

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY

GENERAL AND SCHOOL-SPECIFIC PREREQUISITES

Updated March 6, 2023

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS for most optometry programs include at least one year of Biology or Zoology, General Chemistry, General Physics, English and College Math. Contact the schools or colleges directly by visiting their websites to confirm prerequisite courses and to learn whether AP credits and/or on-line credits are accepted to complete prerequisites.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

School	CALC	ANAT	PHYSIO	ORGAN CHEM	BIO CHEM	MICRO	STATS	PSYCH	SHADOWING
ALABAMA University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry http://www.uab.edu/optometry	1 course	SR	SR	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	1 course	1 course	Req 40 hrs
ARIZONA Arizona College of Optometry, Midwestern University http://www.midwestern.edu/Programs_and_Admission/AZ_Optometry.html	1 course	1 course ¹	1 course ¹	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	1 course	1 course	SR
CALIFORNIA Southern Calif. Col. of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum Univ. https://www.ketchum.edu/optometry/requirements	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr/no lab required ¹	1 sem or 1 qtr/no lab required ¹	1 sem or 1 qtr/no lab required	1 sem or 1 qtr/no lab required	1 sem or 1 qtr/lab	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr	SR
CALIFORNIA U of Calif.-Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Opt. & Vision Sci. http://optometry.berkeley.edu	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr, lab SR	1 sem or 1 qtr, lab SR	1 sem or 1 qtr, w/lab	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr	SR
CALIFORNIA Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry https://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/od/	1 course	1 course ²	1 course ²	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	SR
FLORIDA Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry http://optometry.nova.edu	1 course	1 course ³	1 course ³	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	1 course	1 course	SR
ILLINOIS Chicago College of Optometry, Midwestern University https://www.midwestern.edu/programs_and_admission/il_optometry.html	1 course	1 course ¹	1 course ¹	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	1 course	1 course	SR
ILLINOIS Illinois College of Optometry http://www.ico.edu	1 course	Rec	Rec	1 course	Rec	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	SR
INDIANA Indiana University, School of Optometry https://optometry.iu.edu/	1 course of college math	SR	SR	1 course (2nd course Rec)	1 course	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	SR
KENTUCKY University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry http://www.upike.edu/KYCO	1 or 2 sem college math	SR	SR	1 course w/lab	SR	SR	SR	1 course	SR

¹Separate anatomy/physiology courses or combined anatomy and physiology I, II courses are acceptable. ² If a combined A&P course, it must be at least 4 semester or 6 quarter units. A lab is not required. ³If a combined anatomy/physiology course is not taken, separate courses in anatomy and physiology must be taken.

qtr = quarter; sem = semester

Rec = Recommended; SR = Strongly Recommended; Req = Required

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MASSACHUSETTS Massachusetts Col. of Pharmacy and Health Sci., School of Optometry https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/school-of-optometry/optometry	1 course	Rec	Rec	1 course	Rec	1 course	1 course	1 course	Rec
MASSACHUSETTS New England College of Optometry http://neco.edu/admissions/requirements	1 course	Rec	Rec	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	1 course	1 course	SR
MICHIGAN Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University http://www.ferris.edu/mco	1 sem or 2 qtrs ⁴	SR	SR	1 sem w/lab	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 course w/lab	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	SR Req 20 hrs Early Adm Prog only
MISSOURI University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry http://optometry.umsl.edu	1 sem or 1 qtr	SR	SR	1 sem or 2 qtrs w/lab	SR	1 sem or 1qtr w/lab	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr	SR 20 hrs or more
NEW YORK State University of New York, College of Optometry https://www.sunyopt.edu/admissions/od-admissions-requirements/ (Changes made for 2023-24 cycle. Please consult website.)									
OKLAHOMA Northeastern State Univ. – Oklahoma College of Optometry http://optometry.nsuok.edu	1 sem ⁴	SR	SR	1 sem w/lab	1 sem ⁵	1 sem	1 sem	1 sem	SR 30+ hrs
OHIO The Ohio State University, College of Optometry http://optometry.osu.edu	1 course	SR	1 course ⁶	1 course	1 course ⁶	1 course w/lab	SR	1 course	Minimum 10 hrs with 2 ODs
OREGON Pacific University, College of Optometry http://www.pacificu.edu	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem w/lab	1 sem w/lab	See below ⁷	See below ⁷	1 sem or 1 qtr w/lab	1 sem or 1 qtr	1 sem or 1 qtr	SR 10+ hrs

⁴ Calculus I or its equivalent is required, not brief calculus or elements of calculus. ⁵For institutions with multiple levels of biochemistry offered, the more stringent biochemistry course is required. ⁶If school spreads material over two courses, then both courses are required. ⁷Organic chemistry – standard one year course sequence with lab or one semester of organic chemistry with lab combined with one semester of biochemistry with lab if one is offered.

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PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University http://www.Salus.edu	SR ⁸	SR	Rec	See below ⁹	See below ⁹	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	Req 25 hrs, Optometry or Ophthalmology
PUERTO RICO Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry http://www.optonet.inter.edu	1 sem or 2 qtrs	Rec	Rec	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	SR
TENNESSEE Southern College of Optometry https://www.sco.edu/academic-information	1 course	SR	SR	1 course w/lab	1 course ¹⁰	1 course w/lab ¹¹	1 course	1 course	SR 30 hrs minimum in at least 2 settings
TEXAS University of Houston, College of Optometry http://www.opt.uh.edu	1 course	See below ¹²	See below ¹²	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course w/lab	1 course	1 course	Minimum 20 hrs from 2 settings
TEXAS Univ. of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry http://www.uiw.edu/optometry/	1 course	1 course ¹³	1 course ¹³	1 course w/lab ¹⁴	1 course ¹⁵	1 course w/lab ¹⁶	1 course	1 course	20 hrs with OD
UTAH Rocky Mountain Univ. of Health Professions, College of Optometry https://rm.edu/optometry/	1 sem college algebra or higher	1 sem w/lab	1 sem w/lab	Rec	Rec	1 sem w/lab	Rec	Rec	SR

⁸One semester of calculus will fulfill one year college math requirement. ⁹One semester of organic chemistry I with lab and one semester of organic chemistry II with lab are required. Biochem or molecular biology (lab highly recommended) may substitute for organic chemistry II. ¹⁰Upper-level molecular biology can substitute for biochem. ¹¹Upper-level bacteriology can substitute for microbiology. ¹²Eight hours of junior-/senior-level human biological sciences are required; a minimum of three hours must be anatomy and/or physiology. Freshman-/sophomore-level A&P will not satisfy this requirement. ¹³1 course Human Anatomy and/or Human Physiology w/lab required. One semester of any of the following courses with lab may substitute: Biology II, Cell Biology or Genetics. ¹⁴Two semesters general chemistry w/labs and one semester organic chemistry w/lab are required. ¹⁵Molecular biology can substitute for biochem. ¹⁶Bacteriology can substitute for microbiology.

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