



CLASS OF 2017

This year's incoming students arrived from 28 states, Canada, China, Korea, India, and Vietnam, bringing to NECO their dedication and commitment to the field of optometry. Their average GPA score of 3.30 and OAT score of 320 are both on par with those of recent years, according to Dr. Taline Farra, assistant dean and director of NECO's office of admissions. Many of them received their undergraduate degrees from highly regarded institutions including Wellesley, Boston University, University of North Carolina, Wake Forest, University of Waterloo, Macalester, University of Toronto, McGill, Lehigh, and McMaster. The 135 members of the Class of 2017 were selected from among 833 applicants, reflecting NECO's preeminent position in eye care education.

MEET SOME OF OUR STUDENTS:

Emily Humphreys

Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Biology, Macalester College

"It was in my undergraduate neurosciences courses that I gained a true respect for just how complicated and fascinating are the brain and visual system. Vision is something many of us take for granted, but for those that are not blessed, it can be the best gift to give someone."

- ▶ Is a 2017 Alumni Leadership Scholar
- ▶ Enjoys exploring the Boston culture in her free time, roaming from the North End to the Back Bay

Blair Germain

Walworth, New York
Mathematics, University of Rochester

"Every nearsighted child remembers getting his or her first pair of glasses – and being able to see the individual leaves on a tree for the first time. I want to be able to do that for children."

- ▶ Loves to run along the Esplanade and the Charles River
- ▶ While in high school, had aspirations of pursuing a career as music teacher

Andrew Rabkin

Laghorne, Pennsylvania
Biology, Temple University

"I gained experience while working at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary as a research coordinator in the ophthalmology department for two and a half years prior to starting at NECO."

- ▶ Is an avid Red Sox fan, frequently watching games at Fenway Park
- ▶ Enjoys exploring the abundance of cultural opportunities Boston has to offer

Emily Sloat

Ontario, Canada
Biomedical Science, University of Guelph, Ontario

"My best learning experiences at NECO so far have been labs and screenings. I enjoy lectures, but I came to optometry school not to be a student, but to be an optometrist."

- ▶ Biggest risk taken was moving from a small town to Boston to attend NECO
- ▶ Appreciates the beauty of Back Bay and is constantly amazed by its homey character

Steven Weifenbach

Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Classics and French, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"I worked at a specialty clinic as a vision therapist in Charlotte, North Carolina, for two years prior to starting at NECO. I saw a new facet of optometry and it encouraged me to look deeper into the profession."

- ▶ Member, OD 2017 class council
- ▶ Studied abroad in Montpellier, France, as an undergraduate

Sarah Demty

Seekonk, Massachusetts
Biology, University of Massachusetts Lowell

"I worked for a year and a half at a private optometry practice run by three doctors who graduated from NECO. I started working at the front desk where I prepared charts, verified insurance, and checked patients in and out before and after their appointments. I was further trained as a technician, performing pre-tests. I gained knowledge and experience not only about the field of optometry, but also how to deal with patients."

- ▶ Favorite activity in Boston is people-watching
- ▶ Had the opportunity to take prerequisite optometry courses while in high school