

# COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

## RECOGNITION DECISION SUMMARY

### COMMISSION ON OPTICIANRY ACCREDITATION (COA)

In accordance with the [2021 CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition](#), Procedures-B.11, this summary provides the reason(s) for the recognition decision by the CHEA Board of Directors.

#### **Profile of Accrediting Organization**

Type of Accreditor: Programmatic

Number of Programs: 19

#### **Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation**

*The Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA) accredits two-year Opticianry degree programs in the United States that are sponsored by post-secondary institutions accredited by agencies recognized by the Department of Education or CHEA. (2019)*

#### **CHEA Recognition Information**

History: Initial recognition by CHEA January 25, 2010

#### **Most Recent Recognition Action**

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, May 3, 2021

Decision: Defer Action on Recognition for one year based on recommendation of the Committee on Recognition. COA is to submit a response addressing CHEA Standards 10.A. (accrediting organizations expectations for academic quality), 10.B./11.B.1.(providing student achievement and performance data to the public), 10.C.(meeting expectations of academic quality), 11.A.1./12.D.3. (provision of reasons for accreditation decisions on website and in program directory), 11.A.3.(timely action on underperforming programs), and 12.H.(operational resources).

#### **Summary of Prior Recognition Actions**

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, October 5, 2020: Extension of term of recognition from December 31, 2020 to June 30, 2021 assuring continuity of CHEA recognition to allow for completion of the recognition process.

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 25, 2010: The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

COA demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality, improvement and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

Scope information as of October 5, 2020. Recognition information as of May 3, 2021.