

Optometry

The courses listed below fulfill prerequisites for admission into most optometry programs. The listing also includes courses necessary for the successful completion of the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). Completing the courses listed below does not result in a bachelor's degree. Additionally, requirements for each school vary and often change; therefore, students must review the requirements of the programs of most interest to them.

Prerequisite courses

Biology		
BIOL 198	Principles of Biology	4 ___
BIOL 401	Organismic Biology	5 ___
BIOL 441/442 or KIN 360	Human Body I and II Anatomy and Physiology	8 ___
BIOL 455	Microbiology	4 ___
Chemistry		
CHM 210	Chemistry I	4 ___
CHM 230	Chemistry II	4 ___
CHM 350	Gen Organic Chemistry	3 ___
CHM 351	Gen Organic Chemistry Lab	2 ___
	(organic chemistry requirements vary)	
Biochemistry		
BIOCH 521	Biochemistry	3 ___
English		
ENGL 100	Expository Writing I	3 ___
ENGL 200	Expository Writing II	3 ___
Math		
MATH 220	Calculus	4 ___
STAT 325/340	Statistics	3 ___
Physics		
PHYS 113	Physics I	4 ___
PHYS 114	Physics II	4 ___
Psychology		
PSYCH 110	General Psychology	3 ___

Recommended courses

The following courses may be of interest to pre-optometry students. These recommendations are from optometry programs as well as feedback from former students.

ACCTG 231	Accounting for Business	3 ___
AMETH 160	American Ethnic Studies	3 ___
ART 103	Jewelry Design for non-majors	3 ___
BIOL 450	Genetics	4 ___
BIOL 541	Cell Biology	3 ___
CLSCS 105	Medical Terminology	2 ___
COMM 480	Intercultural Communication	3 ___
DAS 240	Practicum in Pre-Health	1 ___
DAS 315	Creating a Competitive App	1 ___
FNDH 400	Human Nutrition	3 ___
GERON 315	Gerontology	3 ___
GWSS 105	Gender, Women and Sexuality	3 ___
PHILO 365	Medical Ethics	3 ___
PSYCH 505	Abnormal Psychology	3 ___
PSYCH 518	Health Psychology	3 ___
SOCIO 211	Sociology	3 ___
SOCWK 320	Dynamics Working w/ Older Adults	3 ___
SPAN 101/102	Spanish I or II (or higher)	5 ___
THTRE 665	Drama Therapy	3 ___

Kansas State Pre-Optometry Club: An opportunity to meet other pre-optometry students and to become involved both professionally and socially. The club holds monthly meetings that feature guest speakers from optometry schools, community service agencies, and practicing optometrists. Find on OrgSync: Pre-Optometry Club

Eligibility Criteria & Application Information

Colleges of optometry admit students who have demonstrated strong academic commitment, exhibit proficiency in the natural sciences, and who have the potential to excel in deductive reasoning, interpersonal communication, and empathy. Optometry schools are looking for "well-rounded" candidates who have achieved not only in the classroom but also in areas such as leadership ability, a disposition to serve others, and a work ethic characterized by dedication and persistence (ASCO).

Most schools consider an applicant's exposure to optometry to be of vital importance. Each applicant should become acquainted with more than one optometrist and obtain first-hand experience to see what optometrists do on a daily basis. 23 [America education institutions](#) offer the Doctor of Optometry degree.

Eligibility Criteria & Application Information (cont.)

The [Optometry Admission Test](#) (OAT) is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. All schools and colleges require the OAT. Test results are a factor in evaluating the admission potential of an examinee.

Application is through an on-line system called [OptomCAS](#). Letters of recommendation are submitted directly to OptomCAS. The application process also requires a personal statement describing what inspires the applicants' for becoming an optometrist. Nearly all schools require a secondary or supplemental application after the completion of OptomCAS. After all materials are received, admissions committees review applications and begin inviting students for an on-campus interview. It often takes 3-4 weeks after your interview to hear of standing.

The [Kansas Optometry Service Scholarship](#) encourages optometrists to establish Kansas practices. These scholarships, funded by Kansas taxpayer dollars, pay the difference between resident and nonresident tuition or reduces overall tuition charges. The State of Kansas has an agreement with three schools of optometry: the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN; the University of Missouri – St. Louis; and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. Participants fulfill their obligation to the State by providing one year of service as an optometrist anywhere in Kansas for each year of subsidized tuition. Interested students apply during their senior year, after acceptance into one of the programs listed above.

Tips for Success

- 1) Shadow multiple optometrists in a variety of settings, as most programs require or highly recommend observation hours.
- 2) Find volunteer or employment directly related to the optometry profession.
- 3) Keep a journal of relevant observation, volunteer and work experiences.
- 4) Become involved with meaningful community service.
- 5) Cultivate relationships with faculty and optometrists so they can write strong letters of evaluation.
- 6) Join the pre-optometry club or other student organization of interest.
- 7) Serve in a leadership role in a student organization.
- 8) Meet with the pre-optometry advisor as well as the advisor in your major.
- 9) Maintain a strong GPA – 3.5 and higher is competitive. Seek out tutoring and study groups.
- 10) Optometry schools strongly encourage applicants to take 15-18 credit hours per semester.
- 11) Visit the optometry programs of most interest to you.
- 12) Apply EARLY. Do not wait until the stated deadline.

Helpful Websites

[Optometry Applicant/Student Profile and Prerequisites](#)
[American Optometric Association](#)
[Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry \(ASCO\)](#)
[Optometry Admission Test \(OAT\)](#)
[OptomCAS \(Centralized Application Service\)](#)
[Optometry Career Guide](#)
[Optometry Programs Admissions Directory](#)
[Optometry School and College Prerequisites](#)
[Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry](#)

Kansas State University Pre-Optometry Advisor
College of Arts and Sciences
Gayla Adams-Wright
Health Professions Advising Office
107 Calvin Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-1011
785-532-6904
gayla@k-state.edu

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