

3 + 4 Doctor of Optometry Degree Program

An Articulation Agreement Between

Salus University
Pennsylvania College of Optometry
Elkins Park, PA

and

Saint Francis Univeristy
Loretto, PA

Articulation Agreement

Background

Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry (Salus) and Saint Francis University, hereby acknowledge their commitment to the training of future practitioners of primary health care by joining in this Articulation Agreement.

Under this Articulation Agreement, students who successfully complete specific core requirements at Saint Francis University with a 3.0 GPA or above may apply for admission to the Salus University Doctor of Optometry Program.

This educational pathway is referred to as the *3+4 Degree Program (BS/OD)* and is comprised of two phases, Phase I and Phase II:

Phase I is comprised of the Pre-Optometry curriculum at Saint Francis University (see Addendum), and

Phase II is comprised of the Doctor of Optometry Degree Program at Salus University.

Phase I of the Program

Saint Francis University will select/admit those students who meet the admission requirements for Phase I of the Program. Saint Francis University will submit to the Salus University Office of Admissions the name and contact information for each student who begins Phase I of the Program.

Salus will communicate with each student as he/she advances through Phase I of the Program. Relevant information about the Program will be provided, and a visit to the Salus University Office of Admissions for a pre-application appointment will be encouraged.

To successfully complete Phase I of the Program, a student must:

1. Complete the current Pre-Optometry curriculum at Saint Francis University, which must consist of a minimum of 90 semester hours of undergraduate education, including the required prerequisites (see Addendum). Prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of 'C-' or better. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are accepted only if college credit is awarded by Saint Francis University and appears on the official undergraduate transcript.
2. Besides the required courses for Salus, the student must also complete current General Education requirements, as well as their major requirements, at Saint Francis University.
3. Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
4. Submit a completed application to the Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS), including score results of the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) and required letters of evaluation (scores of 300 or higher in each section of the OAT is recommended).
5. Shadow a practicing optometrist(s) in order to be familiar with the role of the optometrist as a member of the healthcare team.

Admission to Phase II of the Program

For consideration for admission into the Doctor of Optometry Program at Salus, a student must successfully complete Phase I as described above. Students must then apply to the Doctor of Optometry Program by following the application procedures described on the Salus University website. These admissions procedures include successful completion of an on-campus interview.

Degrees Conferred

Saint Francis University will confer the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree to a student who successfully completes Phase I and year one of Phase II provided that all requirements for graduation are met, as determined by Saint Francis University.

Salus University will confer the Doctor of Optometry degree to a student who successfully completes Phase II at Salus University, provided that all requirements are met, as determined by Salus University.

Inter-Institutional Communication

Communication and correspondence regarding the implementation of this Articulation Agreement should be made between the Coordinator of Pre-Health Professions Advising at Saint Francis University and the Director of Admissions at Salus University.

Marketing and Recruitment

Both Saint Francis University and Salus University will promote the Program through mutually-developed printed and electronic promotional materials.

Review and Assessment

To serve as a basis for evaluating the Program, Salus University will develop aggregate and individual statistical information regarding applicant credentials, admissions decisions, and Saint Francis University student performance outcomes. This information will be shared with Saint Francis University as permissible under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Students entering the Program will be expected to release certain information (e.g., transcripts, national examination results) that will facilitate both Saint Francis University's and Salus University's assessment of student learning and continuous program improvement.

Additional Considerations

No Third Party Beneficiaries. None of the benefits or obligations of either party under this Articulation Agreement will be applicable or enforceable by any [Institution] student or other party.

Modifications. This Articulation Agreement may only be modified or amended by a separate written addendum this is signed by both parties and attached to this Agreement.

Assignment: Neither party shall assign, sell, or otherwise transfer this Articulation Agreement with the prior written consent of the other. Any such purported assignment, sale, or transfer shall be void.

Duration of the Articulation Agreement

This Articulation Agreement shall be effective immediately upon the signing of this document and shall continue thereafter from year-to-year unless terminated by either institution upon one (1) year's prior written notice.

Should this Articulation Agreement be terminated, any Saint Francis University student enrolled in the Program at the date of termination shall be permitted to complete the Program provided that the Saint Francis University students successfully meets the Phase I and Phase II requirements.

The addresses to which written notice is to be sent are specified below:

Salus University:

Monica J. Maisto, MS
Director of Admissions
Salus University
8360 Old York Road Elkins Park, PA 19027

Saint Francis University :

Marian G. Langer, PhD
Saint Francis University
P.O Box 600
Loretto, PA 15940

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto affixed their signatures:

For Salus University:



11/31/19

Melissa A. Vitek, OD, FAAO
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date

For Saint Francis University:



1-28-19

Karan Powell, PhD
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date

Addendum

Saint Francis University Courses Meeting Admission Requirements for Salus University's Doctor of Optometry Program

Preface

Within the context of a 3+4 doctoral program, Saint Francis University recognizes the importance of the three years of undergraduate study in properly preparing students for the rigors of Salus University's Doctor of Optometry Program. Required courses in Phase I of the Program at Saint Francis University provide students with a strong academic foundation along with professionally relevant interpersonal skills. Besides the required courses for Salus, the student must also complete current General Education requirements, as well as their major requirements, at Saint Francis University.

Required Pre-Optometry Courses	Saint Francis Equivalent Courses
General Biology or Zoology (with labs) – 1 year	BIOL 110/110L & BIOL 111/111L
Microbiology or Bacteriology (with labs) - ½ year	BIOL 214/214L or BIOL 302/302L
General Physics (with labs) – 1 year	PHYS 104 & 105 or PHYS 121 & 122
Psychology – ½ year	PSYCH 101
Statistics (Math, Biology or Psychology) – ½ year	STAT 205 or BIOL 315 or MATH 215
General Chemistry (with labs) – 1 year	CHEM 121 & 122
Organic Chemistry (with labs) – 1 year	CHEM 221 & 222
Mathematics – 1 year (½ year Calculus fulfills math requirement; however, 1 year Calculus highly recommended)	MATH 112 or CALC 121
English Composition or English Literature – 1 year	ENGL 103 & 104

Encouraged, Additional Coursework	Saint Francis Equivalent Courses
Biochemistry	BIOL 405 or CHEM 405
Anatomy	BIOL 211
Physiology	BIOL 406
Histology	
Cell Biology	BIOL 401/401L
Genetics	BIOL 301/301L
Experimental Psychology	
Physiological Psychology	PSYCH 314