



Thank you for your interest in the University of Minnesota Orthoptic Fellowship Program. Our program is a two-year, comprehensive, accredited program of academic and clinical instruction in orthoptics and related ophthalmic studies at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics. Set in a clinical teaching environment, orthoptic education is taught through didactic instruction and clinical experience. We serve patients of all ages from children to adults with binocular vision disorders. We have an experienced staff of orthoptists and ophthalmologists dedicated to patient care, education, and clinical teaching of orthoptists, residents and fellows.

For applicants that qualify, there is an advanced standing option. Advance standing may be awarded to ophthalmic medical personnel who possess an undergraduate degree and a current COT or COMT certification.

Career prospects for certified orthoptists are very positive. The demand for orthoptists increases every year. The number of new orthoptists each year is not enough to fill openings.

American Orthoptic Council regulations require completion of an undergraduate degree prior to sitting for the certification exam. Most students have a basic science background. The GRE is not required. We cannot accept applications from those who are not U.S. Citizens, unless the applicant has a Green Card.

The program is structured such that students are required to be in full time attendance Monday-Friday (approximately 40 hours/week) during training. The workload is demanding. Vacation is limited to approximately three weeks each year. Sick time is allocated as needed. Students are required to complete a major research project within the training period. The student is encouraged to present the findings at a regional/national ophthalmic meeting. Tuition for the two year program is approximately \$4,500. The student is financially responsible for all living expenses, including health insurance during training. The University of Minnesota Orthoptic Program accepts one student per year.

Students in orthoptic programs do not usually qualify for student loans. However, partial scholarships are available from other sources based on financial need and merit. The Joint Commission of Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) offers scholarships. Additional information can be reached by calling JCAHPO at 800-284-3937. The Foundation for Orthoptic Research and Education in the Americas (FOREA) offers partial scholarships. For more information contact: Jorie Jackson, C.O., joriejackson@yahoo.com or www.forea.net.

A personal interview is part of the admissions process. Applicants will be contacted after review of all required materials.

Please submit the following enclosed application form by mail and other materials by the application deadline.

11.19.2019

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION SCHOOL OF ORTHOPTICS

University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences

Attn: Kimberly Merrill, CO

Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic

Park Plaza 701 25th Ave S Ste 300, Minneapolis, MN 55454

Please attach
Photograph

1. Personal Data

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Name(s) on school transcripts: _____

Permanent Address: _____

_____ City State Zip Code

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Citizenship: United States ___ Other _____
Please name

Social Security Number: _____

How did you hear about orthoptics?: _____

2. Educational Data

Please contact the academic institutions you have attended and request that your transcripts be sent directly to at the above address.

Colleges/Universities Attended:

Name of Institution	City/State	From: Mo/Yr	To: Mo/Yr	Credits	Degree
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3. References

Please list the names and addresses of three individuals whom you have asked to provide references with regard to your application to the University of Minnesota’s Orthoptic Program. Please have them mailed directly to the program director.

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
1.	_____			
2.	_____			
3.	_____			

Other Information

- 4. Please provide a letter of interest with your application. This narrative should include a short biographical and career goals statement and the reasons you have chosen to apply to this program.
- 5. Please provide complete curriculum vitae; including information on academic background, honors, and work/volunteer experience.
- 6. Please sign and date your application. A recent photograph is requested.

I certify that all the information I have provided on this application form and in all other admission application materials is complete, accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

I understand it is my responsibility to request all transcripts from each academic institution I have attended and to have them submitted *directly* to the Orthoptics Program attn: Kimberly Merrill, CO.

Applicant’s Signature

Date

Your application is not complete until all supportive documents have been received. Admission decisions are made on complete applications only.

Application deadline is: March 1st