



CLASS OF 2016

This year's incoming students arrived from 18 states, Canada, and China, bringing to NECO their dedication and commitment to the field of optometry. Their average GPA score of 3.4 is the highest in the history of the College, and their OAT score of 327 is on par with that of recent years, according to Dr. Taline Farra, assistant dean and director of NECO's office of admissions. They received their undergraduate degrees from prestigious institutions including Wellesley College, Brandeis University, College of the Holy Cross, Wesleyan University, UCLA, UC Berkeley, the University of Waterloo, College of New Jersey, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and University of Toronto. The 109 members of the Class of '16 were selected from among 930 applicants, a 3% increase over recent years, reflecting NECO's position as a preeminent institution of eye care delivery, research, and education.

Katherine Schmidt

Lincoln, Nebraska

Biological sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

"The NECO faculty is impressive. Professors genuinely care that students understand and learn the material, and they are receptive and appreciative of student input."

- ▶ For two years, worked as an optometric technician at a vision center in Lincoln
- ▶ Vice president of the OD 2016 class and NECO Presidential Scholarship recipient

Alexandra Sexton

Lincoln, Rhode Island

Biology and psychology, Providence College

"The variety of NECO's clinical sites allows students to gain maximum exposure to diverse populations with different types of disease. Working in these varied environments will make for well-rounded and prepared clinicians."

- ▶ Member, OD 2016 class council
- ▶ Enjoys discovering Boston attractions from the Freedom Trail to the Museum of Science to kayaking on the Charles River

Alina Reznik

Laghorne, Pennsylvania

Biology, Temple University

"Everyone at NECO is friendly, smiling, happy, and willing to help. In all of my education, I have never experienced a more active and positive environment."

- ▶ Her hero: her mother, who, knowing little English, came to the U.S. from Russia and pursued an RN degree while working and caring for her family
- ▶ Is invigorated by Boston's hustle and bustle – the energy of young professionals pursuing their goals

Florence Lee

Saratoga, California

Biochemistry and cell biology,
University of California, San Diego

"I chose to study optometry because it will enable me to give back to the community. I appreciate how broad the field is and the many opportunities and experiences my education will make possible."

- ▶ While an undergraduate, named "Intern of the Quarter" for her performance working with a vision therapist and her paper on traumatic brain injury
- ▶ Spent her junior year in Denmark studying at the University of Copenhagen, taking courses taught in both Danish and English

Gaganjeet Tamber

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Biological sciences, University of Calgary

"NECO graduates have a head start when they enter the professional world. The College's classroom and clinical programs are second to none."

- ▶ Shadowed his optometrist for a year and currently holds a position as a surgical assist at a Calgary hospital
- ▶ Was inspired to pursue an OD by his brother, an optometrist

