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.

The program is structured such that students are required to be in full time attendance Monday-Friday (approximately 40 hours/week) during training for 6 continuous semesters. 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.foreanet.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/email and other materials by the application deadline of February 1st.
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
ORTHOPTICS FELLOWSHIP
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences
University of Minnesota
Minnesota Lions Children’s Eye Clinic
Park Plaza Bldg 701 25th Ave S Ste 300, Minneapolis, MN 55454

1. Personal Data
Name: ____________________________________________________________

Last   First   Middle

Name(s) on school transcripts: ____________________________________________

Permanent Address: ______________________________________________________

City       State      Zip Code

Phone Number: __________________________

Email Address: ___________________________________________________________________________

Citizenship: United States ___   Other ______________________________________________________

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 the Department of Ophthalmology at the above address.

Colleges/Universities Attended:

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<th>Name of Institution</th>
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3. References

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

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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/resume; including information on academic background, honors, and work/volunteer experience.

6. Please sign and date your application.

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: February 1st

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.