

Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
Pre-accredited Professional Optometric Degree Programs
November 23, 2021

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education has awarded the professional optometric degree programs below the following pre-accreditation classification:

Preliminary Approval: a classification granted to a professional optometric degree program that has clearly demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council standards. The program has approval to begin student recruitment, selection and admissions, and to begin offering the program. The pre-accreditation classification of preliminary approval is the only classification available to a new professional optometric degree program, since the ACOE will not grant the accreditation classifications of “Accredited” or “Accredited with Conditions” until the program is fully operational (i.e. in its fourth year of implementation.)

The ACOE will review the preliminary approval classification annually during the first three academic years of the program through written reports and/or site visits as deemed necessary by the Council. The institution shall request accreditation status not less than 12 months prior to graduation of the program's first class, and the ACOE will visit the program near the end of the fourth year at the institution's invitation to determine accreditation status. If the program is found to meet the standards of accreditation, the classification of accredited will be granted from the date of the evaluation visit, which will occur prior to the graduation of the first class.

For additional information about ACOE, visit our website at www.theacoe.org.

Currently, no professional optometric degree programs have been awarded the pre-accreditation classification of Preliminary Approval.