

Articulation Agreement

Among

**State University of New York, State College of Optometry
State University of New York, University at Albany
State University of New York, College of Agriculture and Technology at
Cobleskill**

An Optometry School Early Assurance Program

This program will address the continued need to supply qualified students from predominantly, though not exclusively, rural areas into the optometry profession. The program will also attempt to provide a more diverse student population for entry into optometry training programs. This program builds on the strengths and relationships between three State University of New York units: SUNY Cobleskill, the University at Albany and the State College of Optometry. SUNY Cobleskill will recruit these students into its Associate in Science with a concentration in biology program and the University at Albany will provide the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology. Appropriate academic performance will be required throughout the four years of academic work. Upon completion of the B.S. degree, the student will move to the SUNY State College of Optometry in Manhattan. Counseling and enrichment experiences will begin at the two-year college level and continue through the educational program at the University at Albany and the College of Optometry.

Both SUNY Cobleskill and the University at Albany will provide the required courses for admission to the State College of Optometry. The required courses include: one year of general biology with lab, one year of general chemistry with lab, one year of physics with lab, one year of organic chemistry with lab, one semester of calculus, one semester of statistics, one year of English, one year of social sciences and one semester of psychology.

Recruitment and Selection

SUNY Cobleskill will recruit and select qualified high school students interested in becoming optometrists. The recruitment and selection process will begin with outreach programs to rural New York State high schools. Informational materials will be developed with the active participation of the representatives of the three colleges. Presentations will include, but are not limited to, science outreach, career counseling, and practitioner shadowing experiences.

SUNY Cobleskill will appoint an admissions representative to work with program representatives from the University at Albany and the State College of Optometry. Regular communication between these three institutional representatives will be used to improve recruitment of qualified students.

SUNY Cobleskill will provide students with an interest in the Early Assurance program with proper advisement through the Medical Career Transfer advisor and the Director of Transfer, Articulation and Career Development Services. Students will be advised to complete as many general education requirements as possible before transfer to the University at Albany.

SUNY Cobleskill will inform students of the requirements for this program. The degree program will be the Associate of Science with a biology concentration. Students will be required to maintain a minimum 3.3 general GPA, as well as a 3.3 science specific GPA, and complete all degree requirements.

Completion of the following courses is required at SUNY Cobleskill:

BIOL 111 & 112–Biology I & II CHEM 111 & 112–Chemistry I & II
PHYS 111 & 112–Physics I & II CHEM 231 & 232–Organic Chemistry I & II
PSYC 111–General Psychology MATH 231 & 125–Calculus I & Statistics
BIOL 258 & 259 – Anatomy & Physiology I & II (highly recommended) or other appropriate second/third-year biology courses
ENGL 102 - Composition & ENGL 219, 221, 223 or 241
2 appropriate SUNY Trustees' General Education Requirement courses
1 credit of PE and any other courses required for graduation
(The student must successfully complete both lecture and laboratory of each science course.)

No grade below a C will be acceptable in the required math and sciences courses.

With the recommendation of the Medical Transfer Advisor, and successful completion of the first two semesters of the above curriculum with a 3.3 GPA, students may apply for the Early Assurance program after their first year at Cobleskill. The remaining courses, along with the completion of the Associate in Science degree must be satisfied to remain in the program.

Enrichment experiences will continue through all phases of the student's education. An optometrist from a rural community close to Cobleskill, in consultation with SUNY Optometry faculty, may assist in providing career shadowing, summer internships, and research projects focusing on some aspect of rural health care with a specific emphasis in optometry.

A joint committee representing the College of Optometry, the University at Albany and SUNY Cobleskill will select the candidates and make recommendations for admission.

The University at Albany will provide the major in biology for the Bachelor of Science degree. The accepted Early Assurance candidates will continue to maintain a minimum 3.3 general GPA as well as a 3.3 biology major GPA and complete all degree requirements for the B.S. degree. They must earn no grade of less than a C in all required prerequisite math and science courses.

The Early Assurance candidate will meet each semester with the University's Pre -Health Advisor to monitor the student's progress and adjustment to the four year school. The student will be advised to take the Optometry Admissions Test in October of the student's last year at the University. A provisional acceptance will not be given until all prerequisite courses and OAT (above 320) requirements are met.

Early Assurance candidates will be advised that they must complete and document 40 hours of volunteer service in direct contact with patients and physicians. Students must

also demonstrate knowledge of the profession by completing 4 days of shadowing an optometrist during their 2 years at the University at Albany in order to remain eligible for the program. It is expected that these experiences, in tandem with the student's academic program and extra-curricular activities will facilitate the development of excellent communication skills in each Early Assurance candidate.

During the fourth undergraduate year, the candidate will submit formal application to the State College of Optometry and meet with Optometry's Admission Committee for official acceptance into the professional school.

State College of Optometry will distribute any recruitment materials developed for this program through the Admissions office. It will also appoint an admissions representative to work with designated representatives from SUNY Cobleskill and the University at Albany. Regular communication among these three representatives will be used to improve recruitment of qualified students and educational enrichment for accepted students.

State College of Optometry will assist SUNY Cobleskill and the University at Albany when questions arise concerning eligibility of students for entry or continuance in the program.

Monitoring of Student Progress:

Each campus will appoint an individual responsible for reviewing the student's performance after admission to the Early Assurance program. At the conclusion of each academic year, the individual will make recommendations regarding the student's continued participation to a committee of the whole, which will include representatives from each of the three institutions involved. The committee as a whole will act as a review organization to arbitrate problems that may arise with student academic or integrity difficulties. Because the honesty and integrity of the practitioner are such important traits, the applicant's character is also of great concern to those who evaluate qualifications for admission. Students must maintain proper standards of honesty and integrity throughout the program.

Evaluation

Written reports of the yearly monitoring activities will be maintained in a student portfolio copied to all three institutions. Follow up tracking and placement counseling will be conducted in order to evaluate the program's success in returning the student to practice in a rural setting.

This agreement is effective immediately, until June 30, 2006. Renewal of this agreement, with or without modifications, can only be made at the discretion of the three participating institutions upon mutual agreement.

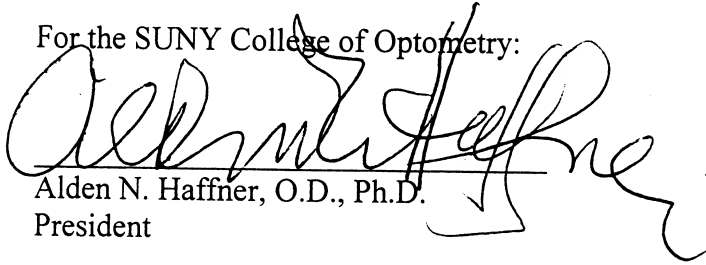
This agreement can be terminated by any of the participating institutions by submitting a written request at least one year before the last class entering the program at SUNY

Cobleskill. By entering into this agreement, all parties agree to fulfill the responsibilities toward the students currently in the program for the full eight-year-cycle of the program.

This agreement will be reviewed at the initiative of any of the partners or as a result of the requirements of accrediting agencies.

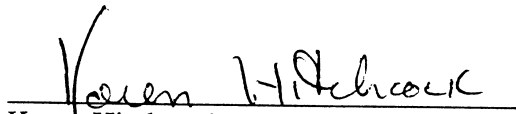
The above articulation agreement has been jointly reviewed and accepted by:

For the SUNY College of Optometry:


Alden N. Haffner, O.D., Ph.D.
President

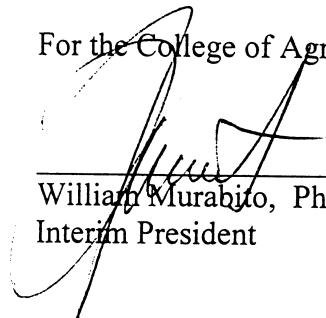
3/26/03
Date

For the University at Albany:


Karen Hitchcock, Ph.D.
President

3/7/03
Date

For the College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill:


William Murabito, Ph.D.
Interim President

5/6/03
Date