

Orthoptic Fellowship Programs

Admission criteria varies between programs. However, national regulations require completion of a baccalaureate degree prior to sitting for the American Orthoptic Council [AOC] certifying examinations. There are no required course prerequisites mandated from AOC, individual orthoptic programs may have their own pre-requisite requirements or recommendations.

The Graduate Record Examination is not required. Advance standing may be awarded to ophthalmic medical personnel who possess an undergraduate degree and a current COT or COMT certification. Advance standing eligibility is determined by the program director upon a candidate's acceptance into their program. Advanced standing may also be granted on a case-by-case basis by the AOC based on the extra qualifications, degrees and/or related work experience of the applicant. A request for special consideration of advanced standing will be submitted by the program director on the student's behalf. Advanced standing students must complete a minimum of 12 months in an accredited program. The exact length of training will be determined by the program director based on the student's progress, their fulfillment of the program's requisites and if they are deemed ready to sit the AOC certifying exams.

Look at the below map to find the program near you.

Approved Programs in the United States Of America **ILLINOIS (IL)**

[Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital](#)

Orthoptic Program (Dept. Ophthalmology)
225 E. Chicago Avenue Box #70
Chicago, IL 60611

[Vivian Tzanetakos, CO](#)

Phone (312) 227-6718

[Application](#)

[Website](#)

IOWA (IA)

[University of Iowa Orthoptic Fellowship Program](#) □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242

[Tara Bragg, CO](#)

Phone (319) 356-3863

Fax (319) 384-9831

[Application](#) (2020)

[Website](#)

MARYLAND (MD)

[Greater Baltimore Medical Center \(GBMC\)](#)

GBMC Orthoptic Fellowship Program
6569 N. Charles St. PPW Suite 505
Baltimore, MD 21204

[Maureen Flanagan, CO](#)

Phone (443) 849-6341

Fax (443) 849-2648

[Website](#)

MASSACHUSETTS (MA)

Boston Orthoptic Fellowship Program

Collaboration: Boston Children's Hospital & Tufts Med Ctr.
Boston, MA

[Shelley Klein, CO](#)

Phone 617-636-6769

[Sarah Mackinnon, CO](#)

Phone 617-355-6845

MICHIGAN (MI)

[University of Michigan Orthoptic Program](#)

W.K. Kellogg Eye Center

1000 Wall Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
[Bruce A. Furr, CO, PhD](#)
Phone (734) 764-7558
Fax (734) 763-7114
[Application](#)

Children's Eye Care Orthoptic Program of Michigan

Children's Hospital Specialty Center
42700 Garfield Road, Suite 200
Clinton Township, MI. 48038
[Mary De Young Smith, CO](#)
Phone 586-532-3380
Fax 586-416-1608
[Website](#)

MINNESOTA (MN)

University of Minnesota Orthoptic Program

Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic
701 25th Ave S. Ste 300
Minneapolis, MN 55454

[Kimberly Merrill, CO](#)
Phone 612-365-8365
Fax 612-365-8351
[Application](#)
[Website](#)

NEW YORK (NY)

Ross Eye Institute Orthoptic Program

1176 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14209

[Kyle Arnoldi, COMT, CO](#)
Phone (716) 881-7914

Fax (716) 887-2991

[Application](#)

[Website](#)

OREGON (OR) **[OHSU Casey Eye Institute](#)**

Orthoptic Program Dept. of Ophthalmology
3375 SW Terwilliger Blvd
Portland, OR 97239-4197

[Dusty Stolz-Gronemyer, CO](#)

Phone (503) 494-0972 [Website](#)

PENNSYLVANIA (PA) **[Children's Hospital of Philadelphia \(CHOP\) Orthoptic Fellowship Program](#)**

3401 Civic Center BLVD Suite 9NW27 Philadelphia, PA 19104
[Bellante, CO](#)

[Salvatore](#)

Phone (215) 590-4591

TENNESSEE (TN) **UTHSC Hamilton Eye Institute Orthoptic Program**

930 Madison Ave. Suite 400
Memphis, TN 38103

[Chantel Devould, CO](#)

Phone 901-448-3010

[Vanderbilt Eye Institute Orthoptic Program](#)

Tennessee Lions Eye Center
2311 Pierce Ave
Nashville, TN 37232

[Ron Biernacki, CO](#)

Phone 615-966-2250

[Website](#)

WISCONSIN (WI)

[Orthoptic Program - University of Wisconsin](#)

Department Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
2880 University Ave. Room 223
Madison, WI 53705-9030

[Kali Loberger, CO](#)

Phone (608) 263-6978

Fax (608) 263-4247

Approved Programs in Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA (BC)

[Vancouver Orthoptic Program](#)

BC Children's Hospital
4480 Oak St.
Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6H 3V4

[Christy Gilligson, OC\(C\)](#)

Phone (604) 875-2326

[Website](#)

NOVA SCOTIA (NS)

[Clinical Vision Science Program](#)

Dalhousie University / IWK Health Centre
Eye Clinic - 6th Floor
5850 / 5980 University Ave.
PO BOX 9700
Halifax, NS Canada, B3K 6R8

Director:

[Darren Oystreck, PhD, OC\(C\), COMT](#)

Phone (902) 470-8959

Fax (902) 470-7207 Coordinator: Dawn Pickering, BSc, OC(C), COMT, CLVT

Phone (902) 470-8019

For information, contact: cvsinfo@dal.ca

[Website](#)

SASKATCHEWAN (SK)

Saskatoon Health Region Orthoptic School

Orthoptic Clinic Eye Care Centre 701 Queen St.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, S7K 0M7

[Jocelyn Zurevinsky OC\(C\) BA](#)

orthoptic.school@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Phone (306) 655-8094

[Website](#)

Inquiries regarding US and Canadian Programs

AMERICAN ORTHOPTIC COUNCIL

www.orthoptics.org

Phone 608-233-5383

lwfrance@gmail.com

About the Program

The study of orthoptics follows a logical sequence of courses vital to the understanding of the visual system. Course work is integrated with hands-on clinical approach. The primary aim of the Orthoptic Program is to prepare students to become efficient members of the vision health care team. For two intensive years of instruction, orthoptic students interact with medical students, ophthalmology residents, fellows and medical professionals in a clinic setting. **S**

subjects Include:

Anatomy A thorough investigation of the structures of the human visual system with concentration on the anatomy of the eye and surrounding structures. A basic knowledge of human anatomy is recommended.

Neuro-Anatomy A basic introduction to the central and peripheral nervous systems and to the parts of the brain which are essential to vision and eye movements.

Physiology

A thorough understanding of the normal functioning of organ systems and organs with emphasis on the eye.

Pharmacology

The study of diagnostic and therapeutic drugs used in ophthalmology. The properties and reactions of specific agents is studied as well as the proper clinical indications for the prescription of specific ophthalmic drugs.

Diagnostic Testing & Measurement

An introduction to the clinical techniques necessary for an orthoptist to perform a diagnostic examination. The application and interpretation of specific testing procedures is covered in-depth throughout the course of study.

Systemic Diseases & Ocular Motor Disorders

Visual symptoms are often the presenting sign of a serious systemic illness. The pathogenesis, signs and symptoms of various disease processes are discussed. A systematic overview of the visual disorders encountered by the orthoptist is provided.

Principles of Surgery

Introduces the student to the essentials of pre and postoperative patient care. Provides an overview of the indications for surgery and the types of surgery performed by an ophthalmologist to correct eye alignment and eye movement disorders.

Basic Ophthalmic Exam Techniques

Orthoptic programs provide instruction in the principles of ophthalmic technical procedures such as refractometry, visual field testing, and contact lens fitting which are useful adjuncts to the specialized skills of an orthoptist. Some programs offer clinical proficiency in these technical skills while others focus primarily on theoretical concepts.

Ophthalmic Optics

Examines basic principles from the genesis and propagation of light to the laws of applied optics relative to ophthalmic lenses and prisms. A basic knowledge of algebra and physics is recommended.

Orthoptic Treatment

An introduction to the various forms of non-surgical treatment encompassing theoretic principles and clinical application.

Additional subject areas may include:

- Principles of Genetics
- Child Development
- Learning Disabilities
- Clinical Research Methods
- Medical Writing