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Chairwoman Bailey, Chairwoman Mathieson and HCIFS Committee members. I am here to speak in support of LD1803.

My name is Cassidy Hill, and I am a recent graduate of the class of 2025 from the University of Houston College of Optometry. I have attached a copy of the curriculum below. I was born and raised in Searsmont, Maine, and graduated from the University of Maine at Orono. I have completed the three national board examinations and will soon take the Maine State Board exam, to become licensed to practice in the state.

Part of the curriculum at my college involves dealing with the kind of procedures in issue before the Committee. I am well trained in these aspects of optometric care and have witnessed optometrists perform these procedures safely and effectively in Louisiana, where they are authorized to perform these treatments. I look forward to doing these procedures, particularly posterior capsulotomy, on live patients, either in Louisiana or Oklahoma in the near future. I must travel to one of these states because Texas does not authorize these treatments. As I look to begin my career and return to Maine, I hope to be able to practice at the level my training has prepared me for and to utilize the skills and training that I have received.

Searsmont and the surrounding area where I plan to practice are distinctly rural. It is not always easy to get access to optometric care. People in these communities deserve prompt and quality care no less than those who have the privilege to live in communities such as Bangor or Portland.

I have worked diligently to become an optometrist. I do believe that I can make a difference in the lives of my patients, and I urge you to allow me to do so to the fullest extent of my education, training and certification. I urge you to pass LD1803. Thank you.

University of Houston College of Optometry Curriculum 2024-2025

First Year

Fall Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO5111	Optics I Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5133	Advanced Human Anatomy Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5134	Neuroanatomy Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5171	Clinic Practicum I	1	0	3
OPTO5233	Advanced Human Anatomy	2	2	0
OPTO5271	Optometry I	2	2	0
OPTO5314	Optics	3	3	0
OPTO5320	Vision Science I	3	3	0
OPTO5334	Human Neuroanatomy and Physiology	3	3	0
OPTO5344	Advanced Human Physiology and Molecular Biology	3	3	0
Totals		20	16	12

Spring Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO5112	Optics II Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5135	Ocular Anatomy Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5172	Clinic Practicum II	1	0	3
OPTO5194	Ophthalmic Optics Lab	1	0	3
OPTO5221	Vision Science II	2	2	0
OPTO5272	Optometry II	2	2	0
OPTO5282	Community Health Optometry	2	2	0
OPTO5315	Optics II	3	3	0
OPTO5331	General Pathology and Medicine	3	3	0
OPTO5335	Ocular Anatomy and Physiology	3	3	0
Totals		19	15	12

Second Year

Fall Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPT06132	Medical Laboratory Procedures	1	0	3
OPT06163	Primary Optometry Lab	1	0	3
OPT06173	Clinic Practicum III	1	0	3
OPT06190	Ophthalmic Optics Lab	1	0	3
OPT06219	Vision Science III	2	2	0
OPT06234	Ocular Pathology I	2	2	0
OPT06311	Optics III	3	3	0
OPT06363	Primary Optometry	3	3	0
OPT06434	General Pharmacology	4	4	0
Totals		18	14	12
Spring Semester		Hours		
Number	Description	Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPT06151	Pediatric Optometry I Lab	1	0	3
OPT06174	Contact Lens Lab	1	0	3
OPT06124	Perception	1	1	0
OPT06291	General Clinic II	2	1	8
OPT06312	Optics IV	3	3	0
OPT06333	Ocular Pharmacology & Therapeutics	3	3	0
OPT06335	Ocular Pathology II	3	3	0
OPT06351	Pediatric Optometry I	3	3	0
OPT06374	Contact Lens I	3	3	0
Totals		20	17	14

Third Year

Summer Semester

Number	Description	Hours		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO6116	Clinical Integration	1	1	0
OPTO7493	General Clinic IIIA	4	2	18
OPTO7150	Developmental Optometry	1	1	0
	*Electives	2	0	0
Totals		8	4	18

Fall Semester

Number	Description	Hours		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO7152	Pediatric Optometry II Lab	1	0	3
OPTO7131	Clinical Medicine	1	1	0
OPTO7230	Glaucoma	2	2	0
OPTO7252	Pediatric Optometry II	2	2	0
OPTO7361	Geriatric Optometry	3	3	0
OPTO7336	Ocular Pathology III	3	3	0
OPTO7375	Contact Lens II	3	3	0
OPTO7494	General Clinic IIIB	4	0	18
	*Electives	1	0	0
Totals		20	14	19

Spring Semester

Number	Description	Hours		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPTO7120	OPT III Rounds/ Case Discussion	1	1	0
OPTO7130	Ophthalmic Lasers, Refractive Surgery, & Surgical Techniques Lab	1	0	2
OPTO7162	Vision Rehabilitative Lab	1	0	2
OPTO7253	Pediatric Optometry III	2	2	0
OPTO7262	Rehabilitative Optometry	2	2	0
OPTO7330	Ophthalmic Lasers, Refractive Surgery & Surgical Techniques	3	3	0
OPTO7337	Ocular Pathology IV	3	3	0
OPTO7383	Practice Management I	3	3	0
OPTO7495	General Clinic IIIC	4	0	18
	*Elective	1	0	0
Totals		21	14	20

Fourth Year

(Summer, Fall, Spring)

Rotation A - Externships I

Number	Description	Hours		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPT08990	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20
OPT08991	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20
Totals		18	0	40

(Summer, Fall, Spring)

Rotation B - Externships II

Number	Description	Hours		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPT08992	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20
OPT08993	Community Health Clinics	9	0	20
Totals		18	0	40

(Summer, Fall, Spring)

Rotation C - Specialty Clinic / Didactic Semester

Number	Description	Hours		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
OPT08338	Rounds and Recent Developments	3	3	0
OPT08384	Practice Management II	3	3	0
OPT08696	General Clinic IV	6	0	20
	*Elective	3	0	0
Totals		15	6	0