

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 <u>not</u> 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:	Suggested GCC courses:
One Year General Chemistry with Lab	CHEM 101 and 102
One Year of Organic Chemistry with Lab	CHEM 105 and 106
One Year of General Biology with Lab	BIOL 101 and 102
Anatomy	BIOL 120
Physiology	BIOL 121
Microbiology	BIOL 112
One Year of Physics with Lab	PHYS 105 and 106 or PHYS 101, 102, 103
One Semester English Composition	ENGL 101
One course in General Psychology	PSYCH 101
One Semester of Calculus	MATH 103
One Semester of Statistics	MATH 136

<u>Note</u>: 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 American Academy of Optometry

American Optometric Association
California Optometric Association

www.aaopt.org www.aoa.org www.coavision.org

www.opted.org

Select Optometry School Websites

Illinois College of Optometry

Indiana University School of Optometry
Michigan College of Optometry
New England College of Optometry
Northeastern State University
Nova Southeastern University

Ohio State University Pacific University

Pennsylvania College of Optometry Southern California College of Optometry

Southern College of Optometry State University of New York UC Berkeley - Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham University of Missouri, St. Louis

University of Houston

Western University of Health Sciences

www.ico.edu/

www.opt.indiana.edu/ www.ferris.edu/mco/ www.neco.edu/

http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~optometry/index2.html

www.nova.edu/

http://optometry.osu.edu/

http://opt.pacificu.edu/test/index.html

www.pco.edu/ www.ketchum.edu www.sco.edu/ www.sunyopt.edu/

http://optometry.berkeley.edu www.uab.edu/optometry

www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/

www.opt.uh.edu/

www.westernu.edu/optometry