

# PRE-OPTOMETRY

Undergraduate Credit Required	90 hours or Bachelor's degree (recommended)
Entrance Exam	OAT - Optometry Admission Test
Professional Schooling Required	3-4 years professional school; Doctor of Optometry
Professional Schools	Salus University, Ohio State College of Optometry, New England College of Optometry, University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Optometry, etc...
Professional Organization Websites	ASCO - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry <a href="https://optometriceducation.org/">https://optometriceducation.org/</a>
Major	Students can major in any subject at WCU for Pre-Optometry. The most common majors that align with optometry school pre-requisites are Biology: Cell and Molecular Biology, Biology: Integrative Concentration, and Chemistry: Chem-Bio.

## REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED ELECTIVES FOR WCU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following course recommendations are general requirements for Optometry programs. For the specific requirements of your school of choice and whether AP/IB credit is accepted, please refer to that school's admissions website or contact those schools for a list of entrance requirements.

### OPTOMETRY SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Biological Sciences with labs (8 hours)		
BIO 110 General Biology, BIO 217 Zoology, BIO 220 Cell Physiology		
Course	Term	Grade
Genetics (required by some schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIO 230		
Microbiology (required by most schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIO 214		
General Chemistry with lab		
Course	Term	Grade
CHE 103 & CRL 103		
CHE 104 & CRL 104		
Organic Chemistry with lab		
Course	Term	Grade
CHE 231 & CRL 231		
CHE 232 & CRL 232		
Biochemistry (Lab recommended)		
Course	Term	Grade
CHE 476		
Anatomy and Physiology		
Course	Term	Grade
BIO 259		
BIO 269		

English Composition (2 courses)		
Course	Term	Grade
Calculus and Stats (required by some schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
MAT 121		
MAT 145		
Physics with lab (2 courses)		
General Physics PHY 130 AND 140 or Physics 170 AND 180		
Course	Term	Grade
PHY 130 or 170		
PHY 140 or 180		
Psychology (Intro and Upper division)		
PSY 100		
PSY 2XX or ↑		

### SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

BIO 357. Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy  
 BIO 428. Animal Histology  
 BIO 431. Molecular Genetics  
 BIO 465. Immunology  
 BIO 468. Comparative Vertebrate Physiology  
 BIO 469. Human Physiology\*  
 CHE 477. Biochemistry 2

\* Does not count as a Biology major elective

### Sample Course Plan of Pre-Optometry Students

#### Semester 1

CHE 103  
CRL 103  
BIO 110  
WRT 120  
MAT 121

#### Semester 2

CHE 104  
CRL 104  
BIO 217  
WRT 2XX  
MAT 145

#### Semester 3

CHE 231  
CRL 231  
PHY 130  
BIO 230  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 4

CHE 232  
PHY 140  
BIO 220  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 5

CHE 476  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 6

General/Major Electives

#### Semester 7

General/Major Electives

#### Semester 8

General/Major Electives

### Suggested courses for the OAT Preparation

BIO 110  
BIO 217  
BIO 259  
CHE 103 and 104 with labs  
CHE 231 and 232 with labs  
CHE 476  
PHY 130 and 140

**Take the OAT 13-15 months prior to entering  
Optometry school (contact optometry schools  
directly for the latest OAT accepted)**

For more information on the OAT exam, [visit opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

## BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-Optometry students are encouraged to participate in activities and experiences such as leadership roles, volunteer work, research, and shadowing, which will help them prepare for optometry school and the optometry profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment and knowledge about the profession. In particular, shadowing optometry professionals and involvement with the Pre-Med Club and Minorities in Medicine will help students learn more about the profession of optometry.

## APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

OptomCAS is the Optometry Centralized Application Service. Through this service applicants may file one application and send it to multiple optometry programs. The schools and colleges of optometry will be able to process applications more efficiently. **All schools and colleges of optometry participate in OptomCAS.**

## ENTRANCE EXAM

The OAT is an optometry admission test designed to provide optometry education programs with a means to assess program applicants' potential for success. The OAT is administered year-round by Prometric test centers in the United States. The OAT is comprised of multiple-choice test items. The OAT consists of a battery of four tests on the following: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Physics, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning. In the OAT, both the U.S. customary system and the metric system (Imperial System) of units are used. Before starting the application process, read the OAT Guide.

## ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications to Optometry school require a **personal statement** and **letters of recommendation/evaluation**. The number of required letters varies by school. You should get to know your professors so that they know you well enough to write a thorough letter about your potential to be a successful optometry student. It is also highly suggested that you get one letter of recommendation from a licensed optometrist.



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WCU does not discriminate based upon any protected status.

Please see [www.wcupa.edu/admin/social.equity/](http://www.wcupa.edu/admin/social.equity/)

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