

### Program Requirement

All students enrolled in the 3952 Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science are required to complete a minimum of 18 days of approved work experience (Stage 5 Preceptorship placement) as part of their studies. This would usually be undertaken as a single 4 (four) week placement.

Preceptorships will take place in an ophthalmic health care setting which can include a hospital eye clinic, private ophthalmology practice or optometry practice. Students should preferably work with an optometrist or ophthalmologist, and take an active role in the care and management of patients, although the experience will vary depending on the individual practice location.

Preceptorships can be within Australia (including Sydney) or overseas. Preceptorships in Sydney must be organized by the student and are subject to approval by the Head of School.

Stage 5 Preceptorship placements will be assessed as a compulsory part of the course OPTM 5211 Clinical Optometry 5B. Preceptorships will occur during the final year of the 3952 program and must be completed prior to graduation.

Students are required to submit a written report on their Preceptorship. The report should briefly describe; the placement workplace, the role carried out by the student and should address how the experiences gained during Preceptorship met the aims and learning outcomes of the placement. The report will also include a log of the patients seen. Confirmation of the successful completion of the placement must be received in writing from the Preceptorship supervisor.

Students must complete the required number of hours in their placement, submit a satisfactory written report and submit written confirmation of completion by the Preceptorship supervisor before graduation.

### Aims

The Preceptorship aims to provide students with experience in an authentic workplace setting in order to develop them into work ready graduates. The Preceptorship will provide students with the opportunity to apply skills and learning gained in their entire undergraduate program to real life situations.

### Learning Outcomes

The objectives of the Preceptorship are to:

- Further develop clinical experience in the;
  - examination of patients in an ophthalmic environment, and being responsive to patient needs

- the differential diagnosis and management of ocular conditions and diseases
- the dispensing of optical appliances
- the fitting, delivery and aftercare of contact lenses
- Understand the role of optometrists and optometry in an ophthalmic health care system and the relationship between health care providers
- Develop skills required for all stages of direct patient contact from booking appointments through to provision of care and develop an appreciation of the requirements of practice management.
- Appreciate the role of good communication and interpersonal skills in an ophthalmic health care setting

### **Graduate Attributes developed by the Preceptorship placement**

- *Research, inquiry and analytical thinking abilities.* Preceptorship will further develop student's critical analysis and problem solving ability through involvement in aspects of ophthalmic care including the differential diagnosis and management of disease within an authentic clinical setting.
- *Capability and motivation for intellectual development.* When possible, students will be expected to competently undertake management of patients while under supervision. Management will include the ability to design, and implement examinations based on presenting symptoms, differentially diagnose ocular conditions, design treatment strategies, and monitor management programs according to current best practice and legislative requirements. Development in these areas will be through feedback from patients, supervisors and self-reflection.
- *Ethical, social and professional understanding.* Preceptorships will encourage reflection on the professional, legal, social and ethical implications of ophthalmic care, including disease management and planning and execution of shared care arrangements. Interactions with other health care providers will enable students to reflect on these areas within a work environment.
- *Communication.* Preceptorships will require students to participate in, and to discuss, all aspects of patient care. This will encourage reflection on written and verbal communication both with the patient and with other health care providers. The written report will encourage succinct communication of important aspects of the Preceptorship placement.
- *Teamwork, collaborative and management skills.* Preceptorships will reinforce the role of optometrists as a provider within the health care system. The placement will also allow for students to consider the best practice interactions with other providers, the role of shared care, the importance of referral, and clear communication arrangements.
- *Information literacy.* Preceptorships require the implementation of the best evidence available in the literature on patient care including disease diagnosis and management of those ocular conditions amenable to optometric management and co-management.

### **Relationship to the program**

The Preceptorship will require integration of the knowledge and skills developed over the entire Optometry and Vision Science program. Skills developed through the Preceptorship will enhance the learning in clinical courses taken concurrently.

## **Teaching Strategies**

Learning will primarily be through students having direct clinical experience through patient contact. Verbal feedback from supervisors and self-reflection on performance will identify areas of strength and weakness and students will be encouraged to develop strategies to improve future performance. The written assessment task will allow students to reflect on their experiences.

## **Compliance**

UNSW Optometry and Vision Science students are covered by Liability Insurance while on placements. As part of the requirements for existing placements within the undergraduate program, students must complete National Criminal History Record Checks, be vaccinated against infectious diseases in line with NSW Health policy directives, be trained in the administration of CPR and read and signed the NSW Health Code of Conduct Agreement. Individual Preceptorship providers may have additional compliance requirements. Where necessary, these requirements must be completed prior to the placement.

## **Assessment and Feedback**

Throughout the Preceptorship, supervising practitioners will ensure that students are developing skills in patient care by giving verbal feedback on their performance.

Stage 5 Preceptorship placements will be assessed as a compulsory part of the course OPTM 5211 Clinical Optometry 5B. Students will be required to submit a written report on their Preceptorship placement. The report will briefly describe the placement workplace, the role carried out by the student and address how the experiences gained during Preceptorship met the aims and learning outcomes (see above). The report will include a log of patients seen and be between 2000 to 3000 words. A revised version of the report will need to be submitted if the original report is considered to be unsatisfactory. In addition, confirmation of the successful completion of the placement must be in writing from the Preceptorship supervisor.

Students must complete the Stage 5 Preceptorship placement requirements in order to receive a completed assessment for OPTM5211, but the Stage 5 Preceptorship placement assessment does not affect the mark received for this course.