

**Accreditation Council on Optometric Education  
Stage One Designation and Stage Two Designation  
Professional Optometric Degree Programs  
July 19, 2024**

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education has awarded the professional optometric degree program(s) below one of the following classifications:

**Stage One designation** is a classification granted to a proposed professional optometric degree program indicating that the proposed program has demonstrated a complete and sufficiently developed needs assessment, feasibility study, and risk assessment. The Stage One designation classification does not provide any rights or privileges of accreditation and is not a formal preaccreditation status. The proposed program has approval to apply for Stage Two designation.

**Stage Two designation** is a classification granted to a proposed professional optometric degree program indicating that the proposed program's planning and development are sufficient to warrant an on-site evaluation review in consideration of Preliminary Approval Status. The Stage Two designation classification does not provide any rights or privileges of accreditation and is not a formal preaccreditation status.

The purpose of evaluating professional optometric degree programs using the processes associated with **Stage One designation** and **Stage Two designation** is to ensure only professional optometric degree programs with a high likelihood of successfully attaining an accreditation status are granted **Preliminary Approval** and allowed to enroll students. Programs in **Stage One designation** and **Stage Two designation** are prohibited from recruiting or enrolling students.

The following program currently holds Stage One designation:

**Universidad Ana G. Mendez - Cupey Campus**  
PO Box 21150  
San Juan, PR 00928-1150  
José E. Berríos, Dean of Academic Affairs

The following program currently holds Stage Two designation:

**University of Detroit Mercy, School of Optometry**  
41555 West 12 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48377  
Maryke Neiberg, O.D., Founding Dean