

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 417 639

HE 031 091

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TITLE Graduates of the College of Optometry Reflect on Their Experience with Nova Southeastern University.
INSTITUTION Nova Southeastern Univ., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Research and Planning.
REPORT NO RR-97-05
PUB DATE 1997-05-00
NOTE 37p.
PUB TYPE Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Research (143) -- Tests/Questionnaires (160)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Clinical Teaching (Health Professions); *College Choice; College Graduates; College Outcomes Assessment; Doctoral Programs; *Employment Patterns; *Geographic Distribution; Geographic Location; Graduate Students; Higher Education; Institutional Research; Internship Programs; *Optometry; *Professional Education; Questionnaires; School Surveys; Student Attitudes; Student Experience; Tables (Data)
IDENTIFIERS *Nova Southeastern University FL

ABSTRACT

The report summarizes a survey of 46 graduates of the Nova Southeastern University (Florida) doctoral program in optometry, the only such program in the state, concerning professional and program issues, including professional employment patterns and feedback on the doctoral program. Results indicate that school location was a primary reason for many students' choice of program. About two-thirds of respondents were permanent Florida residents at time of entry, and this rate declined only slightly after graduation. However, nearly three-fourths indicated they would have moved from Florida if they had not attended the university. The average first-professional salary of graduates was about \$60,000, and one-third were self-employed. Half of all survey statements related to training received a mean rating of adequate or better, with the highest rating given to the value of the internship. Over 70 percent of all statements related to quality items of the program received a mean rating of acceptable or better, with the highest rating given to clinical instruction. Results are presented in narrative form, with data tables and survey form appended. (Contains seven references.) (MSE)

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MAY 1997



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RESEARCH AND PLANNING



**GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCE
WITH NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY**

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Report 97-05

May 1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division initiated a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program in 1988, which remains the only optometric school in Florida. This study was structured to query program graduates on a variety of professional and program issues, including professional trends and directions since graduation and feedback on various aspects of the Doctor of Optometry program.

The population for the survey consisted of all 1993 to 1996 Doctor of Optometry graduates. The invited sample consisted of 154 graduates with a United States mailing address, with this listing provided by the Dean's office. Surveys were distributed by United States mail in February 1997 and the return rate was 30 percent, which was similar to return rates from other surveys of University graduates. There was sufficient evidence that the responding sample was in parity with the population in terms of known demographic characteristics.

Among the many important findings gained from the survey, it was evident that the program's location was a prime reason for why graduates initially selected the University. Approximately two-thirds of all survey respondents were permanent residents of Florida at time of admission and this permanent residence statistic declined only slightly after graduation. However, nearly three-quarters of all survey respondents indicated that they would have moved away from Florida to pursue their professional education in another state if they had not attended the University.

In terms of career path, graduates of the optometry program indicated that their average first professional salary was approximately \$60,000 and that their average current salary is in the \$60,000 to \$69,999 range. Further, approximately one-third of all survey respondents indicated that they are currently self-employed.

Survey respondents were also very forthright regarding assessment of their professional training at the University and their satisfaction with various aspects of the program. One-half of all statements related to training received a mean rating of *Adequate* or better, with the highest rating provided to the value of the externship. Over 70 percent of all statements related to quality-items of the program received a mean rating of *Acceptable* or better, with the highest rating provided to clinical instruction.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, the precursor to Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, admitted its charter class in 1981 (*Nova Southeastern University Fact Book; 1997*, p. 12). In 1994, Nova University merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to form Nova Southeastern University (*Nova Southeastern University Fact Book; 1997*, p. 14). The former Southeastern University of the Health Sciences is now organized as the University's Health Professions Division.

There are six colleges in the University's Health Professions Division: College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Optometry, College of Allied Health, College of Medical Sciences, and the College of Dental Medicine (*Health Professions Division Catalog: Academic Year 1996-1997; 1996*). The University's College of Optometry, the focus of this study, was formed in 1988 (*Nova Southeastern University Fact Book; 1997*, p. 13).

Purpose of this Study

As identified in the University's *Health Professions Division Catalog: Academic Year 1996-1997* (1996, p. 69), the "Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) is a professional degree which requires four years of professional study." With optometry first introduced to the University in 1988, this study was conducted to provide a common assessment of graduates from 1993 to 1996. The survey associated with this study (Attachment) queried graduates on two separate areas:

- Professional trends and directions since graduation
- Feedback on various aspects of the Doctor of Optometry program

METHODOLOGY

In November 1996, Research and Planning was asked to offer assistance with the development and distribution for a survey of graduates of the College of Optometry. The Dean provided a formative survey instrument which was modified to also incorporate common items asked in

surveys of graduates from other programs at the University. After a series of iterations, the survey was completed by late January 1997.

The population for this study consisted of all 1993 to 1996 Doctor of Optometry graduates. Because information for students in the Health Professions Division was not fully integrated into the University's Student Information System until 1995, it was not possible to use this source of extant data to determine the scope of the population. Instead, the Dean's office provided mailing labels for all 1993 to 1996 Doctor of Optometry graduates (N = 159).

While preparing the survey packet, Research and Planning excluded mailing labels from the four 1993 to 1996 graduates with an international mailing address. Accordingly, the invited sample consisted of 155 1993 to 1996 Doctor of Optometry graduates with a United States mailing address.

RESULTS

Representation of the Responding Sample

The survey packet was mailed on February 18, 1997. Surveys were accepted until March 20, 1997. During this approximate one-month survey return period, Research and Planning received 46 surveys, for a return rate of 30 percent. The return rate approximated return rates from prior graduate surveys conducted by Research and Planning:

- 26 percent return from graduates of the School of Computer and Information Sciences (*Graduates of the School of Computer and Information Sciences Offer Judgment on Their Experience With Nova Southeastern University; 1996*)
- 30 percent return from graduates of the Fischler Center for the Advancement of Education (*Graduates of the Abraham S. Fischler Center for the Advancement of Education Reflect on Their Experience With Nova Southeastern University; 1996*)
- 32 percent return from graduates of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship (*Graduates of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship Reflect Upon Their Academic Experiences; 1996*)
- 35 percent return from graduates of the Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies (*June 1, 1995, to June 30, 1996, Graduates of the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies at Nova Southeastern University Offer Judgment on Their University Experience; 1996*)

Information about 1995 and 1996 Doctor of Optometry graduates is maintained in the University's Student Information System. Comparing 1995 and 1996 survey respondents to graduates from these years, there seems to be sufficient evidence that the responding sample is basically representative of the population in terms of known demographic criteria, such as gender (approximately 56 percent male and 44 percent female), race (approximately 66 percent White, non-Hispanic), Florida residence at time of admission (74 percent permanent residence in Florida), and age at time of graduation (Median = 29 years).

Background Information

Statistics related to various demographic items are presented in Tables 1 to 8. Key findings include the following:

- As presented in Table 1, 1996 graduates represented the largest group of survey respondents (30.4 percent of total), and 1993 graduates represented the smallest group of survey respondents (17.4 percent of total).
- Males represented approximately two-thirds of all survey respondents, and females represented approximately one-third of all survey respondents (Table 2).
- Respondents tended to be in their late-20s to early-30s at time of graduation (Table 3).
- White, non-Hispanic graduates represented 80.4 percent of all survey respondents (Table 4).
- Over two-thirds of all respondents were permanent residents of Florida at time of admission (Table 5). Slightly less than two-thirds of all respondents indicated that they were permanent residents of Florida at time of survey return (Table 6).
- Approximately two-thirds of all survey respondents were unmarried during enrollment (Table 7). Nearly 60 percent of all survey respondents indicated that they had zero dependents at time of graduation (Table 8).

Survey recipients were also asked to respond to the statement **Why did you decide to attend NSU?** Over 82 percent of all respondents indicated *Location* as a reason for attending the University (Table 9). Showing the order of magnitude of response to this statement, the most frequently identified response after *Location* was *Convenience*, which was marked by 43.5 percent of all respondents.

Survey recipients were also asked to respond to the statement **What would you have done if you had not attended Nova Southeastern University?** As shown in Table 10, nearly three-

quarters of all respondents indicated that would have moved away from Florida to pursue their professional education:

- Attend a private college or university in another state 47.8 percent
- Attend a state college or university in another state 26.1 percent

Career Path

Survey respondents were also asked to indicate their career path since graduation from the University. Related statistics are provided in Tables 11 to 18. Important findings about career path include the following:

- Approximately one-fifth of all survey respondents indicated that they were *Self-Employed* their first year out of the program (Table 11). *Self-Employed* was marked by over one-third of all survey respondents as their current career path (Table 12).
- There was wide variance in the setting of current practice for survey respondents (Table 13). However, the most frequent response was *Suburban area*, which was marked by over one-third of all survey respondents.
- *Florida* was marked by over two-thirds of all survey respondents as their current state to practice optometry (Table 14).
- Survey recipients were asked to respond to the statement **What factor(s) were important in deciding where to practice?** The two most frequently marked selections were *Climate or geographical features of area* (67.4 percent response) and *Financial considerations* (60.9 percent response) (Table 15).
- The survey was also constructed to ask for current salary and the approximate starting salary of first professional position. As presented in Table 16, survey respondents indicated that their median first salary was \$60,000 and the modal current salary was in the \$60,000 to \$69,999 range.
- Regarding National Boards, over two-thirds of all survey respondents indicated that they had completed parts I, II, III, and TMOD (Table 17).
- Again looking at geographic location, over three-quarters of all survey respondents indicated that they are licensed to practice in Florida (Table 18).

College Outcomes

Survey recipients were also asked to respond to statements that would determine perspectives on the professional preparation received during matriculation in the College of Optometry. Responses on adequacy of training are summarized in Table 19 and responses on satisfaction with program components are summarized in Table 20.

- Regarding the overall adequacy of training (Table 19), survey respondents offered the highest rating to *Ocular disease diagnosis* (Mean = 4.2) and the lowest rating to *Dispensing* (Mean = 2.3).
- Regarding satisfaction with program components (Table 20), survey respondents offered the highest rating to *Clinical instruction* (Mean = 3.9) and the lowest rating to *Concern for the needs and interests of students* (Mean = 2.6).

Continuing Education and Alumni Activities

Survey recipients were additionally asked to offer a sense of their interest in continuing education courses and well as their interest in alumni activities:

- Fall seems to be the best time to offer continuing education courses (Table 21).
- Regarding the usefulness of alumni activities, survey respondents offered the highest rating (Mean = 3.4) to *Receptions at professional meetings* (Table 22). There was also a degree of interest to an *Alumni newsletter* (Mean = 3.2).

SUMMARY

The survey process was useful in that it offered an opportunity for graduates of the University's College of Optometry to receive an introduction and a solicitation for support from a newly appointed Dean. However, the primary purposes of the survey process was to identify professional trends and directions of graduates and to provide feedback on various aspects of the Doctor of Optometry program.

In terms of trends and directions, it is obvious that the program attracts predominately Florida residents:

- Approximately one-third of all survey respondents indicated that they were a permanent resident of South Florida at time of admission, one-third were permanent residents of another area in Florida, and one-third were residents of another state (Table 5).
- Equally, nearly three-quarters of all survey respondents indicated that they would have moved to another state to pursue their professional education if they had not attended Nova Southeastern University (Table 10). In parallel to this finding, it is not surprising that *Location* was the most frequently marked response for reasons to attend the University (Table 9).
- Accordingly, now after graduation, approximately one-third of all survey respondents indicated that they are currently a permanent resident of South Florida, one-third are permanent residents of another area in Florida, and one-third are residents of another state (Table 6). In line with this finding is the observation that the leading factor for deciding where to practice optometry was *Climate or geographical features of area* (Table 15).

Decidedly, the University's optometry program attracts Florida residents who choose to remain in Florida after graduation. As the only optometric school in Florida (*Health Professions Division Catalog: Academic Year 1996-1997*; 1996, p. 65), the University's College of Optometry makes a valuable contribution to Florida (the nation's fourth largest state ranked by population; Campbell, 1994) as it prepares professionals who remain in the community.

Regarding feedback on various aspects of the program, Table 19 and Table 20 provide useful information on satisfaction with training and program components:

- One-half of all statements related to training received a mean rating of *Adequate* or better, with the highest rating provided to training in *Ocular disease diagnosis*.
- Over 70 percent of all statements related to quality-items related to the program received a mean rating of *Acceptable* or better, with the highest rating provided to *Clinical instruction*.

Faculty and administration should find the results of this survey useful as part of the continuous process associated with program improvement and attention to the University's demonstration of Institutional Effectiveness. Now that this first survey of graduates of the College of Optometry has been completed, it may also be useful to repeat this survey process every three years to continually monitor the progress of graduates and their reflection of the program.

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Table 1
Graduation Year

YEAR OF GRADUATION	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
1993	8	17.4
1994	11	23.9
1995	13	28.3
1996	14	30.4
Total	46	

Table 2
Gender

GENDER	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Female	17	37.0
Male	29	63.0
Total	46	

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Table 3
Age at Time of Graduation

AGE	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
25	3	6.5
26	8	17.4
27	4	8.7
28	5	10.9
29	2	4.3
30	2	4.3
31	6	13.0
33	2	4.3
34	1	2.2
35	2	4.3
36	2	4.3
38	1	2.2
40	1	2.2
41	1	2.2
43	1	2.2
45	1	2.2
Unidentified	4	8.7
Total	46	

Note. For the responding sample, Median Age = 29 years and Mean Age = 30.6 years (SD = 5.2 years).

Table 4

Ethnicity

ETHNICITY	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Black, non-Hispanic	3	6.5
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0.0
Hispanic	6	13.0
White, non-Hispanic	37	80.4
Total	46	

Table 5

Place of Permanent Residence at Admission to NSU

PLACE OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE AT TIME OF GRADUATION	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Broward, Dade, Monroe, or Palm Beach County	15	32.6
Another Florida County	16	34.7
Another State	13	28.3
Unidentified	2	4.3
Total	46	

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Table 6

Place of Permanent Residence Now

PLACE OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE NOW	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Broward, Dade, Monroe, or Palm Beach County	13	28.3
Another Florida County	16	34.7
Another State	13	28.3
Another Country	1	2.2
Unidentified	3	6.5
Total	46	

Table 7

Marital Status During Any Part of Enrollment at NSU

STATUS	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Married	16	34.8
Not Married	30	65.2
Total	46	

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Table 8

Number of Dependents at Time of Graduation

DEPENDENTS	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
0	27	58.7
1	14	30.4
2	2	4.3
3	2	4.3
Unidentified	1	2.2
Total	46	

Table 9

Frequency of Response to the Question: “Why did you decide to attend NSU?”

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% YES
Academic reputation	0	0.0
Admissions standards	6	13.0
Advice of counselors and teachers	3	6.5
Advice of parents or relatives	5	10.9
Availability of scholarships or financial aid	4	8.7
Convenience	20	43.5
Cost	12	26.1
Location	38	82.6
Small class size	12	26.1
Social atmosphere	3	6.5
Type of programs available	5	10.9
Other	5	10.9

Table 10

Frequency of Response to the Question: “What would you have done if you had not attended Nova Southeastern University?”

RESPONSE	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% YES
Attended another private college or university in South Florida	3	6.5
Attended another private college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida	1	2.2
Attended a private college or university in another state	22	47.8
Attended a state college or university in South Florida	0	0.0
Attended a state college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida	2	4.3
Attended a state college or university in another state	12	26.1
Not attended a college or university	1	2.2
Other	4	8.7
Unidentified	1	2.2
Total	46	

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Table 11
Career Path First Year Out of College

SELECTION	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Self-Employed	10	21.7
Employed by Other	20	43.5
Residency Training	12	26.1
Other	2	4.3
Unidentified	2	4.3
Total	46	

Table 12
Career Path Now

SELECTION	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Self-Employed	16	34.8
Employed by Other	20	43.5
Residency Training	3	2.2
Other	1	2.2
Unidentified	8	17.4
Total	46	

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Table 13
Current Practice - Setting

LOCATION	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Rural or small town under 6,500 people	3	6.5
Isolated small city	9	19.6
Suburban area	16	34.8
Urban area	6	13.0
Inner city (most densely populated center)	8	17.4
Unidentified	4	8.7
Total	46	

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Table 14

Current Practice - State

STATE	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Arizona	1	2.2
Florida	32	69.7
Georgia	1	2.2
Idaho	1	2.2
Illinois	1	2.2
Indiana	1	2.2
Kansas	1	2.2
Maryland	1	2.2
North Carolina	1	2.2
New Jersey	1	2.2
Tennessee	1	2.2
Texas	1	2.2
Virginia	1	2.2
Virgin Islands	1	2.2
Unidentified	1	2.2
Total	46	

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Table 15

Important Factors in Deciding Where to Practice

FACTORS	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% YES
Financial considerations	28	60.9
Climate or geographical features of area	31	67.4
Been brought up in such a community	9	19.6
Influence of spouse (career, etc.)	17	37.0
Influence of family or friends	13	28.3
High need for vision care in area	6	13.0
Distribution of other professionals in area	8	17.4
Status of optometry in community	16	34.8
Ethnic and/or religious considerations	5	10.9
Recreational and social opportunities	9	19.6
Quality of educational system for children	6	13.0
Prospect of being influential in community	8	17.4
Cultural advantages	3	6.5
Prosperity/growth potential of community	14	30.4
Age distribution of population	7	15.2
Opportunity to join partnership or group	14	30.4

Table 16

Salary or Annual Income of Current Job

SALARY RANGE	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
\$29,999 or less	2	4.3
\$30,000 to \$39,999	0	0.0
\$40,000 to \$49,999	3	6.5
\$50,000 to \$59,999	0	0.0
\$60,000 to \$69,999	17	37.0
\$70,000 to \$79,999	11	23.9
\$80,000 to \$89,999	6	13.0
\$90,000 to \$99,999	1	2.2
\$100,000 or over	5	10.9
Unidentified	1	2.2
Total	46	

Note. In response to the statement **What was your approximate starting salary in your first professional position?** the median first salary was \$60,000 and the mean first salary was \$56,071 (SD = \$18,551).

Table 17

Parts of the National Board Completed

PART	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
II	1	2.2
TMOD	2	4.3
I and II	4	8.7
I, II, and TMOD	8	17.4
I, II, III, and TMOD	31	67.4
Total	46	

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Table 18
Professional License - State

STATE	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Arizona	1	2.2
Florida	35	76.1
Georgia	1	2.2
Idaho	1	2.2
Illinois	1	2.2
Indiana	1	2.2
Kansas	1	2.2
Pennsylvania	1	2.2
Tennessee	1	2.2
Virginia	1	2.2
Virgin Islands	1	2.2
Unidentified	1	2.2
Total	46	

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Table 19
Satisfaction with Adequacy of Training at NSU

AREA	N	MODE	MEDIAN	MEAN	SD
Vision sciences	46	3	3	2.9	0.7
Optical sciences	46	4	4	3.4	1.0
Clinical optics	46	4	4	3.5	0.9
Pharmacology	46	4	4	3.8	0.8
General pathology	46	4	3	3.0	1.2
Ocular disease diagnosis	46	5	4	4.2	1.0
Environmental optometry	45	3	3	2.8	1.0
Practice management	46	4	3	2.8	1.2
Community health	44	3	3	2.8	0.8
Primary care	45	4	4	3.9	0.9
Pediatric optometry	46	3	3	2.9	1.0
Contact lenses	46	2	3	2.8	1.3
Rehabilitative optometry	42	3	2	2.4	0.8
Patient interaction	45	3	3	3.4	0.9
Dispensing	46	3	3	2.3	1.1
Externship	43	3	4	3.7	1.1

RATING KEY	
1 Inadequate	4 More than Adequate
2 Somewhat Adequate	5 Exceptional
3 Adequate	NA Not Applicable
	U Unknown or Unable to Answer

Table 20
Satisfaction with Program Components

AREA	N	MODE	MEDIAN	MEAN	SD
Instruction by faculty in lectures . . .	43	4	4	3.6	0.6
Instruction by faculty in laboratories	43	4	3	3.4	0.9
Clinical instruction	45	4	4	3.9	0.9
Concern for the needs and interests of students	45	3	3	2.6	1.1
Availability of financial support . . .	43	2	3	2.7	1.2
Quality of students in the program ..	44	4	3	3.3	0.9
Curriculum of the 4th year	44	4	4	3.4	1.1

RATING KEY	
1 Poor	4 Good
2 Fair	5 Outstanding
3 Acceptable	NA Not Applicable
	U Unknown or Unable to Answer

Table 21

Time of Year Likely to Attend Continuing Education Courses

TIME	RESPONDENTS	
	N	% TOTAL
Fall	16	34.8
Spring	8	17.4
Summer	5	10.9
All Times	14	30.4
Unidentified	3	6.5
Total	46	

Table 22

Potential Usefulness of Alumni Activities

ACTIVITY	N	MODE	MEDIAN	MEAN	SD
Alumni gatherings	42	2	3	2.6	1.0
Receptions at professional meetings	43	3	3	3.4	1.0
Reunions	40	3	3	2.8	1.2
Alumni newsletter	40	3	3	3.2	1.1

RATING KEY			
1	Not Interested	4	More than Interested
2	Somewhat Interested	5	Very Interested
3	Interested	N/A	Not Applicable

February 18, 1997

Dear College of Optometry Alumnus:

First let me introduce myself as the new Dean of Nova Southeastern College of Optometry. I am writing to request that you take a few moments of your time to complete the attached questionnaire regarding your educational experiences here at the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (Nova Southeastern University was created in January 1994 by the merger of Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences). We are currently in the process of reviewing our entire curriculum, as well as engaging in ongoing program review. As an alumnus now operating in "the real world," you are in an ideal position to offer us valuable input in terms of evaluating the relevance and overall quality of the education you received here. Your responses and insights will also provide a significant and necessary part of the foundation for our long-term planning activities for the College.

In addition, I hope that participation in this survey can help strengthen relationships between our College and its alumnae by demonstrating that we value your opinions. There are many other ways of re-establishing and maintaining contact with us, including submission of news briefs or articles for our future newsletter; participation in our offerings of continuing education programs as either an attendee or an instructor; service on College committees or advisory boards; participation in local optometric societies and promotion of the College through those organizations; attendance at class reunions; and, of course (you knew this was coming) regular or periodic tax-deductible donations/gifts are always welcomed (either monetary or in the form of equipment donations). Your completion and submission of the attached survey (and future ones) is also a much-appreciated form of maintaining a relationship with the College.

If at all possible, please complete your survey within the next few weeks, and return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by March 10. I would like to be able to tabulate the results and provide preliminary findings to the Council on Optometric Education's accreditation team when they visit us in the Spring. I appreciate your willingness to share your experience and valuable insights, and assisting us with our program planning. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you at future alumni activities.

Sincerely,

David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D.
Dean

Nova Southeastern University

SURVEY OF GRADUATES OF THE

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

The first portion of this questionnaire is designed to provide the College with information about your current professional setting. This information will be valuable in assessing the trends and directions our graduates have pursued. In the second portion of the questionnaire we ask that you provide feedback on various aspects of your former experiences here in the professional program. Please do not name specific instructors here; rather we are interested in your experience and your perceptions of the areas of study. Responses to this survey are anonymous, except for those cases in which an individual may be identified by you. Such remarks affecting an individual will be forwarded to the Dean only if they are accompanied by a legible signature. In all other cases, you will not be identified in any manner. We appreciate your time in filling out this survey as completely as possible.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Year of Graduation

- 1993
 1994
 1995
 1996

Gender

- Female
 Male

Age at time of graduation: _____ Years

Ethnic Group

- Black, non-Hispanic
 American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian or Pacific Islander
 Hispanic
 White, non-Hispanic
 Other or Unknown

Place of permanent residence at time of admission to NSU:

- Broward, Dade, Monroe, or Palm Beach County
 Another Florida County _____
 Another State _____
 Another Country _____

Place of permanent residence now

- Broward, Dade, Monroe, or Palm Beach County
 Another Florida County _____
 Another State _____
 Another Country _____

Were you married during any part of your enrollment at NSU?

- Yes
 No

Number of dependents at time of graduation?

Why did you decide to attend NSU? Mark all selections that apply.

- Academic reputation
- Admissions standards
- Advice of counselors and teachers
- Advice of parents or relatives
- Availability of scholarships or financial aid
- Convenience
- Cost
- Location
- Small class size
- Social atmosphere
- Type of programs available
- Other _____

What would you have done if you had not attended NSU? Would you have attended:

- Another private college or university in South Florida
- Another private college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida
- A private college or university in another state
- A state college or university in South Florida
- A state college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida
- A state college or university in another state
- Not attended a college or university
- Other _____

SECTION I: CAREER PATH

	First Yr. Out of College	Present
Self-employed in:		
solo practice	_____	_____
partnership practice	_____	_____
group practice	_____	_____
Employed by:		
optometrist	_____	_____
ophthalmologist	_____	_____
optical company	_____	_____
school/college of optometry	_____	_____
group health plan (e.g. HMO)	_____	_____
multidisciplinary group practice	_____	_____
federal government or military	_____	_____
Residency training	_____	_____
Other (please specify)	_____	_____

Type/location of residency program, if applicable:

Where is your current practice located?

- Rural or small town under 6,500 people _____
- Isolated small city _____
- Suburban area _____
- Urban area _____
- Inner city (most densely populated center) _____

In what state do you practice? _____

What city? _____
(optional)

What factor(s) were important in deciding where to practice? Circle the letter of all factors which helped you decide where to locate.

- A. financial considerations
- B. climate or geographical features of area
- C. been brought up in such a community
- D. influence of spouse (career, etc.)
- E. influence of family or friends
- F. high need for vision care in area
- G. distribution of other professionals in area
- H. status of optometry in community
- I. ethnic and/or religious considerations
- J. recreational and social opportunities
- K. quality of educational system for children
- L. prospect of being influential in community
- M. cultural advantages
- N. prosperity/growth potential of community
- O. age distribution of population
- P. opportunity to join partnership or group

Of all the factors circled above, rank the three that were/are most important:

Rank _____ Letter of the Factor (A through P)

- 1. Most important factor _____
- 2. Second most important _____
- 3. Third most important _____

What is the salary or annual income of your current job?

- _____ \$29,999 or less
- _____ \$30,000 to \$39,999
- _____ \$40,000 to \$49,999
- _____ \$50,000 to \$59,999
- _____ \$60,000 to \$69,999
- _____ \$70,000 to \$79,999
- _____ \$80,000 to \$89,999
- _____ \$90,000 to \$99,999
- _____ \$100,000 or over

What was your approximate starting salary in your first professional position? _____

Circle parts of the National Board that you have completed: I II III TMOD

In what state(s) do you have professional licenses?

SECTION II: COLLEGE OUTCOMES

We are interested in your perspectives on the professional preparation you received during your education at the College of Optometry.

Based on your experiences to date in the profession, please review the following rating key and then circle to the left of each item your rating of the overall adequacy of your training at Nova Southeastern University (Southeastern University of the Health Sciences prior to the 1/1/94 merger) College of Optometry in the following areas:

RATING KEY			
1	Inadequate	4	More than Adequate
2	Somewhat Adequate	5	Exceptional
3	Adequate	NA	Not Applicable
		U	Unknown or Unable to Answer

- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Vision sciences
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Optical sciences
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Clinical optics
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Pharmacology
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U General pathology
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Ocular disease diagnosis
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Environmental optometry
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Practice management
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Community health
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Primary care
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Pediatric optometry
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Contact lenses
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Rehabilitative optometry
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Patient interaction
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Dispensing
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Externship

Please indicate what changes you believe are needed in those areas you rated "inadequate."

(Please attach additional sheets, if necessary)

Please review the following rating key and then mark or circle to the left of each item your perception of the quality of the following aspects of the program:

RATING KEY			
1	Poor	4	Good
2	Fair	5	Outstanding
3	Acceptable	NA	Not Applicable
		U	Unknown or Unable to Answer

- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Instruction by faculty in lectures
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Instruction by faculty in laboratories
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Clinical instruction
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Concern for the needs and interests of students
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Availability of financial support
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Quality of students in the program
- 1 2 3 4 5 NA U Curriculum of the 4th Year

What specific aspects of the curriculum were most/least effective?

What was the most positive aspect of your entire training?

What changes or additions would you like to see in the program?

Please use this space (and additional sheets, if necessary) to add your comments regarding any aspect of your training at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry. We are especially interested in your perceptions of strengths and weaknesses in faculty, staff, and student attitudes/interaction, and general learning environment.

Continuing Education (CE) Programs - what types of Continuing Education programming would you find most valuable?

What time of year are you likely to attend CE courses? Fall _____ Spring _____ Summer _____

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES: Using the following rating key, please indicate what types of alumni activities you would find most meaningful and be most likely to participate in.

RATING KEY			
1	Not Interested	4	More than Interested
2	Somewhat Interested	5	Very Interested
3	Interested	N/A	Not Applicable

- A. Alumni gatherings 1 2 3 4 5 NA U
- B. Receptions at professional meetings 1 2 3 4 5 NA U
- C. Which meetings? _____
- D. Reunions 1 2 3 4 5 NA U
- E. Alumni newsletter 1 2 3 4 5 NA U

More information on alums in the Newsletter? _____

Please provide the name of a local paper(s) where you would like to see information about NSU College of Optometry activities published: _____

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to our program evaluation and curriculum review activities.

Please return this survey to:
 Nova Southeastern University
 Research and Planning
 3301 College Avenue
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314
 Attention: Laura Uslan
 by March 10, 1997

NOVA
SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH AND PLANNING 37
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

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Signature: 	Printed Name/Position/Title: Thomas W. MacFarland, Ed.D. Senior Research Associate	
Organization/Address: Nova Southeastern University Research and Planning 3301 College Avenue Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314	Telephone: (954) 262-5390	FAX: (954) 262-3970
	E-Mail Address: tommac@nsu.nova.edu	Date: February 26, 1998

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