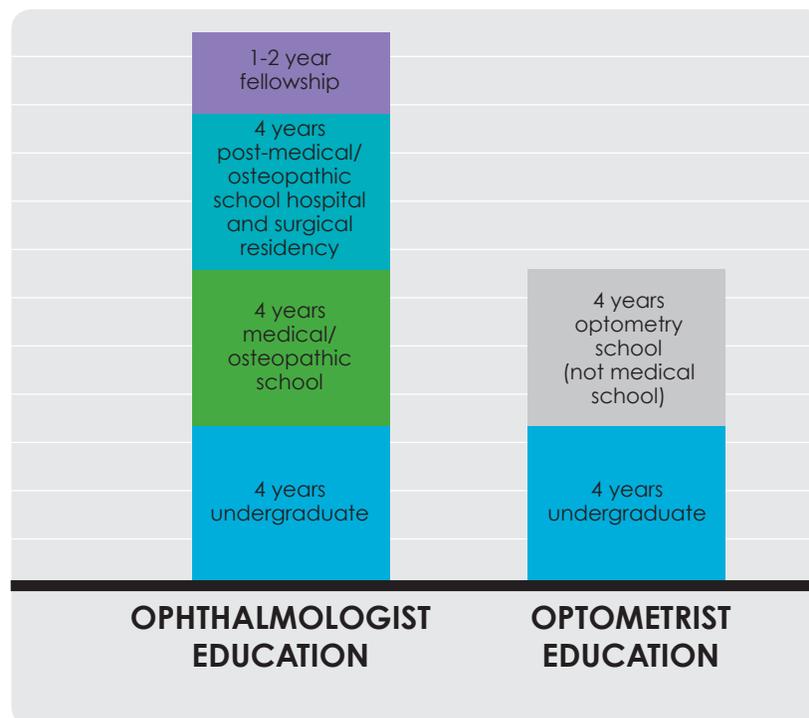


# Medical/Osteopathic Education *Makes a Difference*

Ophthalmologists – or Eye M.D.s – are medical or osteopathic physicians and surgeons who specialize in eye and vision care.

- Ophthalmologists differ from optometrists and opticians in their levels of training and in what they can properly diagnose and treat.
- Ophthalmologists complete four years of medical/osteopathic school, a four-year hospital and surgical residency, plus, in many cases, a one- to two-year subspecialty fellowship.
- Optometry training consists of a four-year program focusing on basic eye care services such as eye exams/refractions and contact lens fitting, but not on the medical or surgical treatment of serious eye diseases.
- This is about patients receiving the right care from the right physician at the right time. Patients want surgery by surgeons.
- Eye surgery should not be taken lightly. The education and clinical skills obtained by ophthalmologists through 8 to 10 years of training provide the best opportunity for positive patient outcomes.



# Medical/Osteopathic Education *Makes a Difference*

Who would you want treating serious eye diseases or performing surgery on your eyes?

Ophthalmologists complete four years of undergraduate studies, a four-year hospital and surgical residency, plus, in many cases, a one- to two-year subspecialty fellowship to gain the skills necessary to become surgeons. Optometrists' education and training focuses on primary eye care services (e.g., eye examinations/refractions and contact lens fitting), but not in the medical or surgical treatment of serious eye diseases. **The proof is in the training.**

OPHTHALMOLOGISTS	vs.	OPTOMETRISTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Four-year medical/osteopathic school degree</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No medical/osteopathic degree – not medical/osteopathic physicians</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Four years post-medical/osteopathic school hospital and surgical residency</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optometry offers a voluntary one-year post-graduation program; less than 20% of optometrists participate</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One- to two-year subspecialty fellowship, which approximately 50% of recent graduates complete</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No surgery fellowship program</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extensive medical and clinical training overseeing complex eye diseases results in sound medical and surgical judgment</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal mandatory clinical experience</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ophthalmologists spend years learning how to diagnose diseases of the eyes and implement subsequent surgical treatment options</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and training focused on primary eye care services, such as examination, refraction and contact lens fitting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) certification and 10-year recertification; ABO is one of only 24 approved members of the American Board of Medical Specialties</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No optometrist is certified by a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties</li> </ul>