

Pre-Optometry Program

Jacqueline Neal, Advisor
College of Science & Mathematics

Optometry was recently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the second best profession because of its regular hours, few emergency calls and collaboration with other professions. Although there has been a steady increase in the ophthalmic market, there has been a downward trend in applications to optometry school. In 2001, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) had initiated career promotion campaigns to specifically target practitioners willing to reach out to their patients and to students with information on optometry as a career. Student applications have steadily increased over the past years, but still remain quite a bit less compared to the total in 1999.

Ohio only has one optometry school located at The Ohio State University. Students interested in applying to Optometry schools should have a solid foundation in biology, chemistry, and physics. In addition, competitive GPA and OAT scores and experience or volunteer work within the profession are also required. Well qualified students are those that excel in critical thinking, have good communication skills, and exhibit leadership.

Wright State University is prepared to help you plan a career in optometry. We offer all the prerequisite courses necessary for you to meet the requirements necessary for applying to optometry school. Most students admitted to optometry programs have bachelor's degrees (>80%) or three years or more of undergraduate education. Applicants who do not have a B.S. or B.A. with a liberal arts or science major should be making progress towards such a degree.

Pre-Optometry

Doctors of Optometry are independent primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system (American Optometric Association). The U.S. ophthalmic market continues to increase over the years and is currently the nation's third largest independent health care profession and ranked as one of the top ten income-earning professions. Growth in the eyewear and eye care market is attributable to:

- Steady but moderate growth in the economy
- Increases in the range and volume of services provided by optometrists

- Expansion in private third party and governmental coverage of vision and eye care services
- Growth in the population needing eye care (>50% of population wear glasses or contacts)
- The public's enhanced awareness of the importance of good eye health care

"What is the OAT?"

In addition to the course prerequisites, students interested in applying to optometry programs are required to take the **Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)** which is available year round. The testing program is designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information.

It is recommended that at least one year of collegiate education, including courses in biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics, be completed before taking the OAT. The OAT is comprised of 4 parts: (1) Survey of Natural Sciences; (2) Reading Comprehension; (3) Physics; and (4) Quantitative Reasoning. OAT scores range from 200-400.

Required Pre-Requisites

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

General Biology:	BIO 111, 112,115
General Chemistry:	CHM 121/125, 122/126, 123/127
Organic Chemistry:	CHM 211/215, 212/216
General Physics:	PHY 111/101, 112/102, 113/103
English:	ENG 101, 102
Mathematics:	MTH 129, 131, 229
Biochemistry:	BMB 421, 423
Microbiology:	M&I 220 or BIO 310/311
Physiology:	ANT 310, 311, 312
Psychology:	PSY 105, 110
Humanities & Social Sciences:	10 quarter hours each

Ohio Optometry Programs



“How competitive is the admissions process?”

The admission process at The Ohio State University College of Optometry is competitive with only 65 new students being admitted each year selected from approximately 300 applicants. The grade point average for entering optometry students is among the highest of all the schools and colleges of optometry. The entering class of 2006 has a 3.50 cumulative GPA and an average total science Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) score of 340. The deadline for applications is **March 31** for the class entering the following autumn. All application materials must be received by the March 31 deadline. Application materials become available the preceding July and can be obtained online at www.optometry.osu.edu. Prospective students are encouraged to apply early.

- Campaigns developed to increase awareness: Due to the downward trend in applications to optometry schools, the ASCO has initiated career promotion campaigns to specifically target practitioners willing to reach out to their patients and to students with information on optometry as a career.

“What are the reasons students choose optometry as a career?”

- Excellent income: According to the 2005 American Optometric Association Economic Survey, the average net income for optometrists is \$148,923.
- Satisfying professional career: Optometrists have the satisfaction of helping their patients care for the most highly valued human sense - sight.
- Highly Respected Profession: Optometrists are viewed as leaders in their communities.
- Career outlook is excellent: All areas of the country need optometrists to serve a population which is increasingly aware of the importance of prevention and proper health care, and which requires the service of optometrists now more than ever.

General Statistics

To date, there are currently 35,855 practicing optometrists in approximately 7,000 communities across the nation. The American Optometric Association estimates that a ratio of one practicing optometrist to every 7,000 people would be a reasonable average for the United States (few states meet this need!). Optometrists practice in rural communities, suburban areas, and large cities. The majority of optometrists work in an office setting either in solo practice, with a team of optometrists, or with other health professionals. Others choose a career in military, public health, or at hospitals, clinics, teaching institutions, and community health care centers.

Doctors of optometry receive four years of specialized professional education and clinical trainings at an accredited school or college of optometry. Currently, there are only 17 schools and colleges of optometry - 16 are in the continental U.S.; one is in Puerto Rico. Ohio only has one optometry school at The Ohio State University.

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For additional information please visit our website: www.wright.edu/cosm/premed

or contact the advisor: **Jacqueline Neal** at 937-775-4226