



For Immediate Release:

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Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry Launches Nation's First Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Degree

Elkins Park, PA – The Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) is now offering the nation's first accelerated Doctor of Optometry degree program. Presented as a highly selective, continuous, three-year Scholars Program, the first class of 10 students recently began course work and is scheduled to graduate in June 2017. Students enrolled in the Scholars Program earn the credit equivalency of students in a traditional four-year program.

Dr. Michael H. Mittelman, president of Salus University said, "This unique program further demonstrates our intense commitment to providing an innovative, professional education that serves the needs of our students and their patients."

The new 36-month program is yet another first for the University and its college of optometry. "As a multi-disciplinary health sciences university, we are proud to be on the leading edge of healthcare education aimed at meeting the growing needs of patients and communities," explained Dr. Janice Scharre, the University's provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. "The Scholars Program, which attracted far more candidates than available slots, is based on best practices and the first class is stellar in every respect, as is the faculty that will be responsible for their training."

The unique curriculum emphasizes lecture and laboratory instruction, small group learning, case-based learning and online and web enhanced instruction. Guided independent study offers students the ability to work individually and in small groups with faculty mentors.

"As with all of our doctor of optometry graduates, the Scholars students benefit from extensive, structured patient care experiences and invaluable faculty mentorship," explained Dr. Lori Grover, dean of the University's Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO). "Salus PCO students share the experience of a very favorable student-to-faculty ratio that facilitates the critical thinking and clinical competencies necessary for optometric practitioners."

Students accepted into this program are carefully screened and accepted based on qualifications, history of academic performance and career path.

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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, Public Health, Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Biomedicine and Occupational Therapy. The University has more than 1,000 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 10,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.Salus.edu.