



# Optometry

Optometrists, also known as doctors of optometry or ODs, are the main providers of vision care. They examine people's eyes to diagnose vision problems, such as nearsightedness and farsightedness and they test patients' depth and color perception and ability to focus and coordinate the eyes. Optometrists may prescribe eyeglasses or contact lenses or they may provide other treatments, such as vision therapy or low-vision rehabilitation. Learn more at <https://optometriceducation.org/>

**Required Courses:** check individual schools.

General Biology - Bio 240, 240L, 242, 242L

General Chemistry - Chem 151, 151L, 152, 152L

Organic Chemistry - Chem 301, 301L

General Physics - Phys 136, 136L, 137, 137L or Phys 270, 270L, 271, 271L

English – FYW 150 + Upper Division Writing course

Calculus – Math 150

Statistics – Math 120, Psych 260 or Bio 301

Biochemistry – Chem 331

Microbiology – Bio 214 or Bio 342

Psychology – Psych 101

Human Anatomy & Physiology – Bio 212, 213

**Some schools require:**

1 semester of Immunology – Bio 484

**These courses will satisfy the requirements for most optometry schools. Make sure that you check for additional requirements at your selected schools.** Most schools want you to have completed the required courses prior to the time of application. Also, note that many schools will not accept AP credit in lieu of the required courses (even if accepted by USD). You must then substitute advanced science courses for the traditional requirements satisfied with AP credits.

## **OAT (Optometry Admissions Test)**

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).

## **Extracurricular Activities**

**Clinical:** Experiences in optometry settings are important ways for you to learn about the field. A letter of recommendation from an optometrist is recommended.

**Community Service/Leadership:** There are many opportunities on and off campus to become involved. It's always best to find something that you're very interested in and become involved in it over time.