# 2018-2023 Strategic Plan Academic Affairs

January 15, 2019



# Academic Excellence

Goal 2: Deliver a dynamic curriculum that engages students and advances contemporary optometry

Goal 3: Grow the graduate and research programs to increase the institutional impact on the advancement of knowledge and to produce leaders in vision research (basic, translational and clinical)

- Define and implement a core curriculum that teaches the foundation needed for entry-level contemporary optometry *efficiently and effectively*.
  - Identify and develop advanced concepts
    - Curriculum Committee
    - Develop microcredential elective concentrationss
  - Core curriculum development teach less, better
    - Course development for best teaching practices
    - Increase student engagement and responsibilities
    - Develop board preparation programs
    - Revisit flex program
    - Considering a 3<sup>rd</sup> year quarter schedule

- Identify and *develop several concentrations in advanced optometric practice* aligned with residency and AAO Diplomate advanced competency training tracks.
  - Develop microcredential elective concentrations
    - LV, CL, VT, HT, Ret, Ant Seg, Peds
    - CEC, Curriculum Committee
    - Selective application and enrollment
    - Didactic and Clinical elements

- Pilot and implement, if successful, a series of content progress examinations for the formative assessment of student learning and teaching effectiveness.
  - First administration in AY 2018-19
    - Class of 2021 (OD2) August, 2018
      - Foundation assessment
      - Integration
    - Class of 2020 (OD3) January, 2019
      - Integration
      - Gap analysis
      - Board preparation tool

- Support *faculty development* and implementation of *innovative teaching* strategies that improve student engagement and learning.
  - Didactic teaching development
    - Course development using best teaching practices
    - Effective use of teaching technologies
      - Flipped classroom
      - Online learning
    - Didactic teaching workshops
  - Clinical teaching development
    - Clinical teaching workshops

- Create and refine training experiences at the University Eye Center (UEC) and externship sites that *emphasize evidence-based practice* in areas of advanced care/competencies (subspecialties).
  - Link to microcredential concentrations
    - Myopia Control
    - Vision Rehabilitation
    - Ocular disease
    - Dry eye
    - Pediatrics

- Review and reform UEC-based residency programs to lead in the adoption of *advanced competency-based* program design in anticipation of and alignment with developing *subspecialties* within the profession of optometry.
  - Coordinate with ASCO/AAO working group

- Expand funded basic, translational and clinical research to increase opportunities for graduate students (OD-MS, Residency-Graduate program and PhD) to carry out mentored research in active laboratories.
  - Recruit faculty performing fundable research
  - Build laboratories
  - Recruit OD students with strong research interests

- Continue to *expand clinical research activity* and clinical faculty involvement opportunities through the Clinical Vision Research Center.
  - Develop CVRC space expansion plan
  - Clinical research faculty development
  - Clinician scientist recruitment

- Reorganize the OD-PhD program to include elements of the Advanced Standing OD and Residency-Graduate programs so as to develop a track for clinician scientists and increase clinical research productivity.
  - Recruit candidate OD-PhD students

 Establish consortium agreements with universities in the metropolitan area, including SUNY and CUNY campuses, to *expand collaborative research opportunities* and allow graduate students to take courses seamlessly at participating schools.