



Pre-Optometry Advising Sheet

Doctors of Optometry are primarily health care providers who diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system as regulated by state law. They may practice as independent practitioners, in a group practice, or in a health clinic or hospital.

Most students earn a Bachelors degree before enrolling in optometry school, but a degree is not required for admissions at all optometry schools. The schools that accept students after three years of undergraduate study usually offer a Bachelor of Science degree upon completion of some portion of the optometry curriculum coursework

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-optometry” is **not** a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. A discipline in natural science is often a popular major selected. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary.

Students applying to optometry school need to plan carefully and complete not only the optometry schools requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

Suggested courses for most Optometry School:

One Year General Chemistry with Lab

One Year of Organic Chemistry with Lab

One Year of General Biology with Lab

Anatomy

Physiology

Microbiology

One Year of Physics with Lab

One Semester English Composition

One course in General Psychology

One Semester of Calculus

One Semester of Statistics

Suggested GCC courses:

CHEM 101 and 102

CHEM 105 and 106

BIOL 101 and 102

BIOL 120

BIOL 121

BIOL 112

PHYS 105 and 106 or PHYS 101, 102, 103

ENGL 101

PSYCH 101

MATH 103

MATH 136

Note: All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit.

Optometry school requirements vary. Check with the individual campus for their specific requirements

Optometry School Selection Criteria

- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades or pre-optometry coursework grades depending on the school.
- **Bachelor's Degree** or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework. A bachelor's degree is not required but it makes a candidate more competitive.
- Your score on admissions tests such as the **Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)**.
- To determine oral and written communication skills, optometry applicants are required to participate in optometry **interviews**.
- Admissions committees expect that you have **knowledge of the optometry profession** and that you know some of the issues optometrists currently face. Additionally, the admissions committee will want to know specifically why you are pursuing a career in the optometry profession.

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up to date information.

Salary Information

In 2013, the California average annual wage was \$108,220.00 annually (www.cacareerzone.org).

Recommended Websites

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry	www.opted.org
American Academy of Optometry	www.aaopt.org
American Optometric Association	www.aoa.org
California Optometric Association	www.coavision.org

Select Optometry School Websites

Illinois College of Optometry	www.ico.edu/
Indiana University School of Optometry	www.opt.indiana.edu/
Michigan College of Optometry	www.ferris.edu/mco/
New England College of Optometry	www.neco.edu/
Northeastern State University	http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~optometry/index2.html
Nova Southeastern University	www.nova.edu/
Ohio State University	http://optometry.osu.edu/
Pacific University	http://opt.pacificu.edu/test/index.html
Pennsylvania College of Optometry	www.pco.edu/
Southern California College of Optometry	www.ketchum.edu
Southern College of Optometry	www.sco.edu/
State University of New York	www.sunyopt.edu/
UC Berkeley - Optometry	http://optometry.berkeley.edu
University of Alabama at Birmingham	www.uab.edu/optometry
University of Missouri, St. Louis	www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/
University of Houston	www.opt.uh.edu/
Western University of Health Sciences	www.westernu.edu/optometry

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