

## **ABOUT OPTOMETRY:**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, accepted in its entirety the definition of an allied and healthcare professional based on the afore-mentioned report, though the same has evolved after multiple consultations and the recommended definition is now as follows-

‘Allied and healthcare professionals (AHPs) includes individuals involved with the delivery of health or healthcare related services, with qualification and competence in therapeutic, diagnostic, curative, preventive and/or rehabilitative interventions. They work in multidisciplinary health teams in varied healthcare settings including doctors (physicians and specialist), nurses and public health officials to promote, protect, treat and/or manage a person(‘s) physical, mental, social, emotional, environmental health and holistic well-being.’

Since the past few years, many professional groups have been interacting and seeking guidance on all those who would qualify under the purview of “allied and healthcare professionals”. In the healthcare system, statutory bodies exist for clinicians, nurses, pharmacists and dental practitioners; but a regulatory structure for around 50 professions is absent in India. Currently, the Government is considering these professions (as listed Annex-1) under the ambit of the allied and healthcare system. However, this number is subject to changes and modifications over time, particularly considering how quickly new technologies and new clinical avenues are expanding globally, creating newer cadres of such professionals.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

The handbook has been designed with a focus on performance-based outcomes pertaining to different levels. The learning goals and objectives of the undergraduate and graduate education program will be based on the performance expectations. They will be articulated as learning goals (why we teach this) and learning objectives (what the students will learn). Using the framework, students will learn to integrate their knowledge, skills and abilities in a hands-on manner in a professional healthcare setting. These learning goals are divided into nine key areas, though the degree of required involvement may differ across various levels of qualification and professional cadres:

1. Clinical care (Refraction, Dispensing of glasses & contact lenses, Diagnosis of diseases, pre and post-operative care etc.)
2. Evaluation, diagnosis and management of eye related diseases and disorders
3. Communication skills
4. Membership of a multidisciplinary health team
5. Ethics and accountability at all levels (clinical, professional, personal and social)
6. Commitment to professional excellence
7. Leadership and mentorship
8. Social accountability and responsibility
9. Scientific attitude and scholarship (only at higher level- PhD)
10. Lifelong learning

### **PROGRAM OUTCOMES:**

On completion of the course the students will be able to adhere to the following programme outcomes:

1. Apply foundational knowledge of the core subjects of vision science, anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and optics to accurately diagnose and treat various eye health conditions, ensuring optimal patient outcomes.
2. Able to plan and coordinate resources, time, and personnel efficiently to optimize patient care and clinic operations.
3. Design and implement innovative solutions for vision correction and rehabilitation, considering environmental impact, economic feasibility, and cultural relevance.
4. Apply scientific research methodologies to advance the field of optometry and improve patient outcomes.
5. Cultivate leadership abilities and collaborate effectively within multidisciplinary teams to provide comprehensive eye care services.
6. Uphold ethical standards and values while delivering patient-centered care in various settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community outreach programs.
7. Communicate proficiently with patients, healthcare professionals, and the community to educate, inform, and advocate for eye health and vision care.
8. Adhere to professional code of conduct and legal regulations to promote the integrity and reputation of the optometry profession.

9. Utilize state-of-the-art technologies and diagnostic tools to assess eye health, develop treatment plans, and monitor patient progress.
10. Implement environmentally sustainable practices in optometric practice, including waste management and the use of eco-friendly materials in eyewear and equipment.
11. Recognize the importance of lifelong learning and professional development to stay abreast of advancements in optometric research, technology, and patient care.

**PROGRAM SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

1. Graduates will attain a thorough understanding of optometry-specific subjects, including ocular pharmacology, ocular anatomy and physiology, ocular pathology, visual optics, ocular diseases, binocular vision, low vision, contact lenses, and optometric dispensing enabling them to deliver high-quality eye care services as competent optometrists.
2. Graduates will be equipped to pursue diverse career paths in optometry, including clinical practice, academic research, vision science, public health, vision rehabilitation, contact lens fitting, and ocular disease management, or establish their own optometric practices.
3. Graduates will recognize the importance of continuing education and professional development in the field of optometry to stay abreast of advancements in technology, treatment modalities, and best practices, enhancing their ability to provide cutting-edge care to patients.