

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What is the Optometry Scholarship-Loan Program?*** The North Carolina Optometry Scholarship Loan Program (OSL) provides financial support for North Carolinians studying optometry at one of three participating optometry schools located in other states. The program replaces the Contract Programs for Dentistry, Medicine and Optometry for optometry students who enroll for the first time at a participating campus in or after the Fall 2008 term, and is now offered as a scholarship loan program to recipients.
- ***Who is eligible?*** Candidates who are North Carolina residents for tuition purposes enrolling in the doctor of optometry program at one of the following three institutions - Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), Southern College of Optometry (SCO), and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) – can be considered.
- ***Is there a maximum number of students who can be funded through this program?*** Yes, there is a maximum number of incoming students who can receive funding at each of the campuses. Up to 8 students in each incoming class can receive funding at SCO, up to 7 incoming students at PCO, and up to 4 students in each incoming class at UAB.
- ***Can the OSL award be renewed?*** Yes, the award is designed to provide funding through the four-years a selected student is enrolled at a participating campus. Students must remain in good academic standing and must be enrolled full-time to qualify for renewal. Additional details of renewing the scholarship are contained in the promissory note.
- ***What is the value of this award?*** For PCO and SCO, students will receive \$13,100 for the 2008-09 academic year. For students attending UAB, the tuition is reduced to the in-state rate for Alabama residents.
- ***What is the service requirement for OSL awards?*** Recipients must repay the loans by working as licensed optometrists in North Carolina after completing their degrees and passing the state licensure examination. A year of service as a full-time optometrist in the state is required for each year the loan is received. Students who do not repay the loans through service within seven years of graduation will be obligated to repay them in cash, at an interest rate of 10% per year.

- ***Can a student receive funding through this program and the North Carolina Student Loan Program for Health, Science and Mathematics (HSM)?*** Due to limited funding, a student cannot receive awards in the same year through both programs. Students can, however, apply for both programs. If awarded HSM and OSL funds, the student will have to choose one of the awards and decline the other.
- ***How can I apply for the OSL?*** To be considered for funding for the study of optometry, individuals must submit a [North Carolina residency application](#) and a [Selective Service Registration/Exemption form](#). When completed, both forms should be returned to: Optometry Scholarship Loan Program, NCSEAA, PO Box 13663, RTP, NC 27709-3663.
- ***How can I learn more about this program?*** Visit CFNC.org/optometry or call 866-866-CFNC (919-248-4686 in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area) for more information about the OSL program.