

APME FIVE AND SIX YEAR

FOLLOW UP SURVEY

**A Comparison of Practice Aspirations and Goals
for the Michigan College of Optometry Graduates
from the Classes of 1991 and 1992**

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ABSTRACT:

A survey was conducted of the 1991 and 1992 Ferris State University College of Optometry graduates. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate whether practice aspirations have been met or changed since one year post-graduation. In addition to practice aspirations, this study also obtained information regarding practice economics and career influences. We have compared responses regarding status one year post-graduation to responses regarding current status.

INTRODUCTION:

In 1990, a survey instrument was developed by the Association of Practice Management Educators (APME) to gather information about recent graduates of schools and colleges of optometry. The purpose of the survey was to assess where the graduates were practicing, the mode of practice chosen, who or what had the most influence on their decisions, expected income in the first full year of practice, and if and when they planned to change their mode of practice or location. The Michigan College of Optometry has utilized this instrument for the 1991, 1992, and 1996 graduating classes one year post-graduation. Results of the 1991 survey, a comparison of the 1991 and 1992 surveys, and results of the 1996 survey were published in the *Michigan Optometrist*. The original instrument was modified and utilized in this study for the purpose of comparing practice aspirations from one year post-graduation status to five and six years post-graduation.

METHODS:

A total of 63 graduates of Ferris State University College of Optometry from the graduating classes of 1991 and 1992 were surveyed. The surveys were sent out June 1997 and responses were accepted through the end of July 1997. A follow-up phone call was made to all non-responders in the middle of July. Response rates of 67% and 80% were obtained from the classes of 1991 and 1992, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The age range of the 1991 class respondents was 29 to 35 years old, 59% being male and 41% female. The 1992 class had an age range of 28 to 41 years, with an even ratio of males to females (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

1991 and 1992 Respondents by Gender

Class of 1991	
males	59%
females	41%
Class of 1992	
males	50%
females	50%

Ninety-one percent of the 1991 respondents reported Michigan as their state of origin. Sixty-four percent were practicing in Michigan one year post-graduation. However, six years post-graduation 73% report practicing in Michigan. Of the 1992 class, 78% of

respondents reported Michigan as their home state. One year post-graduation 74% were practicing in Michigan. This percent goes down to 71% five years post-graduation.

One year post-graduation 41% of the 1991 class reported working for an optical company. Twenty-three percent were working in a training program, 18% were employed by another optometrist, and the remaining 18% were split evenly between partnership, professional corporation, employment by an HMO, and employment by an ophthalmologist (Figure 2).

Thirty-two percent of the class of 1991 reported practicing in a retail store. Eighteen percent were leasing an office in an office building. Thirty-six percent of the 1991 graduates were evenly split between being located in a multidisciplinary clinic, next to a local optical dispensary, in a college of optometry, and owner of the office building in which they were practicing. Nine percent were located next to a regional or national optical chain. The remaining 5% were located in a facility owned by the federal government.

Fourteen percent of the 1991 class respondents reported being employed in a small city (population less than 10,000), 32% reported a medium city (population 10,000 to 100,000), and 32% in a large city (population 100,000 to 1,000,000). The remaining 23% were located in a metropolis (population greater than 1,000,000) one year post-graduation.

The range of reported income one year post-graduation (Figure 4) was \$12,000 to \$80,000. The median for this group was \$52,500, and the mean was \$48,761.

The initial mode of practice decision for the class of 1991 was influenced by another optometrist (27%), faculty member (14%), spouse (9%), classmate (9%), relative (5%),

and other (36%). The category of other included responses of opportunity, self, ophthalmologist, and rotation director.

Six years post-graduation 32% of the 1991 class report working for an optical company. Eighteen percent are sole practitioners, 18% are employed by another optometrist, 14% are working as part of a professional corporation, and 9% are employed by an ophthalmologist. Five percent are working at a University of College of Optometry, and the remaining five percent are involved in a partnership (Figure 3).

FIGURE 2

**Mode of Practice One Year Post-Graduation
(Class of 1991)**

Optical Company	41%
Training Program	23%
Employed by an Optometrist	18%
Partnership	5%
Professional Corporation	5%
HMO/Multidisciplinary Clinic	5%
Employed by an Ophthalmologist	5%

FIGURE 3

**Current Mode of Practice
(Class of 1991)**

Optical Company	32%
Sole Practitioner	18%
Employed by an Optometrist	18%
Professional Corporation	14%
Employed by an Ophthalmologist	9%
Univ/College of Optometry	5%
Partnership	5%

Eighteen percent of the 1991 class report they are currently practicing in a small city. Thirty-six percent are in a medium sized city, 23% in a large city, and 23% in a metropolis.

Of the 1991 class who responded to the six year follow-up survey, 45% are practicing in a retail store. Twenty-three percent are practicing in a building which they own. Eighteen percent are leasing the building in which they are practicing, and the remaining 14% are in a multidisciplinary clinic, next to a local optical dispensary, or in a University of College of Optometry.

The range of reported current income for the 1991 class was \$35,000 to \$135,000, with a median of \$89,500 and a mean of \$80,189 (Figure 5).

FIGURE 4

**Mean, Median and Range of Income One Year
Post-Graduation (Class of 1991)**

Mean Income	\$48,761
Median Income	\$52,500
Range of Income	\$12,000 to \$80,000

FIGURE 5

**Current Mean, Median and
Range of Income (Class of 1991)**

Mean Income	\$80,189
Median Income	\$89,500
Range of Income	\$35,000 to \$135,000

The current practice decision was most influenced by another optometrist as reported by 14% of the 1991 class respondents. Fourteen percent reported their spouse as being the primary influence. A relative was the main influence for 9%, classmate for 5%, and a faculty member for 5%. Fifty-five percent responded with other which included self, an ophthalmologist, opportunity, and employer.

One year post-graduation 33% of the 1992 graduates reported working for an optical company. Twenty-five percent were employed by an optometrist, 13% were working as part of a professional corporation, 8% were sole practitioners, 8% were in training programs, 8% were independent contractors, and 4% were working for the government (Figure 6).

Twenty-two percent of the 1992 graduates reported working in a small city one year post-graduation. Forty-three percent were practicing in a medium sized city, 22% in a large city, and 13% in a metropolis.

Twenty-six percent of the class of 1992 reported their practice location to be in a retail store one year post-graduation. Eighteen percent were practicing in a building which they were leasing, 13% owned the building in which they were practicing, 13% were working next to a local dispensary, 9% were located next to a national optical chain, 9% were working for the federal government, 5% were the owner of a regional optical franchise, 5% were employed at a research clinic, and 5% were located next to a regional optical chain.

The range of reported income for the 1992 class one year post-graduation was \$19,000 to \$88,500. The median was \$40,000 and the mean was \$44,971. (Figure 8).

The initial practice decision for the 1992 respondees was most influenced by another optometrist 29% of the time. A spouse was the major influence 25% of the time and a relative 8% of the time. Thirty-eight percent responded in the other category which included self, employer, and location.

Five years post-graduation, 33% of the 1992 graduates report working for an optical company. Twenty-one percent are working as part of a professional corporation, 13% are sole practitioners, 13% are independent contractors, 8% are employed by an optometrist, 8% are involved in a partnership, and 4% are employed by an ophthalmologist (Figure 7).

FIGURE 6

**Mode of Practice One Year Post-Graduation
(Class of 1992)**

Optical Company	33%
Employed by an Optometrist	25%
Professional Corporation	13%
Sole Practitioner	8%
Training Program	8%
Independent Contractor	8%
Employed by the Government	4%

FIGURE 7

**Current Mode of Practice
(Class of 1992)**

Optical Company	33%
Professional Corporation	21%
Sole Practitioner	13%
Independent Contractor	13%
Employed by an Optometrist	8%
Partnership	8%
Employed by an Ophthalmologist	4%

Twenty-two percent of the 1992 class respondents report that they are currently practicing in a small city. Forty-three percent in a medium city, 26% in a large city, and 9% in a metropolis.

Thirty-five percent of the 1992 class respondents are currently leasing an office in an office building, 17% are located next to a regional optical chain, 17% are located in a retail store, 13% are located next to a national optical chain, 9% own the office building

in which they are practicing, 5% are located next to a local optical dispensary, and 5% are leasing a space in a retail store.

The range of reported income five years post-graduation of the class of 1992 is \$30,000 to \$110,000. The median current income is \$77,800, and the mean is \$69,673 (Figure 9).

FIGURE 8

Mean, Median and Range of Income One Year Post-Graduation (Class of 1992)

Mean Income	\$44,971
Median Income	\$40,000
Range of Income	\$19,000 to \$88,500

FIGURE 9

Current Mean, Median and Range of Income (Class of 1992)

Mean Income	\$69,673
Median Income	\$77,800
Range of Income	\$30,000 to \$110,000

The current practice decision for the 1992 class was most influenced by a spouse 21% of the time. Another optometrist was the main influence for 13%, a relative for 8%, a classmate for 4%, and other was reported by 54% of the respondents. The category of other included self, employer, and sales representative.

Of the 1991 graduates, 29% planned on remaining in their initial mode of practice for one year, and 27% actually remained in their initial mode of practice for one year. Ten percent planned on remaining for two years, and 18% actually did. Five percent planned on staying in their initial mode of practice for three years, and 18% actually did. Five percent remained in their initial mode of practice for four years, however, there were no respondents who indicated that was their intention. Twenty-four percent planned on remaining for five years, but no respondent actually reported remaining for that amount of time. Ten percent planned on remaining for their entire career, and 14% still plan to remain for their entire career. Eighteen percent are still in their initial mode of practice, but plan to change in the future. Twenty-four percent of the respondents were uncertain how long they would remain in their initial mode of practice (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10

Projected vs. Actual Time Remained in Initial Mode of Practice (Class of 1991)

	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
One Year	29%	27%
Two Years	10%	18%
Three Years	5%	18%
Four Years	0%	5%
Five Years	24%	0%
Entire Career	10%	***
Uncertain	24%	-----

***14% still plan to remain for their entire career

***18% plan to change mode of practice at some point in their career

The 1992 graduates reported that 21% planned on remaining in their initial mode of practice for one year, and 29% actually did. Thirteen percent planned on remaining for two years, and 8% actually remained in their initial mode of practice for that amount of time. Eight percent planned on staying for three years, and 13% actually did. Five percent anticipated staying for four years, however, 8% actually remained for four years. Twenty-five percent planned on remaining for five years, but only 8% reported remaining for that amount of time. Thirteen percent planned on remaining in their initial mode of practice for their entire careers, and 8% still plan to do that. Twenty-five percent of respondents are still in their initial mode of practice, however, plan to change in the future. Seventeen percent of the respondents were uncertain how long they would remain in their initial mode of practice (Figure 11).

FIGURE 11

Projected vs. Actual Time Remained in Initial Mode of Practice (Class of 1992)

	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
One Year	21%	29%
Two Years	13%	8%
Three Years	8%	13%
Four Years	5%	8%
Five Years	25%	8%
Entire Career	13%	***
Uncertain	17%	----

***8% still plan to remain for their entire career

***25% plan to change mode of practice at some point in their career

When the 1991 class was questioned as to what they considered to be the ultimate employment status upon graduation versus what they currently consider to be the ultimate employment status, the following responses were obtained. Upon graduation, 32% considered a partnership to be the ultimate, however currently only 23% consider that to be the ultimate employment status. Eighteen percent reported a professional corporation to be the ultimate upon graduation, and 27% now hold that opinion. Eighteen percent chose sole practitioner upon graduation as well as currently. Eighteen percent chose an HMO/Multidisciplinary Clinic as their ultimate upon graduation, however, that percent drops to 9% currently. Five percent chose employment by another optometrist to be the ultimate upon graduation, and that percent remains the same currently. Five percent chose employment by a University of College of Optometry as their ultimate employment upon graduation, and that percent goes up to 9% currently. Five percent indicated that a group practice was their choice of ultimate employment upon graduation, however no one indicated this was currently their choice. Currently 5% indicate employment by an optical company as their choice for ultimate employment status, however no one chose this as their ultimate employment status upon graduation. In addition, one respondent indicated 'other' as their ultimate employment status currently, but did not describe what that status would be (Figure 12).

FIGURE 12

**Ultimate Employment Status - Choice One Year
Post-Graduation vs. Currently (Class of 1991)**

	<u>Post-Grad Choice</u>	<u>Current Choice</u>
Partnership	32%	23%
Professional Corporation	18%	27%
Sole Practitioner	18%	18%
HMO/Multidisciplinary	18%	9%
Employed by Optometrist	5%	5%
Univ/College of Optometry	5%	9%
Group Practice	5%	0%
Optical Company	0%	5%
Other	-----	5%

The 1992 graduating class indicated 48% considered partnership to be the ultimate employment status upon graduation, however, this changes to 29% currently. Twenty-two percent chose sole practitioner upon graduation, while 25% choose that currently. Twenty-two percent chose professional corporation upon graduation, whereas 25% choose that now. Employment by an optometrist was chosen as the ultimate by 9% upon graduation, however currently there were no responses which chose this as their ultimate. There were no respondents who chose an HMO/Multidisciplinary Clinic as their ultimate upon graduation, however 5% currently consider this to be their ultimate employment status. Similarly, no respondents chose employment by an ophthalmologist upon graduation, and 8% now consider this to be their ultimate employment status. Currently, 8% indicate employment by an optical company as their choice for ultimate employment status, however, no respondent chose this as their ultimate upon graduation (Figure 13).

FIGURE 13

Ultimate Employment Status - Choice One Year Post-Graduation vs. Currently (Class of 1992)

	<u>Post-Grad Choice</u>	<u>Current Choice</u>
Partnership	48%	29%
Professional Corporation	22%	25%
Sole Practitioner	22%	25%
HMO/Multidisciplinary	0%	5%
Employed by Optometrist	9%	0%
Employed by Ophthalmologist	0%	8%
Optical Company	0%	8%

Twenty-three percent of the 1991 class indicated that they have reached their ultimate employment status. Of those, 20% indicated it took them less than one year after graduation to reach their ultimate employment status. Twenty percent indicated it took one year after graduation, 20% two years after graduation, and 40% indicated it took five years after graduation to reach their ultimate employment status (Figure 14).

FIGURE 14

Length of Time to Achieve Ultimate Employment Status (Class of 1991)

Less than One Year	20%
One Year	20%
Two Years	20%
Five Years	40%

The remaining 77% of respondents which have not reached their ultimate employment status are broken down into the following categories. Seven percent indicated that they anticipate reaching their ultimate status within one year from now, 47% within two to four years, 13% over four years, and 33% were uncertain as to how much longer it would take before they reached their ultimate employment status.

Eighteen percent of the 1992 class indicated that they have reached their ultimate employment status. Of those, 50% indicated that it took them less than one year after graduation to attain that goal. Twenty-five percent indicated it took three years after graduation, and 25% indicated it took five years post-graduation (Figure 15).

FIGURE 15

Length of Time to Achieve Ultimate Employment Status (Class of 1992)

Less than One Year	50%
Three Years	25%
Five Years	25%

The 82% of respondents from the class of 1992 which have not yet reached their ultimate employment status can be analyzed as follows. Twenty-two percent indicated that they anticipate reaching their ultimate employment status within one year from now, 6% within two years, 28% within three to five years, 22% over five years, and 22% were uncertain at what point in their career they would attain what they consider to be their ultimate status.

When questioned regarding satisfaction with the education received at Ferris State University College of Optometry, the following responses were obtained. The 1991 class reported 73% very satisfied and 27% somewhat satisfied. The 1992 class responded with 71% very satisfied and 29% somewhat satisfied. There were no respondents who indicated dissatisfaction with their education (Figure 16).

FIGURE 16

Satisfaction with Education Received at Michigan College of Optometry

	<u>Class of 1991</u>	<u>Class of 1992</u>
Very Satisfied	73%	71%
Somewhat Satisfied	27%	29%

The role of faculty in reaching the initial practice decision for the 1991 class was rated as very important by 9%, important by 41%, and not important by 50%. Regarding the current practice decision, 14% stated faculty input was very important, 23% important, and 64% reported not important (Figure 17).

FIGURE 17

Role of Faculty in Reaching Practice Decision (Class of 1991)

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Current</u>
Very Important	9%	14%
Important	41%	23%
Not Important	50%	64%

The 1992 class reported the role of faculty in the initial practice decision as very important 0%, important 29%, and not important 71%. These percentages drop to 0% very important, 17% important, and 83% not important regarding the faculty's role in their current practice decision (Figure 18).

FIGURE 18

Role of Faculty in Reaching Practice Decision (Class of 1992)

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Current</u>
Very Important	0%	0%
Important	29%	17%
Not Important	71%	83%

Forty-one percent of the 1991 class reported they are very satisfied with the practice management decisions they have made since graduation. Forty-five percent reported they were somewhat satisfied, 9% are neutral, and 5% are somewhat dissatisfied. The 1992 class reported 21% being very satisfied, 42% being somewhat satisfied, 21% neutral, and 17% are somewhat dissatisfied (Figure 19).

FIGURE 19

Satisfaction with Practice Management Decisions

	<u>Class of 1991</u>	<u>Class of 1992</u>
Very Satisfied	41%	21%
Somewhat Satisfied	45%	42%
Neutral	9%	21%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	5%	17%

Overall satisfaction in choosing optometry as a career was highly rated. Forty-five percent of the 1991 class report being very satisfied, 45% somewhat satisfied, 5% neutral, and only 5% were somewhat dissatisfied. The 1992 class reported similarly with 67% very satisfied, 29% somewhat satisfied, and 4% somewhat dissatisfied (Figure 20).

FIGURE 20

Satisfaction with Optometry as a Career

	<u>Class of 1991</u>	<u>Class of 1992</u>
Very Satisfied	45%	67%
Somewhat Satisfied	45%	29%
Neutral	5%	0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	5%	4%

Finally, when asked whether they would still choose optometry as their career goal today, 73% of the 1991 class reported that they would. This percentage increases to 83% for the 1992 class (Figure 21).

FIGURE 21

Percent Who Would Still Choose Optometry as Career Goal Today

Class of 1991	yes	73%
	no	27%
Class of 1992	yes	83%
	no	17%

CONCLUSION:

Given the positive response rate of this project, we are able to gather some valuable information. For example, some interesting conclusions can be made regarding the initial and current practice characteristics of the 1991 and 1992 graduates. It is interesting to compare the one year post-graduation ultimate employment choice to the current choice. One year post-graduation 68% of the 1991 class chose a private practice opportunity as their ultimate practice status. This percent remains the same for what they report as their current ultimate employment choice. However, only 37% of these graduates are currently in private practice opportunities. Ninety-two percent of the 1992 class chose private practice as their ultimate opportunity one year post-graduation, however, this percent drops to 79% currently. Again, the actual percent who actually are in private practice drops significantly from those who aspire to be there. For the 1992 class the percentage drops to 42%. These numbers indicate that a significant percentage of respondents are not practicing optometry in the mode which they desire. Figure 22 illustrates this data.

FIGURE 22

Ultimate Employment Status - Private Practice (Choice Post-Grad, Current and Actual Status)

	Post-Grad Choice <u>Private Practice</u>	Current Choice <u>Private Practice</u>	Current Status <u>Private Practice</u>
Class of 1991	68%	68%	37%
Class of 1992	92%	79%	42%

A more complete comparison of the current ultimate employment choice versus actual current employment is illustrated in Figures 23 and 24. It is interesting to note that a significant percentage of respondents in both classes are currently employed by an optical company, 32% for the 1991 class and 33% for the 1992 class. However, only 5% of the class of 1991 and 8% of the class of 1992 report this to be their current ultimate employment choice.

FIGURE 23

Current Ultimate Employment Choice vs. Actual Current Mode of Practice (Class of 1991)

	<u>Current Choice</u>	<u>Actual Current Mode of Practice</u>
Partnership	23%	5%
Professional Corporation	27%	14%
Sole Practitioner	18%	18%
HMO/Multidisciplinary	9%	0%
Univ/College of Optometry	9%	5%
Employed by Optometrist	5%	18%
Employed by Ophthalmologist	0%	9%
Optical Company	5%	32%

FIGURE 24

**Current Ultimate Employment Choice vs.
Actual Current Mode of Practice (Class of 1992)**

	<u>Current Choice</u>	<u>Actual Current Mode of Practice</u>
Partnership	29%	8%
Professional Corporation	25%	21%
Sole Practitioner	25%	13%
HMO/Multidisciplinary	5%	0%
Employed by Optometrist	0%	8%
Employed by Ophthalmologist	8%	4%
Optical Company	8%	33%
Independent Contractor	0%	13%

It is also of interest that while only 32% of the 1991 class respondeents report they are working for an optical company, 45% respond that they are located in a retail store. This suggests that 13% of those who are in a retail store environment are reporting themselves to be in a private practice setting. This type of private practice opportunity (i.e. leasing office space from an optical company) is not what we typically consider a private practice to be. These could certainly be considered non-traditional private practices, however, this type of practice appears to be increasing in popularity and should be considered in future analysis.

Some surprising discrepancies exist when comparing male versus female income characteristics. For example, the mean current income for females who graduated in the 1991 class is \$64, 750 compared to \$90,877 for males. Comparable values were received for the 1992 class with females making \$61,457 and males \$78,583. It is apparent that

women are making less than men in optometry, however more information regarding employment characteristics and practice status are needed to fully understand why this discrepancy exists.

Tables 25 and 26 demonstrate the current composition of males and females from the 1991 and 1992 classes in various modes of practice. For both classes, there is a higher percentage of men in partnerships and working as sole practitioners. Women represent a greater percentage in the categories of independent contractor and employment by an optometrist. Only female respondents reported being employed by a University or College of Optometry at this point in their career. It is interesting to note that in the Class of 1991, 46% of the men are currently in private practice opportunities, whereas only 22% of the women are. However, when comparing the class of 1992, the percentages are nearly equal with 42% of men and 41% of women in private practice situations. No large and consistent discrepancies exist for the other modes of practice when comparing the class of 1991 and 1992 graduates. For example, 44% of the class of 1991 females respondents reported being employed by an optical company and only 23% of the males respondents reported this. However, this trend is not consistent when analyzing the class of 1992. Fifty percent of the males in the class reported being employed by an optical company, whereas only 17% of the females are.

FIGURE 25

**Current Mode of Practice by Gender
(Class of 1991)**

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Optical Company	23%	44%
Professional Corporation	15%	11%
Sole Practitioner	23%	11%
Employed by Ophthalmologist	15%	0%
Employed by Optometrist	15%	22%
Univ/College of Optometry	0%	11%
Partnership	8%	0%

FIGURE 26

**Current Mode of Practice by Gender
(Class of 1992)**

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Optical Company	50%	17%
Professional Corporation	8%	33%
Sole Practitioner	17%	8%
Employed by Ophthalmologist	0%	8%
Employed by Optometrist	0%	17%
Independent Contractor	8%	17%
Partnership	17%	0%

Valuable comparisons can also be obtained in evaluating mode of practice versus mean income. Table 27 and 28 demonstrate the variation in mean income for each class by mode of practice one year post-graduation as well as currently. Table 29 and 30 indicate the current range of income for these various modes of practice.

FIGURE 27

**One Year Post-Graduation vs. Current Mean Income
by Mode of Practice (Class of 1991)**

	<u>One Yr Post-Grad</u>	<u>Current</u>
Optical Company	\$ 60,909	\$ 77,150
Professional Corporation	\$ 77,500	\$ 78,167
HMO/Multidisc. Clinic	\$ 60,000	-----
Partnership	\$ 60,000	\$ 90,000
Employed by Optometrist	\$ 44,750	\$ 78,650
Training Program	\$ 27,300	-----
Partnership	\$ 60,000	\$ 90,000
Employed by Ophthalmologist	\$ 12,000	\$ 67,000
Sole Practitioner	-----	\$ 99,750
Univ/College of Optometry	-----	\$ 52,000

FIGURE 28

**One Year Post-Graduation vs. Current Mean Income
by Mode of Practice (Class of 1992)**

	<u>One Yr Post-Grad</u>	<u>Current</u>
Optical Company	\$ 67,155	\$ 82,260
Professional Corporation	\$ 39,367	\$ 81,120
Sole Practitioner	\$ 21,500	\$ 56,667
Federal Service	\$ 40,000	-----
Employed by Optometrist	\$ 37,000	\$ 66,500
Training Program	\$ 29,500	-----
Independent Contractor	\$ 46,000	\$ 51,000
Employed by Ophthalmologist	\$ 12,000	\$ 74,000

FIGURE 29

**Current Range of Income by Mode of Practice
(Class of 1991)**

Optical Company	\$ 60,000 to \$92,250
Professional Corporation	\$ 35,000 to \$102,500
Employed by Optometrist	\$ 50,700 to \$93,900
Partnership	\$ 90,000
Emp. by Ophthalmologist	\$ 56,000 to \$78,000
Sole Practitioner	\$ 65,000 to \$135,000
Univ/College of Optometry	\$ 52,000

FIGURE 30

**Current Range of Income by Mode of Practice
(Class of 1992)**

Optical Company	\$ 54,380 to \$102,000
Professional Corporation	\$ 45,600 to \$110,000
Employed by Optometrist	\$ 55,000 to \$78,000
Emp. by Ophthalmologist	\$ 74,000
Sole Practitioner	\$ 50,000 to \$60,000
Independent Contractor	\$ 30,000 to \$72,000

A significant percentage of Michigan natives have chosen to practice outside Michigan. The reasons for this were not explored in this survey, however may include such considerations as opportunity, legal scope of practice, and financial considerations. Michigan was reported as the current state of practice by 73% of the 1991 class respondents. However, 91% reported Michigan to be their home state. Seventy-one percent of the class of 1992 reported Michigan to be their current state of practice.

Again, the percent who report Michigan as their state of origin goes up, increasing to 78% for the class of 1992.

Regarding overall satisfaction with optometry as a career and whether they would again choose optometry as their career goal, some interesting responses were obtained. One respondent indicated he might choose ophthalmology over optometry if he were starting over. Others indicated dissatisfaction with optometry because of the influence of managed care, however, overall most respondents indicated satisfaction with optometry and would chose it again.

In the future, correlations that we feel would be valuable include satisfaction with current and initial mode of practice, and satisfaction with various employment situations including full and part-time opportunities. The latter would allow for further analysis of the discrepancy between male and female incomes. Additional comparisons could be made between career satisfaction and mode of practice to determine whether a particular type of practice has a higher satisfaction level. It will certainly be interesting to see what impacts the practice of optometry in future surveys.

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