



2024 AOSA Student of the Year Award
Nominee: Ms. Maggie Dunn
Nominated by: Ohio Optometric Association

The Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) is proud to nominate Ms. Maggie Dunn as the 2024 American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) Student of the Year for her exceptional involvement with the AOSA and other volunteer organizations. As an effective leader, Ms. Dunn excels in promoting optometry's advocacy efforts and encourages her colleagues to take action to support the advancement of the profession.

Ms. Dunn is a motivated professional and is known for her exceptional personal, technical and communication skills. She is the current president of The Ohio State University College of Optometry's (OSUCO) chapter of the AOSA, where she has served as the Class of 2025 representative as well as president-elect. As AOSA president, Ms. Dunn has been an active leader assisting the OOA's advocacy efforts to modernize the optometric scope of practice in Ohio. She has recruited students to attend multiple OOA Optometry Day at the Statehouse (ODASH) events, prioritizing the student perspective in meetings with legislators. Ms. Dunn fully understands the impact of optometry students' views and future plans as they educate legislators on optometry and its breadth of services to Ohio patients. Moreover, Ms. Dunn has served as the student member of the Ohio Optometric Political Action Committee (OOPAC) since 2022. In this role she attends committee and quarterly meetings and serves as the OOPAC liaison to students, encouraging them to become involved.

Maggie's active participation continues as she oversees the coordination and details of all OSUCO AOSA board meetings and events. She has attended Optometry's Meeting multiple times and AOA on Capitol Hill. She works with pre-optometry students as a "Big Sibling" and has been a member of Optometry Ambassadors since 2021. She is a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honors Society and a student member of Epsilon Psi Epsilon.

"Academically, Maggie ranks near the top of the class. More impressively, she can readily apply her didactic knowledge in the clinical setting," said Dr. Greg Nixon. "In doing so, she has the rare gift of combining her impressive hard skills with exemplary soft skills to effectively manage patients. She establishes immediate rapport with her patients, gaining their trust that she will advocate for them to get the treatments they need."

A true volunteer, Ms. Dunn spear-headed the Pilot Dogs 5K in 2023 and raised \$3,000 for the organization that pairs pilot dogs with those that are blind or have vision loss. She has presented the Apollo Award winning Realeyes program to Ohio school children since 2021, educating them on vision care and eye safety. She has been a member of the OSUCO chapter of the Lion's Club, serving as treasurer in 2022 and currently as president. Maggie works to make sure that donated glasses reach those in need, makes cards for Veterans and participates in Bone Marrow Registry Day. Ms. Dunn has provided eye care to the Latiné community in Columbus through Latiné Community Care, provided vision screenings at National Optometric Student Association events as well as serving on Remote Area Medical trips providing eye exams.

The OOA recognizes the outstanding leadership Ms. Dunn has provided to her peers, her commitment to advance the health and visual welfare of her patients, community, and the profession of optometry, and looks forward to her involvement with organized optometry in the coming years. For her impressive record of service within the profession and in the community, the OOA proudly nominates Ms. Maggie Dunn as 2024 AOSA Student of the Year.