

## **University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and Salus University Sign Agreement**

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, renowned for its strong emphasis on engineering, technology, and sciences, and Salus University in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, a leader in health science and rehabilitation education with a legacy of excellence in optometry, are excited to announce a new academic partnership. This initiative is set to significantly enhance educational opportunities for students aspiring to careers in optometry, combining Johnstown's robust scientific curriculum with Salus University's specialized optometric training.

Central to this partnership is a unique 3 + 4 program agreement, leveraging the resources of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University. This allows University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown undergraduates to engage in a tailored 90-credit Pre-Optometry curriculum. Following their third undergraduate year, these students can apply to PCO/Salus, and qualified students are given the opportunity of a guaranteed interview and three reserved seats in the class.

Accepted students will complete their Bachelor of Science at Johnstown and complete their Doctor of Optometry degree at PCO/Salus. Students transfer credits from the first year at PCO/Salus to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to get their bachelor's degree conferred. This approach ensures a smooth and accelerated transition into professional education, ultimately leading to a Doctor of Optometry degree from PCO/Salus.

This partnership symbolizes a substantial advancement in academic cooperation, providing a streamlined and comprehensive educational journey for future optometrists. It reflects both institutions' commitment to expanding access to education and enhancing career prospects for students.

### **About Salus University**

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology and Orthotics & Prosthetics. Salus operates three clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.salus.edu](http://www.salus.edu)