

# VISION SCIENCE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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## Overview

The Master of Science in Vision Science is envisioned as a research-based graduate degree. Research is a vital part of the ongoing development of the profession since it provides the basis for new understanding and new treatments of vision conditions. The research undertaken in fulfillment of the MS degree will provide new knowledge for the profession, train the candidate in the conduct of sound research as a potential future educator and researcher, and enhance the reputation of the institution as a leader in the profession through publication of results in quality peer-reviewed journals.

The Master of Science in Vision Science prepares students to embark on a career in teaching and/or research in the basic or clinical science of vision. Students accepted into the program must be enrolled at SCCO at MBKU in the professional optometry program, hold a Doctor of Optometry or Doctor of Medicine degree, or hold a bachelor's degree from a university in the U.S. or Canada.

The need for new knowledge in the vision sciences is great; teaching and research opportunities are numerous in a spectrum of academic, industrial and professional settings. Although the program has sufficient structure to provide a broad foundation of scientific knowledge of vision systems, it is at the same time appropriately flexible to permit candidates to develop expertise in areas of special interest.

There are four tracks currently offered:

1. A concurrent program for students currently applying to or enrolled in the SCCO Doctor of Optometry program.
2. Stand-alone full-time two-year program for students with an earned Doctor of Optometry or Medical degree.
3. Stand-alone full-time program for students with an earned bachelor's degree from a University in the United States or Canada.
4. Part-time program for individuals listed in 2 and 3 above.

All of these tracks incorporate the development and presentation of seminars and formal lectures in specific courses to develop the candidates' educational skills.

The Master of Science in Vision Science tracks require the equivalent of two years full-time study, including 20 quarter credit hours for core and elective didactic coursework, as well as a minimum of 40 credit hours of research, culminating in a written thesis.