



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.

Optometry School Selection Criteria

- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades or pre-optometry coursework grades, depending on the school.
- 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.

Recommended Websites

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry www.opted.org/info_faq.cfm
 Acceptance Profile Information www.opted.org/info_profile2.cfm
 Optometry Career Guide www.opted.org/pdf/optCareerGuide.pdf
 UC Berkeley Career Center <http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/PharmPrep.stm>

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.scco.edu/
 Southern College of Optometry www.sco.edu/
 State University of New York www.sunyopt.edu/
 UC Berkeley - Optometry <http://spectacle.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/

Coursework	Citrus College Courses
One year of English	ENGL 101 & 102, 103 or 104
One year of Biology	BIOL 124 & 125
One year of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 210/211 & 220/221
One year of Physics	PHYS 201 & 202 or 203
One year of Math	MATH 190, 191
Microbiology	BIOL 220