



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

**2013-2014**

---

---

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 420  
Rockville, MD 20852

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Participating Institutions for 2013-2014</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 .....	7
Figure 2.....	7
Ethnicity .....	7
Figure 3.....	7
Figure 4.....	8
Citizenship.....	8
Figure 5.....	8
State of Residence .....	9
First Generation College Student.....	9
Military Experience .....	9
Influences.....	9
<b>Academic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Major and Degree .....	9
Institution.....	9
GPA.....	10
<b>Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Gender .....	10
Figure 6.....	10
Age .....	10
Ethnicity .....	10
Table 5 .....	10
Figure 7.....	11
Citizenship.....	12
GPA.....	12
<b>For More Information .....</b>	<b>12</b>

## 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:**

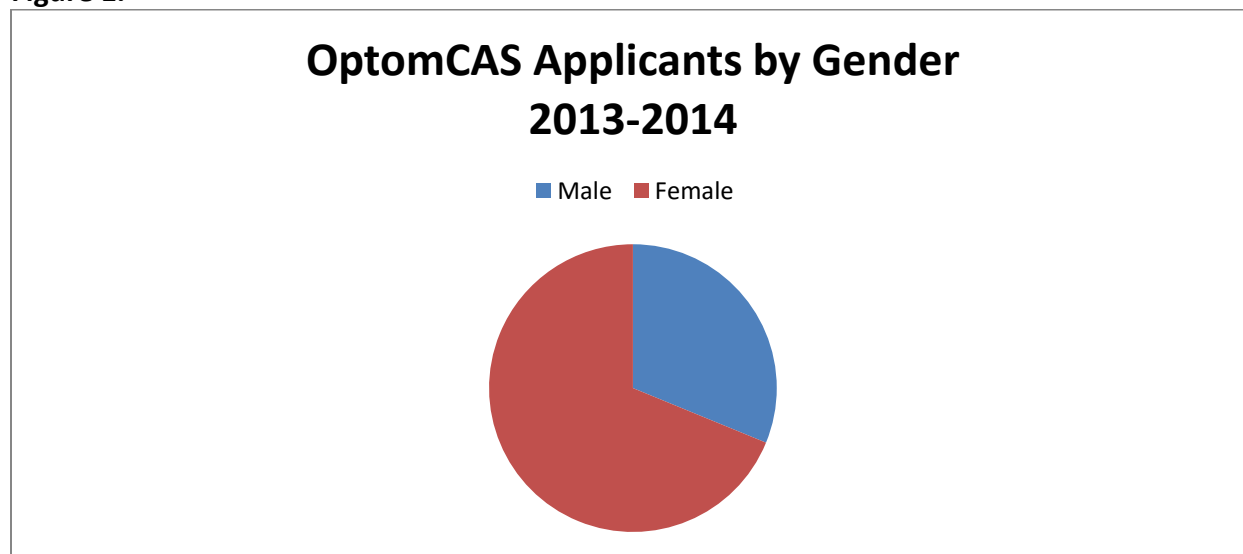
Conditionally Admitted  
 Admission Recommended to Graduate College  
 Admitted, Deposited (accepted), Enrolled  
 Admitted, Declined Before Deposit (acceptance)  
 Admitted, Deposited (accepted), Later Declined  
 Admitted, Deferred

## 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.

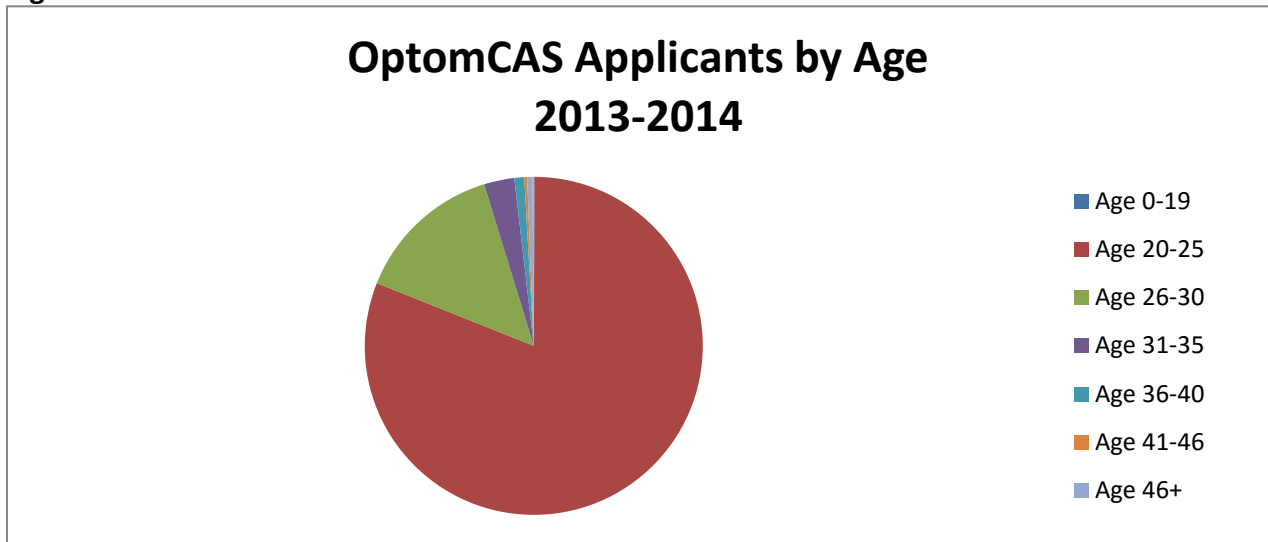
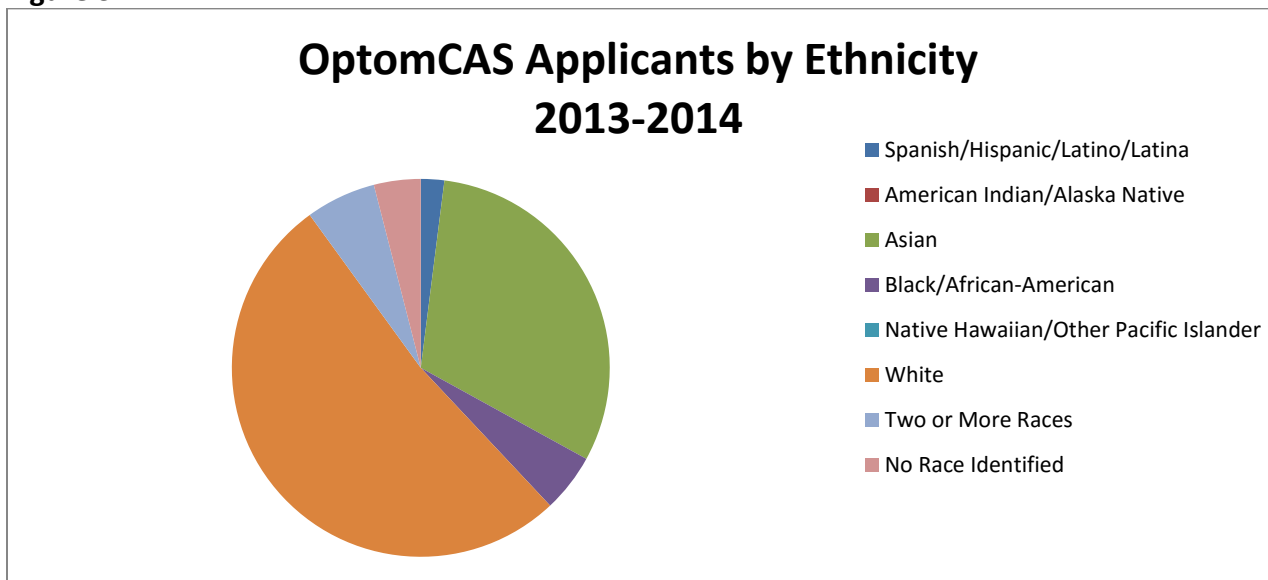


Figure 2 shows that the majority of applicants were in the 20-25 age range. The average age for all applicants was 24 with a median age of 23. The youngest applicant was 19 and the oldest was 59. There was not a change from the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle regarding the average and median age.

## Ethnicity

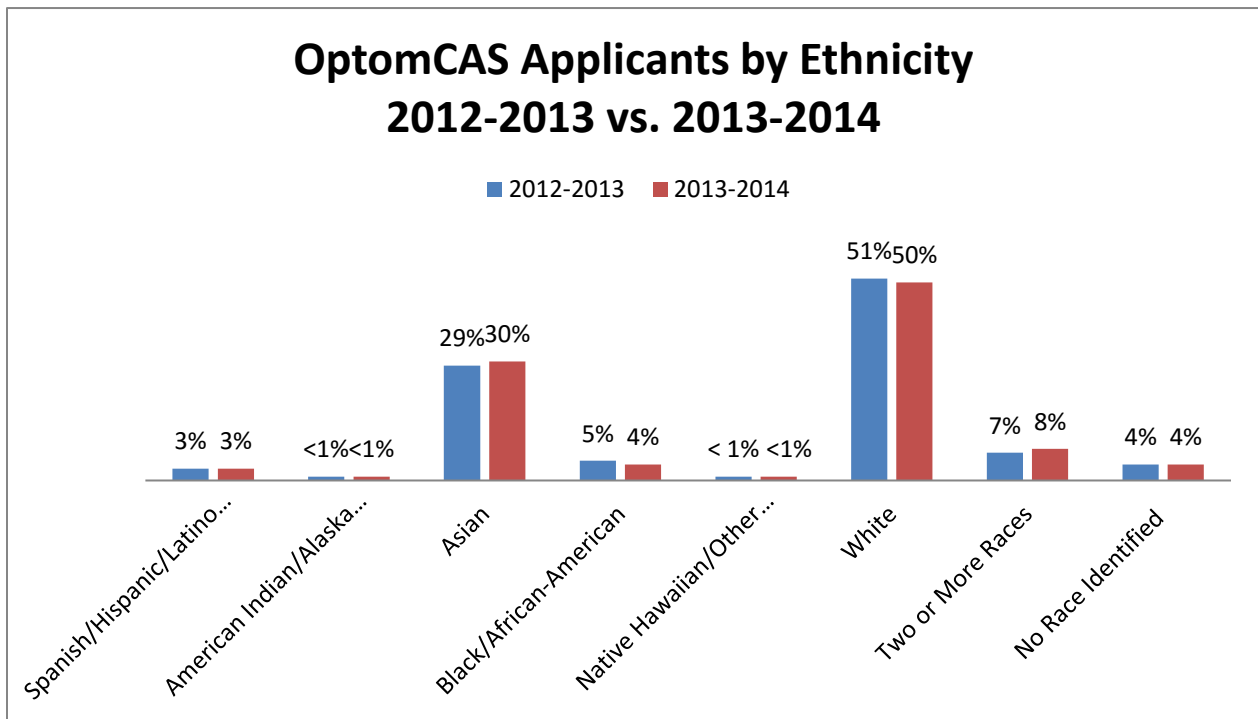
Figure 3.



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.

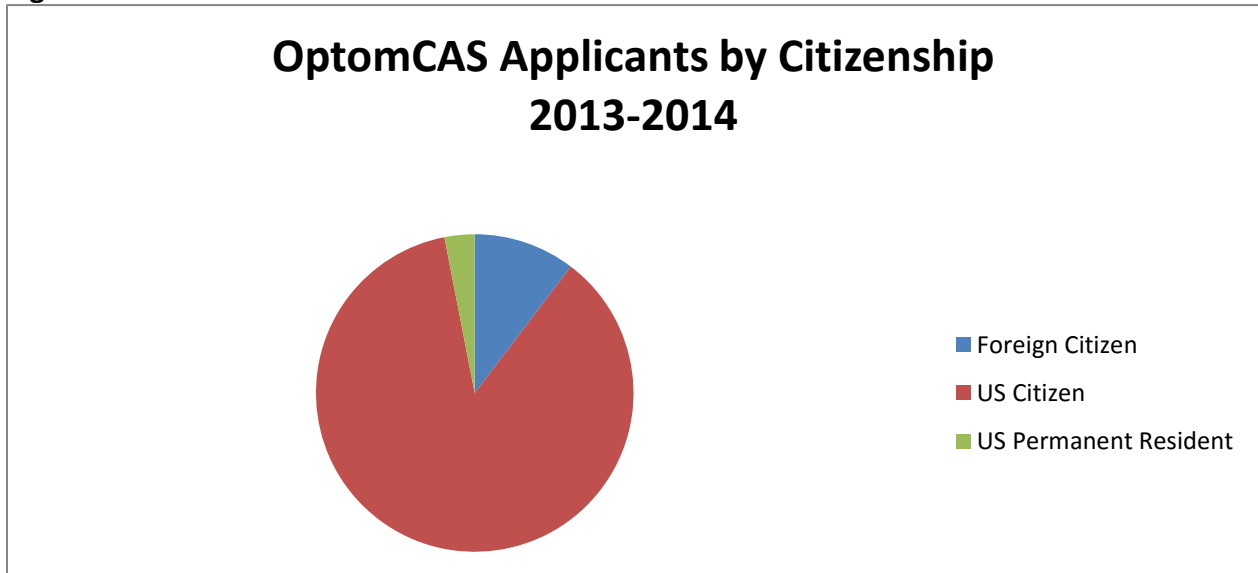
Figure 4.



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

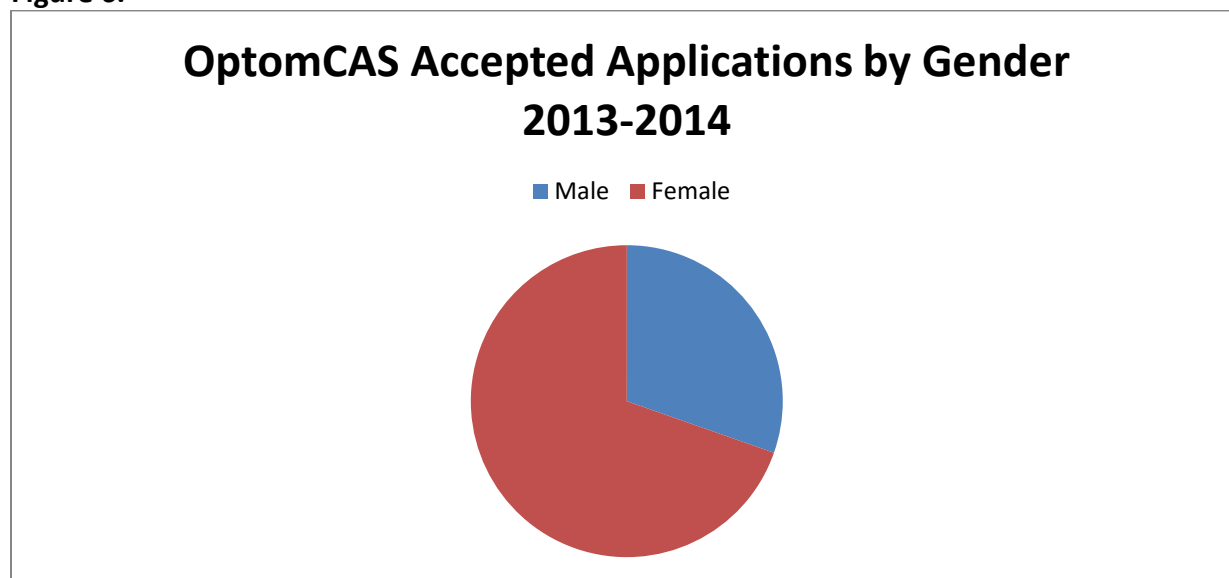
OptomCAS calculates a standardized GPA to aid the schools and colleges of optometry in evaluating applicants using uniform and consistent criteria. The overall cumulative GPA for all applicants was 3.31 – for males it was 3.29 and 3.32 for females. The GPAs were similar in the last admissions cycle – 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

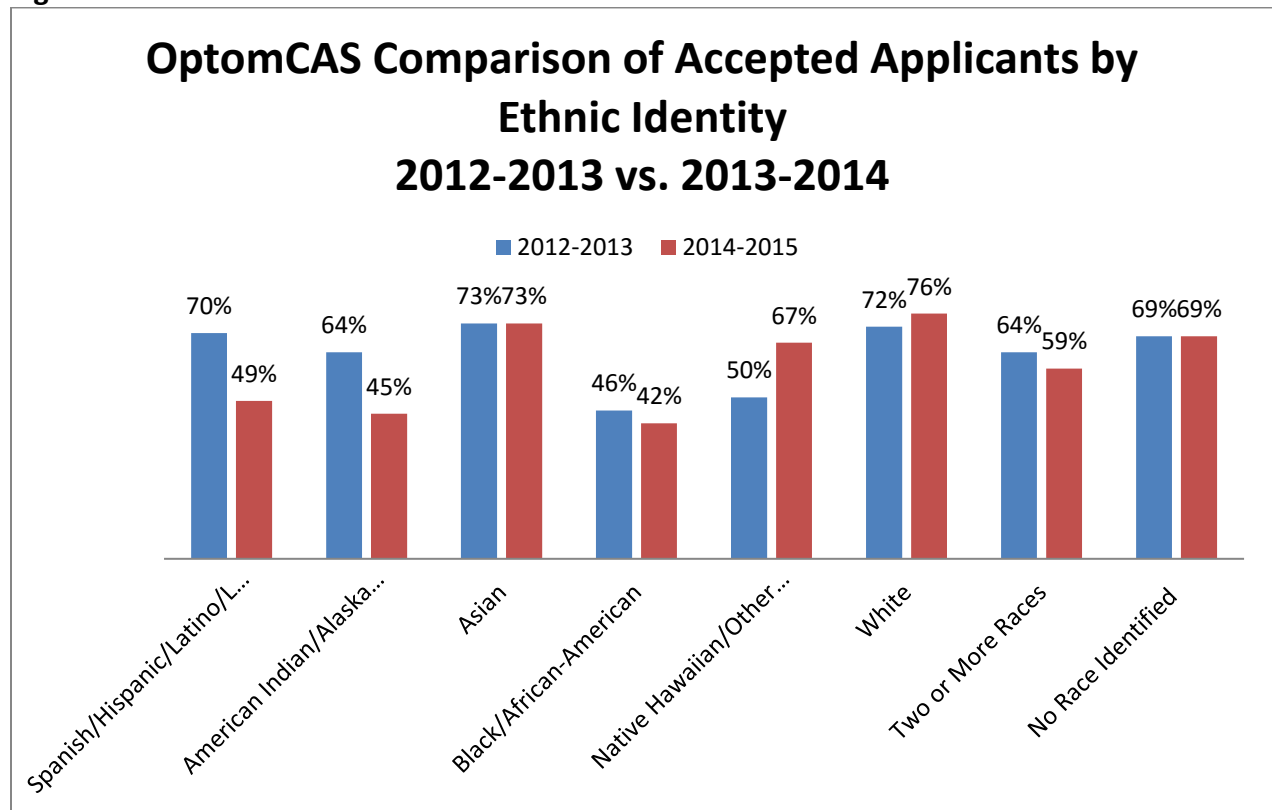
**Table 5.**

	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 applications 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:

Paige Pence  
Director, Student and Residency Affairs  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 420  
Rockville, MD 20852  
[ppence@opted.org](mailto:ppence@opted.org)