

Pre-Optometry Students

Doctors of Optometry (O.D.) are primary health care providers who diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual systems as regulated by state law. Strong academic coursework and a strong score on the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) are important components to a successful optometry school application. The typical GPA for admitted optometry students range from 3.20 to 3.70 and average OAT scores range from 310 to 355. In addition, optometry schools are looking for well-rounded students with strong interpersonal skills. Volunteer or paid experiences with an optometrist are essential in preparation for optometry school.

Application Process: Students interested in optometry school should plan to complete the OAT during the spring of their junior year or summer before their senior year. The OAT covers six components: reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, biology, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics. The application process begins with OptomCAS, a centralized application utilized by all 22 schools and colleges of optometry. Prior to the application process, students should research the required prerequisite coursework, residential restrictions, application requirements, and deadlines for each school of interest.

	Prerequisite Coursework	Drake Course
FR	Biological Sciences	BIO 012: General/Pre-Professional Biology I and Lab (Fall) BIO 013: General/Pre-Professional Biology II and Lab (Spring)
	Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 001/003: General Chemistry I and Lab (Fall) CHEM 002/004: General Chemistry II and Lab (Spring)
	Composition	First Year Seminar (Fall) Written Communication AOI (Fall, Spring)
So or JR	Mathematics	MATH 050: Calculus I (Fall, Spring) STAT 060: Statistics for the Life Sciences (Fall, Spring)
	Physics	PHY 011: Physics I and Lab (Fall) PHY 012: Physics II and Lab (Spring)
	Organic Chemistry	CHEM 097/098: Organic Chemistry I and Lab (Fall) CHEM 108/110: Organic Chemistry II and Lab (Spring)
JR or SR	Recommended Courses (mostly General Elective & Professional Elective)	BIO 095: Microbiology (S) PHAR 130: Biochemistry (F) HSCI 125: Physiology & Lab (S) PSY 001: Intro to Psychology (F, S) HSCI 140: Patient Assessment (F) SOC 001: Intro to Sociology (F, S) HSCI 141: Anatomy & lab (F) Business Electives

ADDITIONAL OPTOMETRY SCHOOL RESOURCES

Association of Schools & Colleges of Optometry – <http://www.opted.org>

American Optometric Association – <http://www.aoa.org>

OptomCAS - <http://www.optomcas.org>