



Optometry

Optometry is a health care profession concerned with the care and maintenance of human vision. A Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) or Optometrist is trained and licensed to examine, diagnose, and treat conditions of the vision system. Responsibilities and services include the examination of the eyes and related structures to detect eye diseases, vision problems, or therapy to provide improved vision.

Career Opportunities

There is a need for Optometrists throughout the U.S. Increased demands for vision care result from population growth, an increasing aging population, more emphasis on prevention and health care, increasing numbers of third party vision care programs and other factors crucial to modern society. The public is also showing a greater awareness of how good vision relates to driving, industrial production, student achievement and adjustment to aging.

General Information

A free guide for persons interested in optometry may be obtained by writing to the following address and requesting the current version of "Admissions to Schools and Colleges of Optometry."

American Optometric Association
243 North Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

Web Information : www.opted.org

Admission Requirements

***General Requirements**

With a "C" or better:

General Biology
General Chemistry
Organic Chemistry
General Physics
General Psychology
Mathematics (Calculus)
Microbiology
Human/Comparative Anatomy
Human/Mammalian Physiology
Statistics
English
Biochemistry

With Labs

Biology 221, 225
Chemistry 151,152
Chemistry 301, 302
Physics 136, 137
Psychology 101
Mathematics 150
Biology 342
Bio 122
Biology 123
Statistics 120 or Biostatistics 301
English 121 (*two Writing Intensive courses*)
Biochemistry 331

Recommended Courses:

Genetics, Statistics, Molecular Biology, and Cell Biology.

**** These courses will satisfy the requirements for most optometry schools. Make sure that you check for additional requirements at your selected schools – the variation is quite extensive.***

Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)

The OAT is a standardized exam which pre-optometry students must take. The test is given two times a year at established testing centers. It is designed to measure general academic ability and scientific knowledge. The entire test requires one half day for administration. The examinations included are: Survey of Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry; Reading Comprehension (Organic Chemistry and Basic Sciences); Quantitative ability (Math); Physics (standard topics covered in a first year physics course).