



**Optometry Centralized Application Service
OptomCAS Applicant Data Report – A National Snapshot
2014-2015**

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 6, which is the Admissions Cycle 2014-2015. This cycle opened on July 1, 2014 and closed on June 2, 2015. The application fee was \$155 for one institution and \$55 for each additional institution.

Participating Institutions for 2014-2015

As noted in Table 1, twenty one schools and colleges of optometry participated in OptomCAS in Admissions Cycle 2014-2015.

Table 1.

Illinois College of Optometry	Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry
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

Applicants and Applications

The number of OptomCAS individual mailed applicants to the twenty one schools and colleges of optometry for 2014-2015 was 2,732. These applicants submitted a total of 13,261 applications for an average of 4.85 applications per applicant. See Table 2 below for a comparison to previous cycles.

Table 2.

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Mailed Applicants	2,545	2,639	2,604	2,732
Mailed Applications	13,393	13,210	13,164	13,261
Total Mailed Applications per Applicant	5.26	5.01	5.06	4.85

There was a 5% increase in the number of applicants for 2014-2015. The total mailed applications decreased slightly to below five applications per applicant.

Applicants by Offers per Applicant

Of the 2,732 applicants who applied to OptomCAS with mailed application status, 1,896 (69%) received one or more offers of admission, while 836 (31%) 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	343	168	175							
2	288	107	119	62						
3	334	103	115	92	24					
4	376	107	131	87	48	3				
5	517	124	148	131	86	25	3			
6	270	66	67	71	51	13	1	1		

7	187	47	60	37	28	10	3	2		
8	125	35	30	28	16	12	2	2		
9	82	20	25	19	9	4	3		2	
10	69	16	16	13	14	7	1	1	1	
11	42	16	7	9	9	1				
12	22	6	5	2	5	2		1		1
13	21	5	4	3	5	3			1	
14	15	5	6	2	1		1			
15	21	5	6	5	3	2				
16	8	3	3	1			1			
17	4		3		1					
18	2	1	1							
19	3		1	2						
20	1	1								
21	2	1		1						
Total:	2732	836	922	565	300	82	15	7	4	1

Designations

The top three designations for applicants to the Doctor of Optometry program were: Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Illinois College of Optometry and Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (reference Table 4). Please note 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	1097	768	329
IN	Indiana University School of Optometry	530	368	162
PR	Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry	283	183	100
MA	MCPHS University School of Optometry	648	498	150
MI	Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University	264	204	60
AZ	Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry	676	561	115
MA	New England College of Optometry	905	609	296
OK	Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry	248	204	44
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry	1067	872	195
OR	Pacific University College of Optometry	595	439	156
PA	Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry	1125	692	433
CA	Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University	648	478	170
TN	Southern College of Optometry	855	615	240
NY	State University of New York State College of Optometry	551	450	101
OH	The Ohio State University College of Optometry	561	467	94
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of	372	272	100

	Optometry			
CA	University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry	283	202	81
TX	University of Houston College of Optometry	598	462	136
MO	University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry	451	349	102
TX	University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry	648	474	174
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry	856	643	213

Decision Codes Reflected in Offered Column:

AD = Admitted, Declined Before Deposit (acceptance)

AF = Admitted, Deferred

AL = Admitted, Deposited (accepted), Later Declined

AN = Admitted, No Response, Institution Declined

Offer Accepted

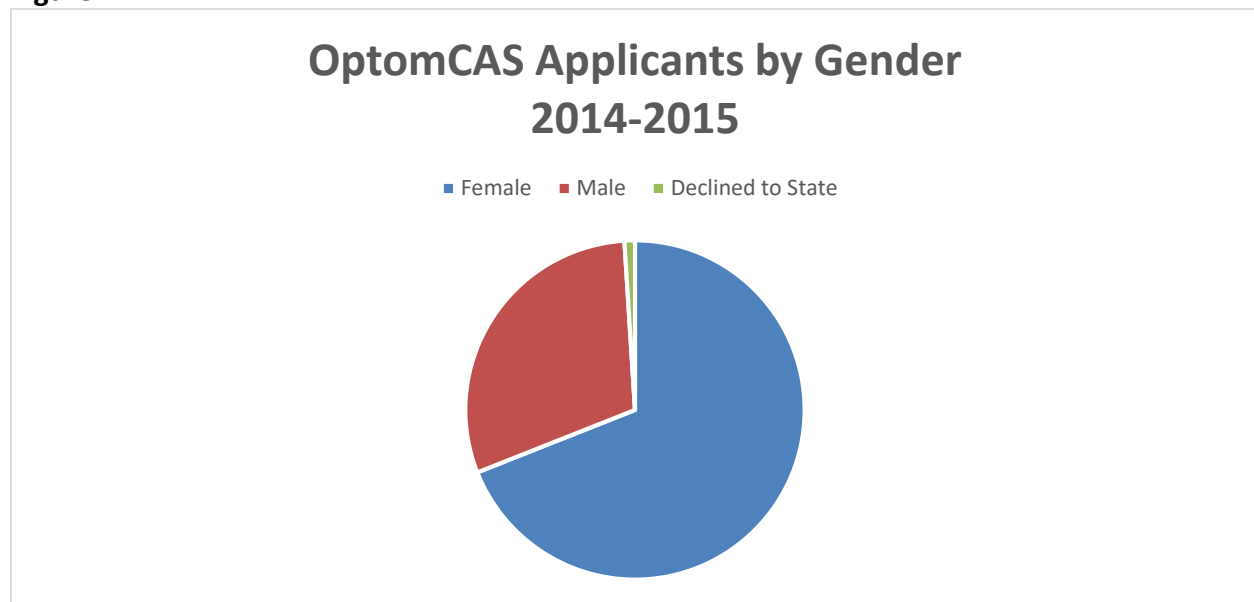
Offer Made

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% (1,891) of the OptomCAS applicant pool with males at 30% (821). One-percent (20) of the applicant pool Declined to State the gender. These figures remained comparable to the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle.

Age

Figure 2.

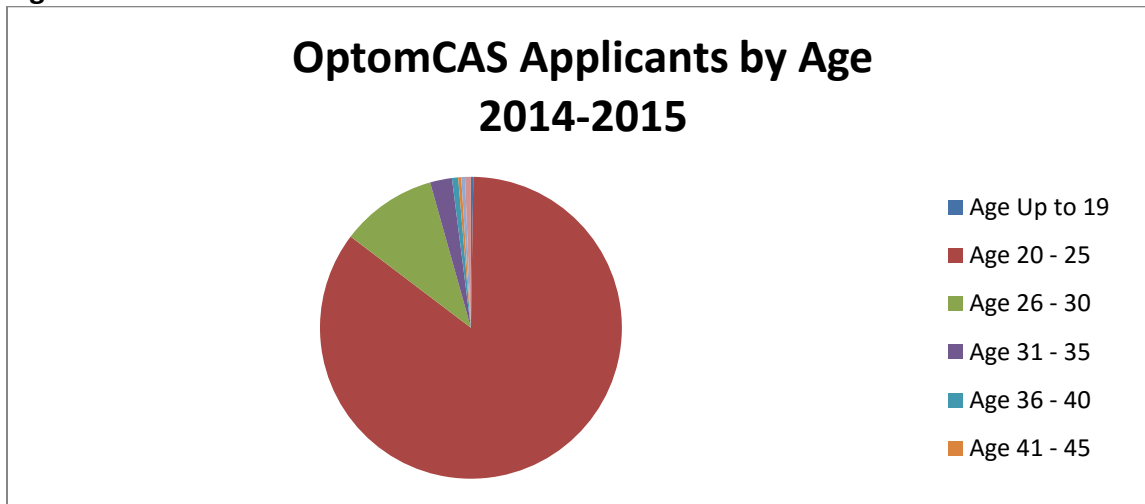
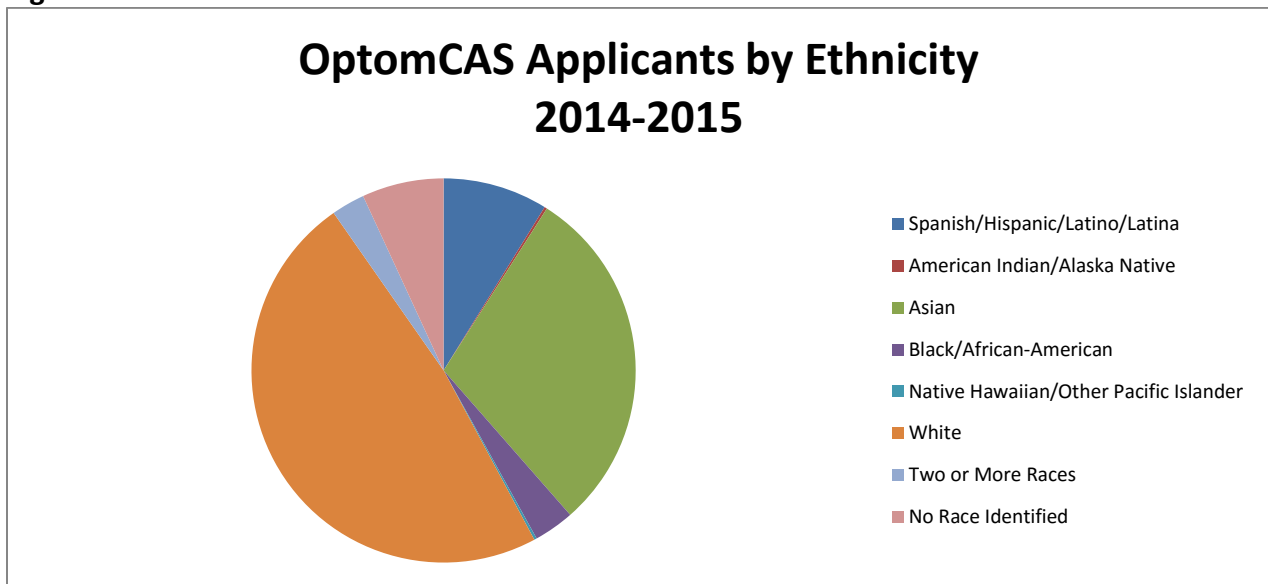


Figure 2 shows that the majority of applicants were in the 20-25 age range. The average age for all applicants was 23.17 with a median age of 22. The youngest applicant was 19 and the oldest was 55. There was a slight change from the previous OptomCAS admissions cycle regarding the average and median age.

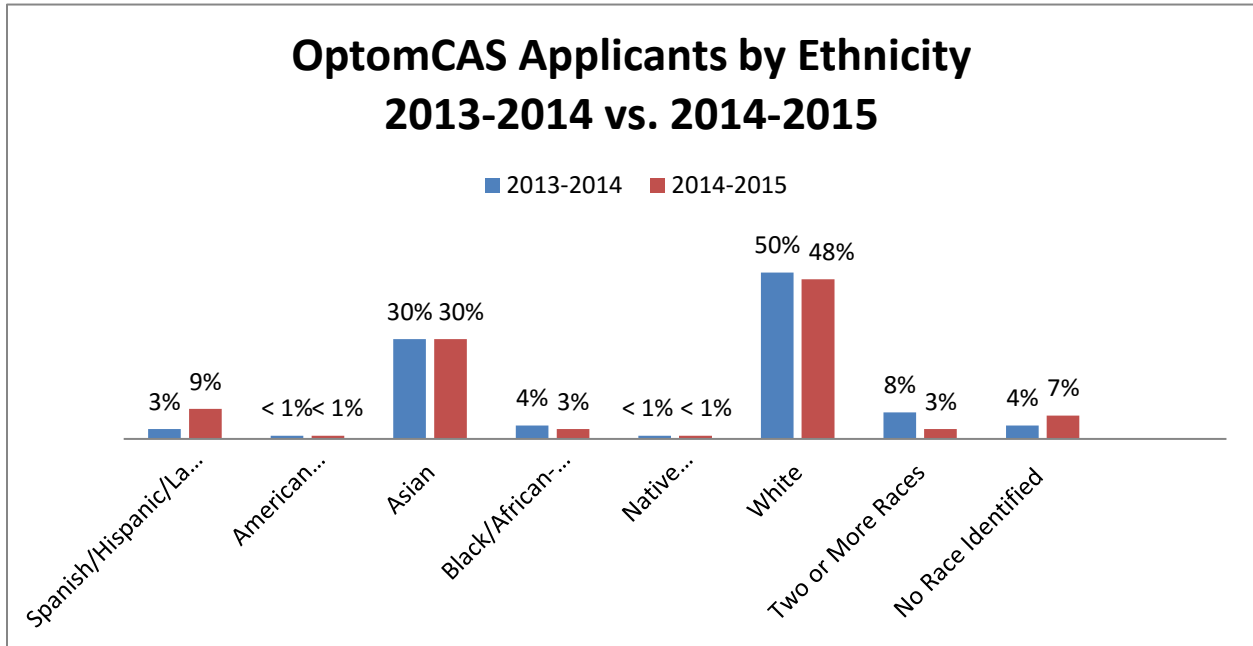
Ethnicity

Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 3, the majority of applicants were White (48%) with the other applicants reporting Asian (30%); Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina (9%); Black/African-American (3%); Two or More Races (3%); American Indian/Alaska Native (less than 1%); and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (less than 1%). Seven percent of applicants did not report a race.

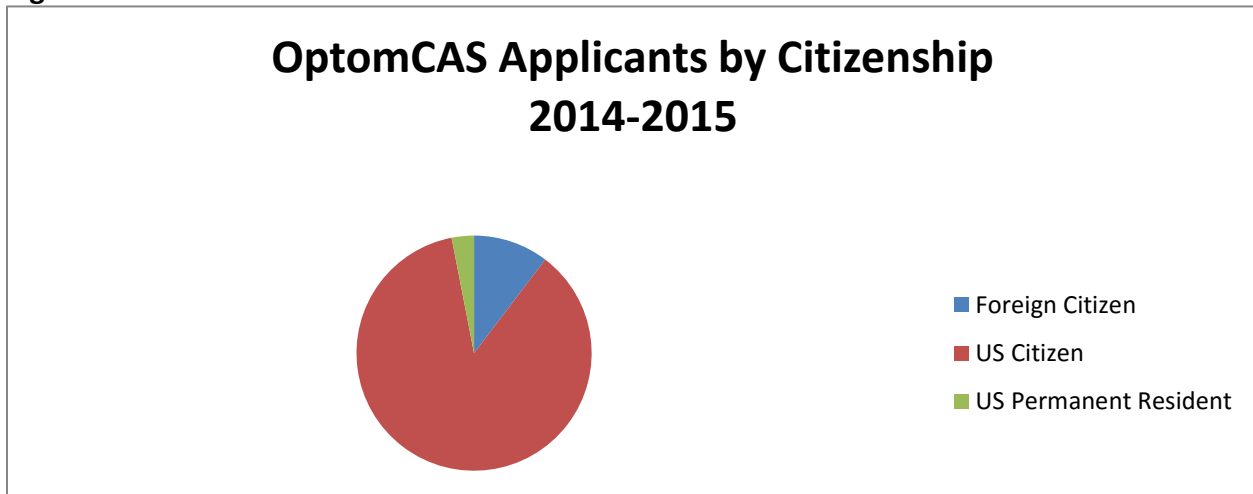
Figure 4.



There were major shifts in the ethnicity categories for Cycle 6 from last application cycle with the increase in Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina applicants and in applicants who did not identify a race. There was a decrease in applicants in this cycle who reported two or more races.

Citizenship

Figure 5.



As shown in Figure 5, the majority of applicants for 2014-2015 were US citizens at 86%. Ten percent of applicants reported they were foreign citizens and 4% 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 2014-2015 were: California, Texas, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania. There were 258 applicants from Canada. In the 2013-2014 Admissions Cycle, the top five states were: California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois and 216 applicants from Canada.

First Generation College Student

For 2014-2015, 65% of submitted OptomCAS applications had a parent who has attended/graduated from college, while 28% of applications are first generation college students. Seven percent 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 (52%); a parent who is a non-optometrist (18%); relative optometrist (9%); other health professional (6%); and friend (5%). Most of these influences were similar to last admissions cycle.

Academic Information on the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

Major

The most selected major on the OptomCAS application was Biology. Biology was also the top major last year.

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 California, Los Angeles, University of Houston, The Ohio State University and University of California, San Diego in the fifth spot. These schools were the same as last year with the exception that University of California, Berkeley and University of Texas were included.

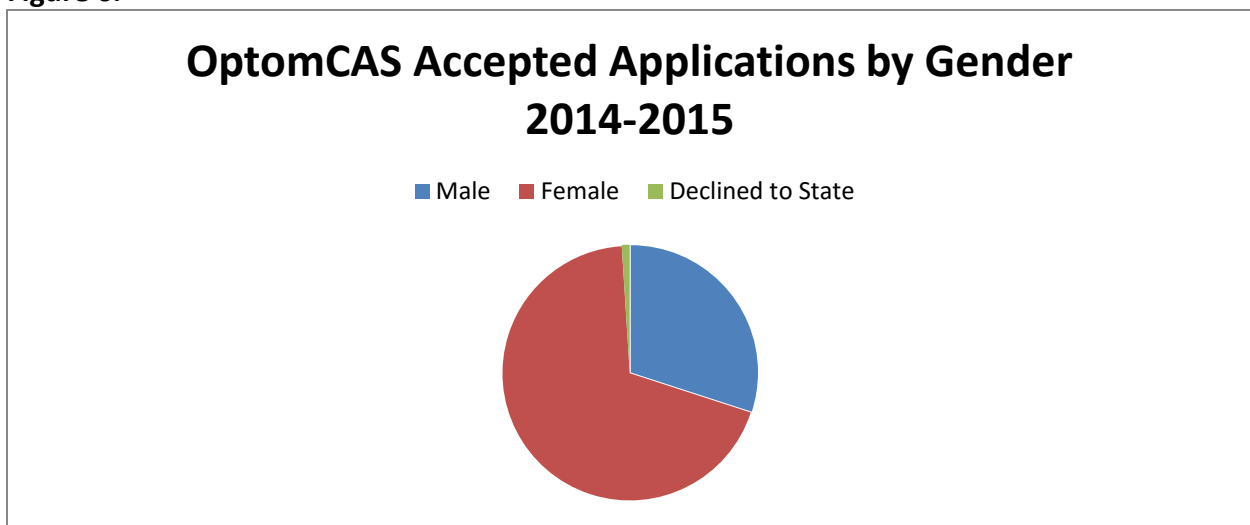
GPA

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 3.32 – for males it was 3.27 and 3.34 for females. The GPAs were similar in the last admissions cycle – 3.29 for males and 3.32 for females.

Accepted Profile of the Doctor of Optometry Applicant

Gender

Figure 6.



For Admissions Cycle 2014-2015, 69% of accepted applications were female and 30% were male. One-percent declined to state their gender. In Cycle 2013-2014, 70% of accepted applications were female and 30% were male.

Age

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

Ethnicity

This table and graph on acceptances by ethnicity is not available this year as it has been since the 2009-2010 cycle, but it will be included in next cycle's final report.

Citizenship

Eighty-six percent of applications accepted were US citizens; 11% were foreign applications (this includes Canadian residents); and 3% were permanent residents of the US. In 2013-2014, the breakdown was similar.

GPA

The average GPA for accepted applications at the twenty one schools and colleges ranged from 3.10 to 3.45.

More Information

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

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