

The most
important
decision
of your life.



NECO | New England College of Optometry

Choosing the right optometry school is about more than the classes you'll take. It's about the breadth and depth of your clinical training and the support you receive at every step—from searching for an apartment to aiding your academic success. At NECO, you'll find faculty, staff, and peers who are as invested in your success as you are.



NECO helps prepare you to flourish as a valuable member of modern healthcare teams. Your training combines rigorous academics with unmatched exposure to diverse patient populations and cutting-edge technologies in various clinical settings. You'll connect with fellow students who share common goals and come from a variety of backgrounds.

500⁺ students

representing 26⁺ states, 13⁺ countries

1,400⁺ patient interactions over four years



Our Clinical Training Center has 20 exam lanes with ION cameras, plus 4 lanes featuring the latest equipment. A team of faculty preceptors jump in to provide individual attention.



Faculty personally invested in your success

NECO faculty members take a personal interest in your success. They engage with and advise you to make sure you have the help you need, from your first day of classes to preparing for your Boards and beyond. You'll find that instructors take the time to get to know you as an individual.

Because our distinguished faculty are also leading optometry researchers and practitioners, you'll stay current with the latest developments

in the field. You'll study with specialists in areas such as myopia, binocular vision, public health, contact lenses, low vision, and pediatric optometry.

You'll benefit from a comprehensive educational approach where topics range from clinical techniques, entrepreneurship, to providing care in a culturally sensitive manner.

150

clinical affiliations around the world.

"I tailor my teaching style to how a person learns best. Some are visual learners, while others learn by doing. I try to give helpful feedback and deliver in a way that is approachable and constructive, so that students can continuously improve and be empowered towards success."

DR. AMY MOY

You'll join a supportive community

When you choose to attend NECO, you join a tight-knit, intellectually stimulating community that looks out for you and for each other.

Through study groups, the peer mentorship program, or by simply spending time together, you'll form meaningful connections with fellow students and faculty that last long after graduation.

NECO alumni personify these connections. Like others in our community, they are invested in your future and your career prospects. Our alumni network extends across the U.S., Canada, and beyond, and alumni frequently return to campus to meet with you, offer career advice, and share their experiences from different practice areas.

"NECO staff and upperclassmen treat you as part of the community and as a family. Everyone is helpful, and considerate. You feel as if the entire staff is there to help you succeed."

MICHELLE, NEW YORK, CLASS OF 2025



A driving force of NECO's collective academic success is the strong camaraderie among our students. It's commonplace here to see students cheering and advocating for each other.



Students complete a lab course to gain hands-on experience with lasers, microsurgical procedures, intense pulsed light techniques, and other important technology used in optometry today.



Students celebrating a win at the NECO Olympics, one of many events organized by NECO's Student Council.

Founded in
1894

The oldest continually operating optometry school in the United States

A History of Innovation

Created the first **community-based clinical training model**

Affiliated with a US Public Health Hospital before any other optometry schools

Certified the first optometrists in the use of **diagnostic pharmaceutical agents**

Developed the **optometrist-ophthalmologist collaboration protocol** that became standard practice

Conducted the first **NIH-sponsored clinical research trial** in optometry

Advised **Wenzhou Medical University in China** on modern optometry practices.

A clinical training model rooted in community service

Few schools provide the breadth and depth of clinical experiences you'll find at NECO.

As a student, you'll experience a multidisciplinary model where you'll be a part of the patient's healthcare team, collaborating with primary care doctors, ophthalmologists, pediatricians, and other providers. It's a model still rare among optometry schools. Yet one NECO believes in so strongly that it has continued to invest in the curricular and clinical model that makes it possible.

NECO's community health center collaborations help students to become proficient not just in clinical skills, but in the critical thinking that is vital to competent patient management in any type of clinical setting they choose in any part of the world.

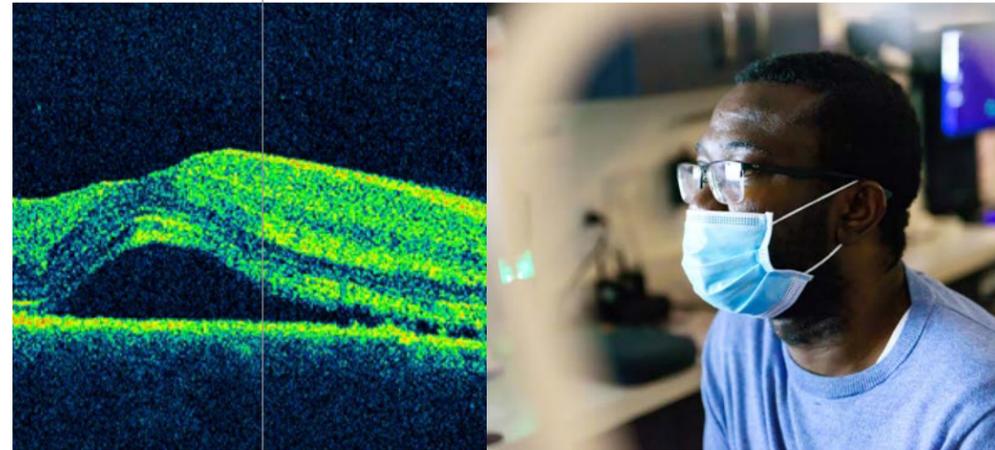
As you rotate through the health centers, you work with individuals who have a greater variety of systemic diseases, disabilities, and socio-economic barriers while providing much needed eye care in the community.

At NECO's own comprehensive eye centers, students work with the latest in diagnostic and therapeutic technologies and learn from experts in myopia, low vision, contact lenses, dry eye, pediatrics, and vision therapy.

Within a few weeks, first year students get hands-on experience providing eye screenings in Boston elementary schools. By graduation, each student sees 1,400+ patients.

"For me, being an optometrist is highly linked to giving back to the community and allowing people to experience life without having to deal with poor vision. Here at NECO, we are given the opportunity to be a part of the community and help those in need."

HASSAM, NEW YORK, CLASS OF 2025



"Coming from a university with 30,000 students, I never knew what an individualized and intimate educational community was like until I came to NECO. All of the faculty and staff I have interacted with have been kind, helpful, and genuinely invested in my unique journey towards becoming a doctor."

AMY, SOUTH CAROLINA, CLASS OF 2025

You'll be in the heart of Boston

Boston is a city with a vibrant tradition of medicine, technology, and innovation. Plus it's walkable and rich with diverse activities, fantastic restaurants, museums, cultural attractions, parks, and shops.

With over 80 colleges and universities in the metro region, you'll find yourself among a population of 250,000-plus

students who call the area home and make Boston a uniquely simulating place to live and learn.

From resources to help you navigate the Boston rental market to explaining public transportation, our faculty and staff will help you quickly adjust to life in this amazing city.

School Decision Checklist

Because it's the most important decision of your life, NECO put together a helpful checklist as you look at options and make decisions about your future.

- Is there a **peer mentoring program** to support my first year at school?
- Are the students fiercely competitive or do they **encourage each other's success**?
- Is there an opportunity to get involved with a **healthcare community** outside of class?
- How will I learn **patient relationship skills**?
- Will I be exposed to **diverse patient populations** and clinical settings?
- Will the training be based in **community settings and in community health centers**, where I'll be part of the patient's team of healthcare providers?
- Will I gain experience using **lasers, microsurgical procedures, and light therapy** for dry eye treatment?
- Are **faculty and staff** personally invested in my success?
- Is there an opportunity to participate in **research while a student**?
- Will I get help finding **local housing**?
- Does the school champion **diversity and inclusion** and strive for change?
- Do they help to place me in a **job after graduation**?
- Will I learn about different **practice models** for optometrists?
- Do they have ways to **tailor my experience** through courses or a selection of three concentrations?
- Is the **admissions team** designed to support your needs throughout the decision process?

The NECO Admissions team is centered around your experience and will support you throughout the application and decision-making process. From sharing how to write a good personal statement to meeting deadlines, we are here to help in your pursuit of an optometry education.

We share the values and experience of what the NECO community is about: supporting your success.

If you need any assistance answering these or other questions, our Admissions team is here to help.
Schedule a virtual consultation through [NECO.edu/Admissions](https://neco.edu/Admissions) or contact one of our team members directly.