

# ECOO GUEST ARTICLE



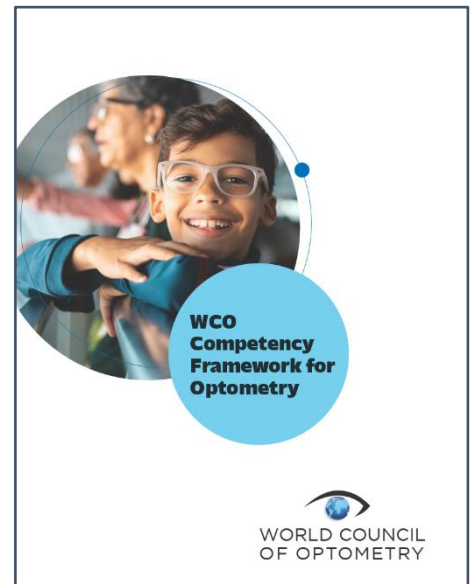
**ALLISON BARTNICK**  
World Council of Optometry  
Marketing & Communications  
Associate

## WCO LAUNCHES GLOBAL COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR OPTOMETRY

This spring, the World Council of Optometry (WCO) introduced a new resource defining optometry in terms of essential competencies required to engage effectively in the international eye care agenda, the [WCO Competency Framework for Optometry](#).

Recognizing the diverse landscape of optometric education and practice across the globe, WCO identified the pressing need for a unified global standard for outcomes of optometric education. Thus, the WCO Competency Framework for Optometry provides a comprehensive set of competency statements, coupled with the core curriculum elements supporting their development through tertiary-level optometry programs. Divided into five essential domains – refractive error, visual function assessment, ocular health and diseases, public

health, and professional practice – the framework outlines the competencies expected of optometry graduates. The WCO Competency Framework was developed to be in alignment with the World Health Organization’s Eye Care Competency Framework (ECCF).



*Figure 1 | WCO Competency Framework for Optometry*

WCO President Dr. Sandra Block recently highlighted this important milestone during her presentation at



ECCOO’s 2024 General Assembly in Helsinki.

“The WCO Competency Framework is a step to place optometry as the primary eye care provider in the continuum of eye care from promotion to prevention to diagnosis to treatment and rehabilitation, shared Dr. Block. “It is important to ensure the academic content covers the five domains and the graduates demonstrate the level competency to fill the needs of the public. We are excited to present a document aligned with the WHO Eye Care Competency Framework that was released in 2022.”

Adaptable to each country’s needs, the framework aims to help shape the future of optometry education

and practice by guiding curriculum development, informing policymakers, and making it easier to recognize the impact of the profession in the international agenda for eye care. It demonstrates to those looking at their health system what skills optometrists have and can bring to better delivery of care.



Figure 2 | Hear further insights from lead developers Dr. Yazan Gammoh and Prof. Peter Hendicott.

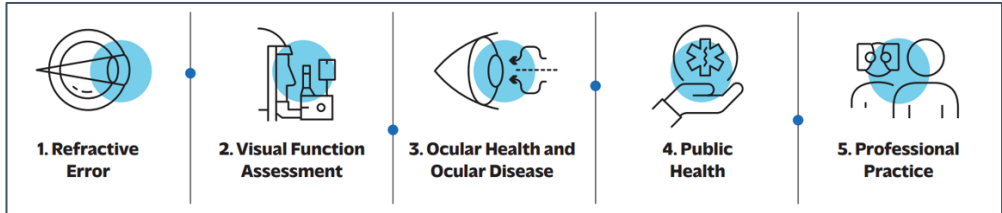


Figure 3 | WCO has grouped its competencies into five essential curriculum domains (above).