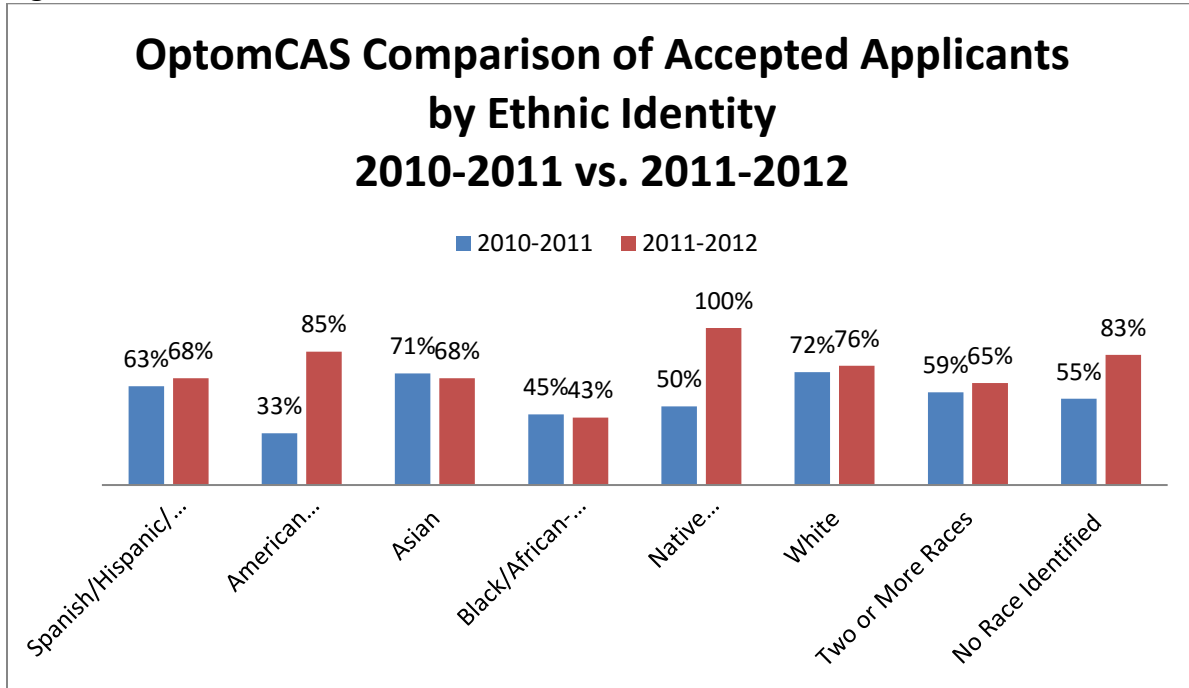
Table 5.

	Percentage of Applicant Pool	Percentage of Accepted Applicants
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina	2%	68%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Less than 1%	85%
Asian	31%	68%
Black/African-American	5%	43%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Less than 1%	100%
White	51%	76%
Two or More Races	7%	65%
No Race Identified	3%	83%

As noted in Table 5, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native had the highest rate of acceptance at 100% and 85%; followed by White at 76%; Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina and Asian at 68%; Two or More Races at 65%; and Black/African-American at 43%.

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

**Figure 7.**



### Citizenship

Eighty-nine percent of applications accepted were US citizens, 9% were foreign applications (this includes Canadian residents), and 2% were permanent residents of the US. In 2010-2011, the breakdown was very similar.

### GPA

The GPA range for Cycle 3 for all accepted applications was 3.28 to 3.92. Last admissions cycle, the GPA range was 3.33 to 3.87.

## 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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