



Interested in 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

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.

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.

What are the pre-requisites for Optometry School?

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.

Ohio only has one optometry program located at The Ohio State University. Most students who follow a pre-health science or pre-medicine curriculum should meet the prerequisite coursework requirements. The following courses are required for admission into The Ohio State University College of Optometry:

• English Composition (ENG 101, 102)	5 qtr hrs
• Mathematics:	
• Algebra & Trigonometry (MTH 129, 131)	5 qtr hrs
• Analytical Geometry & Calculus (MTH 229)	5 qtr hrs
• Chemistry	
• General, with laboratory (CHM 121/125; 122/126; 123/127)	15 qtr hrs
• Organic (CHM 211, 212)	6-8 qtr hrs
• Biochemistry (BMB 421, 423)	5 qtr hrs
• Physics, with laboratory (PHY 111/101; 112/102; 113/103)	15 qtr hrs
• Biology, with laboratory (BIO 111, 112, 115)	10 qtr hrs
• Microbiology, with laboratory (M&I 220 or BIO 310/311)	5 qtr hrs
• Physiology* (P&B 301, 302)	10 qtr hrs
• Introductory Psychology (PSY 105, 110)	5 qtr hrs
• Humanities	10 qtr hrs
• Social Sciences	10 qtr hrs

* *Strongly recommended prerequisite for Physiology (but not required): ANT 201, 202*

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.

College of Science and Mathematics

For more information please visit our website:

www.wright.edu/cosm/premed

or contact the pre-med advisor

Jacqui Neal at jacqueline.neal@wright.edu

to ask a question or schedule an appointment

Thank you for your interest in Wright State University!