



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

Rolling Admissions Explained

What is rolling admissions?

SCCO begins accepting applications through OptomCAS on July 1 of each admissions cycle.

Rolling admissions means that applications are reviewed as they are received; should an applicant meet the academic criteria and interview successfully, they are offered a seat in the incoming class. Seats are filled over the duration of the admissions cycle.

SCCO fills the class with 100 students each year. If you are one of the early applicants to compete for one of the first seats in a class, your odds for success will be greater.

A limited amount of interviews are done each season; therefore, if an applicant applies late, and even though they meet the academic criteria necessary to qualify for an interview invitation, if there are no interview slots remaining, they will not be invited to interview. This is the risk an applicant takes when applying late in the season.

Before the end of the admissions cycle, we will run out of original seat invitations to offer applicants who have successfully completed the interview process and are therefore accepted. This means that late in the admissions cycle when all the seat offers have been extended, even if you interview well, you will be put on the Alternate List. For more information about the Alternate List, see document called "Alternate List Explained" located here:

www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs

Bottom Line: The earlier in the season you start the application process and interview, the better your odds of securing a seat in the class.

I know I should apply early, but I don't have all my application contents ready to submit. Should I submit my application anyway?

To be able to apply through OptomCAS, you will need the following:

- Essays completed
- Transcripts for all college level work completed so far
- Be prepared to pay the OptomCAS fee
- Recommenders for your LORs email contact information

You do not need to have taken the OAT. If you have taken the OAT, you will be asked to enter unofficial OAT. Scores are reported directly to SCCO from the OAT administrators.

Waiting for fall grades should not affect your decision to apply early. OptomCAS will allow you to update a submitted application with fall grades.

How do I update my OptomCAS application with fall grades?

OptomCAS allows you to update your application with fall grades (check with OptomCAS for these specific dates which vary with each admissions cycle). You must submit an official transcript before OptomCAS will send a revision out to the optometry programs to which you applied.

Fall term grades are the only grades that may be utilized to update your application. If you have already received an acceptance from SCCO, you will not be required update your application with fall grades through OptomCAS. Instead, you are required to submit official copies of all transcripts to SCCO prior to matriculation.

If you have not received an acceptance from SCCO by the time your fall grades are available, you are strongly encouraged to utilize the revision option to update your application through OptomCAS.

I haven't completed the prerequisite requirements and I am still a whole year away from completing undergrad. Can I still apply?

Yes. Since the traditional applicant applies between their junior and senior year in undergrad, it is the rule rather than the exception that most applicants have not finished SCCO's pre-requisite requirements or completed their undergrad degree. You must be on track to complete the pre-requisites and your undergrad degree before beginning fall classes at SCCO.

Applicants have through the summer term that directly precedes the beginning of the fall term at SCCO to complete the pre-requisite requirements. Pre-requisite courses must be finished and transcribed by Orientation Day which is mid-August of each school year. Check with SCCO's admissions office for the exact calendar date by emailing ODadmissions@ketchum.edu

I am not satisfied with my OAT scores and plan to retake the OAT. Should I wait to submit my application until after I've retaken the OAT?

Each time SCCO receives new OAT test scores, your application is updated; therefore, it is more efficient to submit your application *even if you plan to retake the OAT*, which allows SCCO to begin processing your application. . Having the preliminary processing complete and awaiting only one component such as updated OAT scores is the best way to prevent further delay.

What is the latest date that I can submit my application?

Important Deadlines:

- The last date to take the OAT is April 1
- The deadline for submitting an application to SCCO through OptomCAS is April 1
- The supplemental application fee to SCCO must be paid by April 30

Please be advised to follow-up with OptomCAS to make sure they are in receipt of all materials you are required to submit. This is an ongoing responsibility on your part as you work through the admissions season.

JAM Rev 30May2017