

## Statement of Inherent Requirements

<b>Faculty</b>	Health
<b>Disciplines</b>	Discipline of Optometry, Clinical Sciences
<b>Courses</b>	<p><b>Undergraduate Course</b> Bachelor of Vision Science [372JA.2]</p> <p><b>Postgraduate Courses</b> Master of Optometry [374JA.1]</p>

### Ethical Behaviour

#### Inherent Requirement

- Behave ethically and professionally in academic and professional environments, complying with relevant standards and codes of ethics applicable to the profession.

#### Rationale

- Compliance with relevant professional standards and/or codes of conduct, and commonly accepted standards of professional behaviour, facilitates safe, competent interactions and relationships for students and the people they engage with in all contexts. This supports the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all.
  - [Optometry Australia Code of Ethics](#)
  - [Optometry Board of Australia Code of Conduct for Optometrists](#)

#### Examples

- Apply ethical behaviour with confidential information in the academic environment and clinical settings, and outside of the practice setting.
- Ability to use suitable evaluation tools to review effectiveness of practice.

### Legal Compliance

#### Inherent Requirement

- Comply with Australian Law, University of Canberra Legislative instruments, professional regulations and/or scope of practice relevant to the profession.

## Rationale

- Knowledge, understanding and compliance with Australian Law and professional regulations facilitates education of effective, professional, responsible and accountable optometrists, and is necessary to work effectively and meet professional registration requirements.
  - c. [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(ACT\)](#)
  - d. Compliance with the [University of Canberra Privacy Policy](#), which complies with the [Information Privacy Act 2014 \(ACT\) \(the Privacy Act\)](#) and [Territory Privacy Principles \(TPP's\)](#).
  - e. [University of Canberra \(Student Conduct\) Rules 2015](#)
  - f. [Optometric Competency Australia New Zealand \(OCANZ\) Standards](#)
  - g. [Board of Optometry Entry Level Registration Standards](#) (Competency Standards)
  - h. [OCANZ Accreditation Manual for Postgraduate Programs of Study in Ocular Therapeutics - Part 2 Standards](#)
  - i. [Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Statement for Health, Medicine and Veterinary Science](#)
  - j. [Working With Vulnerable People \(Background Checking\) Act 2011](#)

## Examples

- Protecting the privacy and information about clients in confidence, unless information is required to be released by law or public interest considerations.
- Obtaining informed consent for the care provided to clients.
- Practicing within the optometry standards of competence and scope of practice.
- Adopting a lifelong learning approach to the practice of optometry.
- Adhering to the continuing professional development requirements in order to maintain registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- Students who commence this course must ensure that they satisfy, and continue to satisfy, requirements to work in a health setting including meeting Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) or Working With Children (WWC) regulations, immunisation and health requirements. Students must also commit to behave in accordance with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) code of conduct. Not meeting these requirements or behavioural standards will result in the inability to complete placements to complete the requirements of your degree.

## Communication Skills

### 1. Expressive Communication Skills

#### Inherent Requirement

- Communicate effectively, in English, to a standard that allows clear, scholarly and professional-level messages and text with language use and style appropriate to the audience.

#### Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as to solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

### Examples

- Construct coherent written communication to an academic and professional standard as appropriate to the circumstances.
- Deliver an oral summary of a patient's clinical findings.
- Actively participate in group discussions. e.g. case conferences and informal discussions concerning patient or client care.

## 2. Receptive Language Skills

### Inherent Requirement

- Internally formulate and assess conceptual meaning from verbal language and written messages and/or text, in English, using knowledge of language, background knowledge and critical thinking skills.

### Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as to solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

### Examples

- Reading and comprehending information presented in a variety of standard formats such as handwritten notes, test results, graphical formats such as charts and accessing computerised information.
- Comprehending spoken English delivered at conversational speed (including in noisy environments, such as hospital wards).
- Participating in tutorial, simulation, clinical and placement discussions.

## 3. Interpersonal Communication Skills

### Inherent Requirement

- Respectful communication with others, including the ability to listen, display and respect empathy, build rapport and gain trust to ensure meaningful and effective interactions with people they engage with.

### Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as to solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

## Examples

- Communicate respectfully with people of different gender, sexuality and age, and from diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic and educational backgrounds.
- Create and develop rapport with peers, academic and profession staff conducive to effective working relationships.
- Cultural competence, sensitivity and willingness to work with individuals in a complex and diverse Australian educational setting.
- Put the patient at ease and ask their consent before performing procedures that may intrude on the patient's personal space or involve physical contact. For example during direct ophthalmoscopy the optometrist will need to come very close to the patient's face with their own in order to get a complete view of their retina through the patient's pupil.
- Maintaining good personal hygiene and dress in a suitably professional manner for patient contact in a clinical setting to promote patient comfort and safety.
- Perceive and interpret nonverbal communication including distress, a change in mood, activity or posture.
- Assess patient/client/group reactions to facilitate optometry care.
- Maintain constant and appropriate facial expressions, eye contact, posture and personal space.

## Behavioural Stability

### Inherent Requirement

- Behaviour that is adaptable to effectively manage changing situations sufficient to maintain academic and professional standards.

### Rationale

- Behavioural stability is essential in managing personal emotional responses and behaviour in academic and complex professional environments, including situations of potential human distress. It is required to work constructively in culturally and socially diverse settings and to deal with challenging issues, timelines and ambiguously defined problems.

### Examples

- Being receptive and responding appropriately to constructive feedback.
- Managing own emotions and behaviour effectively when dealing with individuals and/or groups in the academic environment and clinical settings. For example being empathetic and supportive when breaking bad news or remaining calm, open and constructive when dealing with conflict or complaints.
- Undertake reflective practice, and seeking personal and professional support and/or assistance when needed.

## Motor Skills

### Inherent requirement

- Sufficient tactile function, dexterity, strength and mobility to function within the scope of optometry practice.

### Rationale

- Optometry requires gross and fine motor function in order to consistently provide safe and effective eyecare to minimise the risk of harm to self and others.

## Examples

- Perform a full optometric examination on any gender or age, including detection of abnormalities by observation, measurement, manipulation and palpation.
- Move easily in and around the patient examination chair in the examination room. For example reaching up to pull down and align a refractor head in front of the patient's eyes, moving below or alongside the patient's sight line while performing retinoscopy, turning around from facing the patient to observe the visual acuity chart located on the far wall of the room.
- Use a variety of complex ophthalmic instruments to take ocular measurements and observations. The instruments may be hand held, fixed to the wall or supported on moveable tables.
- Many instruments will require simultaneous and dextrous manipulation of the patient and instrument. For example holding a lens in front of the patient's eye whilst simultaneously operating a slit lamp biomicroscope to examine the eye.
- Handle, insert and remove the patient's contact lenses or instil eye drops gently and accurately.
- Complete a record card or prescription or fill out details on the computer.
- Able to complete clinical placement hours in a range of areas to meet the requirement to register as an optometrist

## Sensory Skills

### Inherent requirement

- Sufficient sensorimotor skills, including visual, auditory and tactile acuity to function within the optometry scope of practice.

### Rationale

- Optometry requires visual, auditory and tactile acuity to consistently provide safe and effective eyecare in order to minimise the risk of harm to self and others.

### Examples

- Ability to observe and interpret visual information from a range of optometry clinical tools, such as ophthalmoscopes, slit lamps, and contact tonometers. For example using an ophthalmoscope to detect subtle changes to retinal colour or structure for the diagnosis of macular degeneration.
- Ability to observe, detect and interpret information revealed regarding ocular structure and function through a variety of instruments and techniques, such as automated perimetry, photography, tomography.

## Cognitive Skills

### Inherent Requirement

- Acquire knowledge, process information, analyse, think critically and synthesise information to apply knowledge of the discipline and to sufficiently meet learning outcomes and academic standards relevant to the course, utilising cognitive, numeracy and literacy skills, including focus, memory and attention to detail.

### Rationale

- Cognitive skills are essential in acquisition and application of knowledge in both the academic and professional environment.

### Examples

The ability to read, decode, interpret, synthesize and comprehend information from multiple sources. For example:

- The ability to interpret information about ocular structure and function revealed through a variety of instruments and techniques such as automated perimetry, photography, tomography.
- Measure and record the visual acuity on a patient's chart to monitor changes or improvements.
- Measure the degree of refractive error, near accommodation and binocular status during an eye exam and prescribe optical aids appropriately such as spectacles, contact lenses, vision therapy or low vision aids.
- Calculate the correct contact lens parameters based on a synthesis of data from patient's corneal topography, keratometry, tear film, ocular surface and lid aperture measurements and prescribe soft, hard or scleral contact lenses accordingly.
- Interpret clinical, diagnostic and health data to form a disease diagnosis and make treatment decisions. For example planning, performing a clinical examination to support a differential diagnosis of glaucoma and then following evidence based guidelines for treatment within the scope of optometric practice.
- Working within the scope of optometric practice to prescribe ocular pharmaceutical treatments of the correct type, dose and duration for the diagnosed condition and follow up appropriately to monitor the patient's response.
- Refer and co-manage patients with other medical and allied health practitioners whenever appropriate to ensure the health and safety of the patient.

<b>ICT Capacity</b>
<p><b>Inherent Requirement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire and employ information and communications technology (ICT) skills in an appropriate and effective manner, utilising a range of systems in both the academic and professional setting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rationale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent ICT skills are essential to successfully access, apply and communicate information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use ICT to access information and to complete assessment or continuing professional development tasks as required and submit assessment items online.</li> <li>Use ICT in the clinical setting, such as completing case notes in the health record system, interpreting or downloading information from computerised instruments.</li> <li>Practice appropriate interpretation, storage and management of electronic patient records such as notes, instrument readouts or clinical photographs.</li> <li>Be familiar with relevant health information databases to research clinical and scientific literature and access evidence based medicine guidelines online.</li> </ul>

<b>Sustainable Performance</b>
<p><b>Inherent requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistently complete tasks in a timely manner and within a designated period, where required, while maintaining consistency and quality of performance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rationale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient physical and mental endurance is an essential requirement needed to perform multiple tasks in an assigned period to provide safe and effective care. The safety of student, practitioner, practice staff and patient must all be considered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remain focussed and provide consistent responses over the course of a clinical placement in a university or practice setting.</li> <li>Perform multiple tasks in an assigned period with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately.</li> <li>Perform multiple tasks in an assigned period with a level of physical resilience that ensures a capacity to complete the activity without injury to self or patient.</li> <li>Managing workload to deliver safe and effective optometric care in a timely manner.</li> <li>Able to complete clinical placement hours as per the clinical placement handbook.</li> </ul>