

PRE-OPTOMETRY



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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HELPFUL WEBSITES:

- UA Pre-Professional Health Advising: uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry: opted.org
- The American Optometric Association: aoa.org
- The Ohio State University College of Optometry: optometry.osu.edu

Optometrists are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. They examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures. Optometrists prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical procedures. Optometrists counsel their patients regarding surgical and non-surgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations, and lifestyle. While there is no preferred major, most UA pre-optometry students pursue a major in Biology or Chemistry.

COURSEWORK RECOMENDATIONS

Course Number	Course Name
BIOL 111/112	Principles of Biology I & II w/labs
CHEM 151/152/153/154	Principles of Chemistry I & II w/labs
CHEM 263/264/265/266	Organic Chemistry I & II w/labs
CHEM 401/402	Biochemistry I & II
BIOL 331	Microbiology w/lab (pre-req 3100:211 Genetics)
BIOL 363/364/473/474	Foundations of Physiology I & II (required by OSU, recommended by most other schools)
PHYS 261/262	Physics for Life Sciences I & II w/labs
MATH 221	Calc I
STAT 261/262	Intro to Stats I & II
PSYC 100	Intro to Psychology
Additional OSU Recommendations: BIOL 401 Human Anatomy for Biology Majors, Ethics, Histology, Sociology, Business Mgmt.	

The above coursework is based on the general requirements and recommendations of most optometry schools. The list is not comprehensive and students are responsible for knowing and completing the requirements of their major and those of the optometry schools to which they plan to apply.

OPTOMETRY
SCHOOL
TIMELINE

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Meet with the pre-health adviser
- Register your pre-optometry interest at www.uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth
- Explore careers in optometry
- Consider alternative career plans
- Get involved on campus/ look into shadowing opportunities

SOPHOMORE
YEAR

- Pursue shadowing, volunteer, and other related activities
- Review optometry school catalogs and websites

JUNIOR YEAR

- Pursue shadowing, volunteer, and other related activities
- Complete prerequisites
- Prepare and take the OAT
- Develop relationships with faculty

SENIOR YEAR

- Gather letters of recommendation
- Apply for admission
- Prepare for interviews

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process to optometry school is rigorous; there are many components, and it often takes students much longer than anticipated to complete the application.

Most optometry schools use rolling admission, so submitting applications sooner rather than later is advantageous. Although each school has different application deadlines, admissions applications tend to be available in July and must be submit-

ted through the online application system, Optometry Central Application Service (OptomCAS) by March 31st.

The only Optometry School in Ohio is at Ohio State University. OSU, as most optometry schools, requires the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and application submission through OptomCAS. As part of the application, students will be required to submit recommendation letters. Therefore, it

is important that students develop professional relationships with natural science faculty and optometrists.

Once applications are completed, students will receive secondary applications, and finally interested schools will send invitations for interviews.

EXPERIENCE & INVOLVMENT

In addition to strong academic credentials, optometry schools want to see committed well-rounded applicants. Students should shadow optometrists, participate in community service, and develop leadership skills.

Participating in student organizations on campus is a great way to get involved in community service and develop leadership skills .

OSU's School of Optometry requires at least one letter of reference from a current optometrist and shadowing experiences in two different types of practices. Therefore it is important to start early.

It is also recommended that you document the number of hours you log and journal your experiences so later when you are filling out your applications and writing your essays you will easily be able to recall those experiences.

It is important to note that there is no magic formula for admission to optometry school. Students need to be successful in the classroom while also selectively participating in activities that will add to their veterinary school applications. Think about how the people you meet through these experiences could help you as you apply to optometry school.



* All students interested in optometry school should register their pre-optometry interest at www.uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth. Students are encouraged to meet with the pre-health adviser early on to plan courses and experiences that will help prepare them to apply to optometry school.