



**Marshall B.
KETCHUM UNIVERSITY**
Southern California College of Optometry

International Applicants and International Doctors Seeking Licensure

To be eligible to apply to SCCO, international applicants (including those with optometric degrees granted outside the U.S. and Canada) must fulfill these requirements:

1. Complete all the prerequisite courses in either the U.S. or Canada. Even if you have taken the prerequisite courses as part of your undergrad degree.
2. OptomCAS requires a course-by-course evaluation that must be done by one of the foreign credentialing agencies listed below and submitted as part of the application.

World Education Services, Inc.

<https://www.wes.org/>

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.

<http://www.ece.org>

**American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
Foreign Education Services**

<http://ierf.org/>

What are my options if I have not completed SCCO's prerequisites in the US or Canada?

1. Complete this coursework at a community college or a 4-year university.

There is preapproved coursework [here](#) on our website. Estimated time to complete the coursework with a full-time course load: 2 years.

2. Apply to an optometry school that accepts foreign coursework for prerequisite classes.

This is called "advanced standing". This is the quickest option to start optometry school.

- Most likely you would still attend optometry school for four years
- You most likely would not need to take a few years of coursework before starting the four-year optometry program
- List of schools that offer advanced standing opportunities, and are more likely to accept coursework completed at a foreign institution:

https://myasco.opted.org/searchEngines/admissions_advanced_search_form.aspx



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Can an optometrist or ophthalmologist from another country get a license to practice in the United States through SCCO?

Optometry's scope of practice varies greatly from country to country. Optometrists in the United States practice medicine and as such, their training and licensing requirements are different than those educated internationally.

SCCO does not facilitate the process whereby a foreign doctor would gain licensure in the U.S.

If you are an optometrist, contact the state board of optometry in the state in which you seek licensure to determine the particular requirements. Also, contact ASCO (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry) at www.opted.org to find out which schools may accept students for advanced standing status. Transfer credit and advanced standing are the terms used by colleges and universities for the procedure of granting credit to a student for educational experiences or courses undertaken at another institution.

If you are an ophthalmologist, contact the medical licensing board in the state in which you seek licensure to practice medicine. If you wish to pursue a career in optometry, you may be eligible for advance standing status in a college of optometry. To make further inquiries, contact ASCO as www.opted.org.

Should you wish to take the NBEO (National Board of Examiners in Optometry) exam, you are advised to contact the particular state in which you desire to practice to find out about their particular requirements.

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