



Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider:	Australian College of Optometry
Program:	Australian College of Optometry – Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics Program
Date:	November 2013
Outcome:	Accredited for 8 years provided no major changes to the program during this period

INTRODUCTION

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) was established in 1996. Its function includes assessment, for the purposes of accreditation, programs designed to produce graduates suitable for registration as optometrists in Australia or New Zealand.

THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The overall aim of the accreditation process is to evaluate the extent to which the program complies with the eight OCANZ Standards set out in *Accreditation Manual for Postgraduate Programs of Study in Ocular Therapeutics Part 2 –Standards August 2013* (www.ocanz.org).

OCANZ may grant accreditation if it is satisfied that a program of study, and the education provider that provides it, meets an approved accreditation standard. OCANZ may also grant accreditation with conditions on the program's approval, if it is satisfied the program will meet the standard within a reasonable time. OCANZ's recommendation informs registration decisions made under national law in Australia and New Zealand.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, the OCANZ Board appointed a three member assessment team to undertake the new program assessment of the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) postgraduate therapeutics program.

The assessment team reviewed the ACO's submission, prepared their report and made a recommendation on accreditation. The OCANZ Board adopted the accreditation report and recommendation.

The OCANZ Board reported its accreditation decision to the OBA and the ODOB to enable them to make a decision on the approval of the program of study in ocular therapeutics at the Australian College of Optometry for endorsement for the use of scheduled medicines.

KEY FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Overall, the assessment team is satisfied that the graduates of the Australian College of Optometry-Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics program will have the knowledge, skills and attributes for ocular therapeutic practice.

The submission prepared by the ACO was comprehensive and the assessment team appreciated the positive, thorough and thoughtful approach taken by the staff of the College to their participation in the accreditation process.

The assessment team were also impressed by how committed the ACO were to the program and their willingness to make modifications to the program based on OCANZ recommendations.

The following table lists the key findings of the assessment team.

1. Context of the program	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Strong academic team. Good governance structure. Established links with other eye-care organisations.	<u>Action required:</u> None
2. Organisational purpose and program outcomes	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Clear alignment with OCANZ Standards and therapeutic level competencies.	<u>Action required:</u> None
3. The education and training program	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Accessibility for regional and remote optometrists. <u>Recommendation:</u> Ongoing monitoring of clinical placements.	<u>Action required:</u> None
4. Teaching and learning	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Diverse teaching and learning methods.	<u>Action required:</u> None
5. Assessment of learning	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Diverse assessment methods.	<u>Action required:</u> None

6. Monitoring and evaluation	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Planned monitoring and evaluation process is clear.	<u>Action required:</u> None
7. Program students	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas requiring further reporting:</u> Ensure active participation in program by candidates.	<u>Action required:</u> None
8. Educational resources	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas requiring further reporting:</u> Ensure new maximum teaching ratios of 1:2 in private practice and 1:4 in teaching hospitals are enforced.	<u>Action required:</u> None

OUTCOME

OCANZ is satisfied that the Australian College of Optometry- Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics conducted by the Australian College of Optometry meets the eight OCANZ Standards of ocular therapeutics practice.

The OCANZ Board has agreed to accredit the program for a period of eight years, until 31 December 2021, provided there are no major changes to the program during this period. This is a general requirement of all accredited programs and not a condition specific to this program.