

ASCO experienced a 5.6% decrease in applicants in 2017-2018, compared to the previous application cycle. There were 2,527 applicants who submitted a total of 12,293 applications. For applications, [OptomCAS](#) experienced a 7.8% decrease in applications submitted compared to last year. On average, applicants applied to 4.86 schools and colleges. A full report on the 2017-2018 application cycle will be available at the end of the year.

Applicants apply through [OptomCAS](#) the Optometry Centralized Application Service. The 2018-2019 application cycle opened in OptomCAS on June 28 for the new year (application cycle 2018-2019). All 23 [ASCO member schools and colleges](#) participate in OptomCAS.

For answers to questions about the applicant pool and OptomCAS, visit <http://www.optomcas.org> or contact Paige Pence, ASCO Director of Student and Residency Affairs, at ppence@opted.org.