

Pre-Optometry

Interested in becoming an optometrist? Learn about the prerequisites for admissions to optometry programs.

Optometry Educational Programs are four years in length



Required Courses

1 year Biological Sciences	BIO 012/012L and BIO 013/013L
1 year Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 001/003 and CHEM 002/004
1 year Organic Chemistry	CHEM 107/109 and CHEM 108/110
1 year Physics	PHY 011/011L and PHY 012/012L
1 semester Mathematics	MATH 050
1 year English	First Year Seminar and an English writing course

**Microbiology, physiology or anatomy, statistics, biochemistry, and psychology are often either required or recommended

The 411 on Optometry Programs

Doctors of Optometry (O.D.) are primary health care providers who diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual systems as regulated by state law.

Good grades and a high score on the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) are important. The typical GPA for admitted students range from 3.05 to 3.70 and average OAT score ranges from 310 to 358. In addition, optometry schools are looking for well-rounded students with good interpersonal skills. Volunteer or paid experience with an optometrist is essential in preparation for optometry school.

The OAT is offered year round. Students should plan to complete the test during their junior year or fall of their senior year. The OAT covers six components: reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, biology, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics.

There is not a centralized application process for optometry. Students must apply directly to each school of interest. Prior to the application process, students should research the required prerequisite coursework, residential restrictions, and application requirements and deadlines for each school of interest.



For additional resources on Optometry visit:

Association of Schools & Colleges of Optometry – <http://www.opted.org>

American Optometric Association – <http://www.aoa.org>

Optometry Admissions Test – <http://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>

Explore Health Careers – <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org>