College of Optometry

Michael J. Earley, OD, PhD, FAAO

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

A400 Starling Loving Hall

330 W. 10th Avenue

Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-1113 Clinic

614-292-9086 Office

earley.3@osu.edu

Bernadette Vankeerbergen, PhD.

Program Director, Curriculum and Assessment

Arts and Science

The Ohio State University

154 D Denny Hall

164 W 17th Avenue

Columbus OH 43210

Dr. Vankeerbergen:

Recently, the profession of optometry has seen a significant increase in the number of optometry programs that have opened across the country. This is NOT accompanied by an increase in the number of applicants nationally. In addition, our profession suffers from the same burden of increasing financial debt for our graduates. A recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine points out a relatively unfavorable debt to potential income analysis for most health profession positions other than surgical subspecialties.

In response to both increased competition to recruit the best applicants to our program and to the escalating costs of professional education, The Ohio State University College of Optometry is currently increasing our efforts recruit applicants after successful completion of three years of undergraduate education and completion of our prerequisites. Therefore we expect the number of students who matriculate into our program who would be both interested and eligible to participate in the Bachelor of Science in Vision Science (B.S.V.S.) program to increase in the coming years

The B.S.V.S. program is a competitive advantage that the OSU College of Optometry can offer applicants over all other optometry programs. It also offers a way to keep the BEST applicants from Ohio to stay in Ohio. Therefore the college’s administration is **strongly** in favor of continuing to offer this opportunity to our first year students.

Please let me know if you require any further information or documentation. Thank you for efforts in continuing this program.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Earley, OD, PhD, FAAO

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Professor of Clinical Optometry

VSP Chair for Advancement of Professional Practice