

2009-10

**Pre-Optometry
Education
at the
University of Oregon**

Prepared by:

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Curricular Requirements for Optometry School Admission

Pre-optometry students spend a minimum of two to three years at an undergraduate college or university fulfilling pre-optometry admission requirements and then apply to any of the optometric schools in the United States to complete four years of professional training. While students have been accepted with only two to three years of undergraduate education, the trend shows an increasing number of accepted students have completed at least a bachelor's degree. Students are urged to complete as many university requirements as possible in conjunction with their pre-optometry program to assure that a bachelor of science degree can be managed in four years should they not be accepted at the end of three years. Students should also plan major requirements into their overall program. Any major is accepted by the optometry schools; biology, chemistry, general science, and physics major requirements overlap most readily with admission requirements. **All students are responsible for their academic major and for the completion of UO graduation requirements.**

Pre-optometry admission requirements are similar to other pre-Health requirements, but there are some differences, and students who choose pre-optometry after being in another pre-health track (e.g., pre-med), should be aware that they may need additional specific courses. General courses which most schools require are listed below along with other courses which some schools strongly recommend or require. Current admission requirements and profiles of recently accepted applicants can be obtained by writing the Association of Schools and College of Optometry at 6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 510, Rockville, Maryland, 20852 or from their web site at <http://www.opted.org>. Information about optometry professions is also available through the American Optometric Association at <http://www.aoanet.org/>.

All schools require:

- One Year of Biology (BI 251, 252, 253 **OR** BI 211-214)
- General Chemistry with labs (CH 221, 222, 223, with labs 227, 228, 229 **OR** CH 224, 225, 226 with labs 237, 238, 239)
- General Physics with labs (PHYS 201–203 and labs 204– 206)
- English (WR 121, 122/123) - a year of English is sometimes required.
- Math (MATH 111, 112, 246 or 251)
- Psychology (PSY 202) - many schools require two psychology courses.
- Organic Chemistry with labs (CH 331, 335, 336 with 337, 338)

Many require or recommend:

- Statistics (MATH 243 or PSY 302) - if two terms are needed, we recommend MATH 425 & 426.
- Human Anatomy with labs (ANAT 311, 312; Labs ANAT 314, 315)
- Human Physiology with labs (HPHY 313, 314; Labs HPHY 316, 317)
- Microbiology with lab (BI 330, 331)
- Physiological Biochemistry (CH 360)

All required or recommended courses should be taken graded when offered on a graded basis.

Although admissions requirements do not change frequently, prospective applicants should check **each year** to be certain of meeting admission standards. For admissions requirements visit: [http:// www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org).

Pre-Optometry Model Program

The model on the following page represents a four-year program. The model suggests only one way of completing the requirements and other programs may be possible, especially through the use of intensive summer courses.

Fall Term	Winter Term	Spring Term
Freshman Year		
CH 221 ¹ + 227 lab	CH 222 + 228 lab	CH 223 + 229 lab
-- <i>or</i> --	-- <i>or</i> --	-- <i>or</i> --
CH 224 ² + 237 lab	CH 225 + 238 lab	CH 225 + 238 lab
MATH 111	MATH 112	MATH 246, 251 or 261 ³
Consider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Health-Related Experience • English Composition (<i>graded</i>) • Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes • Major requirements (<i>if a major has been chosen</i>) 	
Sophomore Year		
BI 251 ⁴	BI 252	BI 253
CH 331 + 337 lab	CH 335 + 338 lab	CH 336
(math continuation, if needed for major)	PSY 202	PSY (if needed)
Consider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Composition (<i>graded</i>) • Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes • Major requirements (<i>if a major has been chosen</i>) 	
Junior Year		
PHYS 201 + 204 (6)	PHYS 202 + 205 (6)	PHYS 203 + 206 (6)
ANAT 311 + 314 (5)	ANAT 312 + 315 (5)	BI 330 + 331 (5)
		MATH 243
Consider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English literature (<i>graded</i>) • Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes • Major requirements 	
Senior Year		
HPHY 313 + 316	HPHY 316 + 317	
CH 360		
<p>Completion of all University and department requirements. Apply to optometry school during the fall- check deadlines. OAT during early fall.</p>		

Comments:

1. General Chemistry (CH221) requires prior experience in high school chemistry. MATH 111 & 112 are required as a pre- or co- requisites.
2. Honors General Chemistry (CH224-226 with 237-239 labs) requires a strong background in chemistry and math. Corequisite: calculus sequence.
3. There are 3 calculus sequences appropriate for science majors: MATH 246-247 Calculus I & II for Biological Sciences, MATH 251-253 Calculus I, II, & III, and MATH 261-263 Honors Calculus I, II, III. Consult with your major advisor for the appropriate sequence.
4. BI 251-253 requires prerequisite of CH 223. BI 211-214 is an alternative biology sequence.

Non-Academic Requirements for Admission

Letters of Recommendation

Usually schools require two to four letters of recommendation. At least one should be from a science professor who can attest to the student's competence, and many schools state their desire to see a letter from an optometrist. Letters of recommendation are an important part of the student's application, for they allow him/her to present non-academic qualities and activities of which the admissions committee might not otherwise be aware. Many schools clearly state their preference for the student who is people-oriented as well as academically competent. Students should collect letters as classes are completed. For more information on reference letters, please contact the Pre-Optometry Advisor in 364 Oregon Hall.

Optometry Aptitude Test (OAT)

The OAT is a four-hour comprehensive science and skills test. Test categories include quantitative reasoning, biology, chemistry, physics, and reading comprehension; scores are reported from each of these areas. Students are urged to take the OAT during the fall term about a year before expected matriculation, but a few optometry schools may accept scores from tests taken late winter (six or seven months before matriculation) if all other application materials are in prior to the test. Test application forms can be obtained on-line at www.opted.org.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

Application deadlines vary from school to school: early fall to early spring. Students must appreciate that schools usually accept on a rolling basis, meaning that many available places will be gone by the time the deadline is reached. Therefore, students are urged to begin the application during the summer (between the Junior and Senior years or immediately after graduation). A complete list of schools is on the web at: <http://www.opted.org/>. Students apply through the application service, OptoCAS: See <http://www.opted.org>

WICHE Program

WICHE is the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and is a professional student exchange program (PSEP) wherein a student may enroll in a professional program in another state and pay resident tuition fees (or 1/3 the tuition cost at a private institution), if there is no similar state-funded program in the student's home state. PSEP applicants receive special consideration by the admission boards when applying to schools involved in the PSEP program. There are three PSEP schools which offer programs in optometry, and the applicant should seriously consider including these schools on his/her application list:

- Pacific University, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR 97116
www.pacificu.edu.
- University of California, Berkeley, School of Information Management & Systems, Berkeley, CA 94720 www.berkeley.edu.
- Southern California College, College of Optometry, Fullerton, CA 92631-1699
www.scco.edu.

Note that Oregon is not supporting any new PSEP students, indefinitely. If you are a resident of another state, please check funding likelihood. As a PSEP participant, the student is still subject to the school's application deadlines and admission requirements. The student interested in applying to PSEP schools should begin considering the application procedure early in the fall of his/her last year at the UO. The student must be certified by the state of residence to become a PSEP exchange student, and certification must be completed by October 15th of the year preceding admission. Check your state's deadlines to be sure it is not sooner.

Notes:

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