



Optometry Four Year Plan

Requirements for professional schools vary from school to school and can change year by year, students must carefully examine the pre-requisite requirements of the schools they are interested in to be current and accurate when registering for courses at Gustavus.

Consult the [Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry](#) guide for requirements and admission statistics to 24+ Optometry Schools for the most accurate information.

First Year: Fall

BIO 110 Principles of Biology & BIO 111 Lab

CHE 110 General Chemistry (DAT) & CHE 111 General Chemistry Lab (offered Fall and Spring)

OR CHE 105 Foundations of Chemistry I (DAT) & CHE 106 Foundations of Chemistry I Lab
(offered Fall Only)

*Before you can register for CHE 105 or CHE 110, you are required to take the Chemistry placement exam. (CHE 105/106 offered Fall only. CHE 105/106 is an optional course that can be taken before CHE 110/111 to build a stronger chemistry foundation.) Find out more about the CHE placement exam, Click [HERE](#).

FTS 100 First Term Seminar (Writing Intensive course- WRIT)

First Year: Spring

BIO 120 Organismal Biology & BIO 121 Lab

CHE 120 Organic Chemistry I (DAT) & CHE 121 Organic Chemistry I Lab (offered Fall and Spring)

****Students who started with CHE 105/106 should take CHE 110/111 so that they are ready to take CHE 120/121 in the Fall of their second year)*

MCS 121 Calculus I

Second Year: Fall

CHE 220 Organic Chemistry II & CHE 221 Organic Chemistry II Lab (offered Fall only)

MCS 142 Introduction to Statistical Methods (or equivalent)

Second Year: Spring

CHE 230 Inorganic Chemistry I & CHE 231 Inorganic Chemistry I Lab (offered Spring only)

BIO 218 Fundamentals of Microbiology and BIO 219 Lab OR if biology major, BIO 360 Microbiology and BIO 361 Lab BIO 201 and BIO 202 required if planning to take BIO 360)

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology (offered both Fall and Spring; flexible either semester second or third year)

Third Year: Fall

PHY 120 General Physics I (MCAT) & PSY 121 General Physics I Lab (offered Fall only)

HES 230 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & HES 231 Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab (offered Fall only)

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology (offered both Fall and Spring; flexible either semester second or third year)

Third Year: Spring

PHY 170 General Physics II (some content on MCAT) & PHY 171 General Physics II Lab (offered Spring only)

HES 240 Anatomy & Physiology II & HES 241 Anatomy & Physiology II Lab (offered Spring only)

Fourth Year: Fall

CHE 270 Biochemistry & CHE 271 Biochemistry Lab (offered Fall or Spring)

Recommended: additional English course recommended (writing intensive)

Recommended: Additional Social Science course (Southern College & Illinois College)

Fourth Year: Spring

Recommended: Additional Social Science course (Southern College)

ALL Accredited Optometry program Prerequisite Requirements

Top 7 Optometry Programs Gustavus students applied to previous cycle 2024-2025:

Michigan College of Optometry, at Ferris State University

Southern College of Optometry, Tennessee

Two courses in English composition or literature (FTS 100 counts as one)

Two courses in Social Science, examples of acceptable subject areas include (but are not limited to) courses that carry an Institution designation in: Humanities, Religious Studies and Philosophy, or Human Behavior and Social.

Indiana University

One additional 200 level Biology course animal or developmental, must be taken in person

Pacific University College of Optometry, OR

One course taken from the English Department or Writing is required. A course in writing composition, expository, technical or scientific writing is strongly recommended.

Western University of Health Sciences, California

One additional 200 level BIO course with lab

Two courses in English Composition, English Literature, Writing or Critical Thinking (FTS 100 counts as one) of the required writing courses.

Illinois College of Optometry

One course in Social Science, examples of acceptable subject areas include (but are not limited to) courses that carry an Institution designation in: Humanities, Religious Studies and Philosophy, or Human Behavior and Social.

Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, FL

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Updated 6/16/2025 HB

Old Link: <https://gustavus.edu/career/health/Optometryprereq.php>