We thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to your profession and students. The Program Review document and discussion was thorough and thoughtful. This response contains 4 sections: 1) Commendations, 2) Suggestions/observations, 3) Response to recommendations/areas of SAC needs and 4) Closing comments.

1. **Commendations**

*The Program Review Document was thorough, thoughtful, and well organized.*

*The Program Review discussion provided significant insight into the OMT profession and instructional challenges.*

*The Program Review discussion provided useful history of the instructional program at PCC as well as insight into the challenges ahead.*

*Recommendations based on assessment results have been incorporated into course rubrics and instruction.*

*Ongoing class and lab curriculum revision, based on assessment results, is apparent.*

*Increased focus on teaching and assessing clinical skills is timely and valuable.*

*Changes in curriculum align with changes in the profession and are guided by feedback from professional organizations and the External Advisory Committee.*

*Program outcomes are aligned with PCC’s Core Outcomes.*

*Collaboration to bring OMT students from Japan to visit PCC each year supports the program’s focus on diversity and intercultural awareness and is in line with the overall mission of the college.*

*The OMT Program’s External Advisory Committee provides useful feedback on skills needed to enter the OMT profession. An advisory committee member attended the Program Review presentation and provided valuable insight and information.*

2. **Suggestions and Observations**

The program is well positioned to take advantage of changes in the profession due to increased access to health care following the passage of the Affordable Care Act. There is the possibility that the program could support more students each year with practicum and post graduation employment as a result. Continuing to monitor changes in the health care landscape will be important and necessary and thinking creatively (given lab space restrictions on occupancy) about if and how the program might grow its admission and graduation numbers (possibly through multiple cohorts staggered throughout the year or even new physical space some time in the future) will be important.
With the retirement of the long-time department chair and program director, hiring a new leader who can sustain the momentum on student learning assessment and program improvement, and also remains connected to the External Advisory Committee and profession, will be vitally important. Additionally, this person will need the support of the current part-time faculty in order to be successful in the transition of this position and will also need to possess the leadership skills and aptitude that has sustained the program and its faculty to date.

3. **Recommendations**

More frequent assessment of practical skills during labs, before the lab finals. The SAC will also be looking at the advantages/disadvantages of adding an extra day of practicum during spring term of the second year. *The DOIs appreciate the attention to assessment and encourage these efforts to use assessment to inform and improve student learning.*

The OMT SAC will continue to monitor JCAHPO test results to identify subject areas for assessment and revision. Student pass rates for the “Skills” portion of the national exam are above the national average; however they leave room for improvement. *The DOIs appreciate the attention to assessment and encourage these efforts to use assessment to inform and improve student learning.*

The SAC should continue to monitor the skill exam pass rate and look for areas of improvement. While overall student performance is satisfactory, improvements can be made in assessing soft skills such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving. To accomplish this several courses will be utilizing a Classroom Behavior assessment in the upcoming academic year. *The DOIs appreciate the attention to assessment and encourage these efforts to use assessment to inform and improve student learning.*

The SAC should monitor data from the new JCAHPO exam scores and assess whether content is in need of further update to reflect expanding responsibilities of ophthalmic technicians. *The DOIs appreciate the attention to assessment and encourage these efforts to use assessment to inform and improve student learning.*

The OMT program could take a more active and visible role in the community. The new program director should investigate opportunities to take the OMT program into more community health fairs, vision screenings and other venues. *The DOIs support this outreach effort.*
**Recommendations requiring funding**

The department would be greatly stabilized during the retirement/transition of the department chair if a replacement were hired before the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs (CoAOMP) site visit in May of 2015. *Generally, the new faculty contract year does not begin until Sept 1. However, if the hiring process is complete and a faculty replacement has been identified, the department can consider ways to support the new department chair in attending the May 2015 site visit.* Additionally, the current department chair/program director should be working this last year to create a thorough transition document and plan that can be shared with the Director of Allied Health and the Division Dean for Allied Health, Emergency and Legal Services in order to support the new faculty replacement.

The department’s reliance on part-time faculty members impedes student success by limiting access to office hours, student advising, and a more cohesive program face. Many tasks that would be “other duties as assigned” for full-time faculty go undone or are done on a volunteer basis by part-time faculty. With the transition to a new program director it is easy to see how a full-time position would assist in a smooth transition. *Positions and other program needs requiring financial resources are prioritized at the campus level by the Director of Allied Health, Division Dean for Allied Health and Emergency Services, the Dean of Instruction, and the Campus President. Your request is noted. However, it is unlikely the college will be in a position to add an additional full-time instructor at this time.*

Many students express a need for more time in the lab or more contact time with faculty. To provide more access to faculty, an increase in lab assistant hours would allow students open lab time and contact time with faculty. *Positions and other program needs requiring financial resources are prioritized at the campus level by the Director of Allied Health, Division Dean for Allied Health and Emergency Services, the Dean of Instruction the Campus President, and the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Your request is noted. Please work with the Director of Allied Health to determine the prioritization of this need and available resources.*

Program accreditation standards require professional development. Funding should be budgeted for sending the new program director to the national annual American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in 2015. *The Office of Professional and Organizational Development, along with the campus and division, provide staff development and travel funds. Please work with the Director of Allied Health to access these resources.*
Funding should be budgeted for faculty to access continuing education classes. *Education benefits, in the form of tuition waivers and tuition credits, are available. Please work with Director of Allied Health to determine the prioritization of this need and available resources.*

4. **Closing Comments**

It is apparent that the OMT SAC is taking seriously and working hard at updating and strengthening its curriculum, especially regarding changes in health care delivery nationally.

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Kurt Simonds  
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Admin Response OMT 2014