

OPTOMETRY SCHOOL ADMISSION INFORMATION

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. They help people protect and improve their vision. They examine the eyes to determine the presence and adapt lenses, contact lenses, or other optical aids, and utilize vision training to preserve, restore, and improve vision efficiency.

Most students earn a Bachelor's 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.

LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS REQUIRED BY MOST U.S. OPTOMETRY SCHOOLS

One year of English	English 110 & 111
One year of Biology	Biology 101, 102 & 103
One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry	Chemistry 155 & 156
One year of Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 211 with 222 (lab) & 212 with 222 (lab)
One semester of Microbiology	Biomedical Sciences 127
Math	Most schools require one semester of Calculus. Some schools require one year of calculus while others require statistics and calculus. Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Math requirements.
Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences	Please refer to IGETC Area 3B and Area 4.

***All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Pass/No Pass.**

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.

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

Copyright M. Cota 10/2021

OPTOMETRY SCHOOL ADMISSION INFORMATION

Optometry School Selection Criteria

- **GPA** is a major factor in the selection process. Both overall college grades and science grades are considered.
- Completion of **prerequisite coursework** listed in front of handout.
- 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** either through either paid or unpaid internships and/or volunteer experience.

Salary Information: In 2021, the California average annual wage was \$133,907 annually or \$63.98 hourly. (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov).

Recommended Websites Acceptance Profile Information www.opted.org/info_profile2.cfm American Academy of Optometry www.aaopt.org American Optometric Association www.aoa.org/ Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry www.opted.org California Optometric Association www.coavision.org/ National Optometric Association www.natoptassoc.org/ 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 <https://optometry.iu.edu/> Michigan College of Optometry www.ferris.edu/mco/ New England College of Optometry www.neco.edu/ Northeastern State University <https://optometry.nsuok.edu/> Nova Southeastern University <https://optometry.nova.edu/index.html> Ohio State University <http://optometry.osu.edu/> Pacific University Oregon www.pacificu.edu/academics/colleges/college-optometry Pennsylvania College of Optometry www.pco.edu/ Salus University www.salus.edu/optometry/index.html 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/

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