

**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY**

**GENERAL AND SCHOOL-SPECIFIC PREREQUISITES**

May 2026

**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          |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>ALABAMA</b><br>University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry<br><a href="http://www.uab.edu/optometry">http://www.uab.edu/optometry</a>  | 1 course                       | SR  | SR  | 1 course w/lab                 | 1 course                       | 1 course           | 1 course       | 1 course       | Req 40 hrs         |
| <b>ARIZONA</b><br>Arizona College of Optometry, Midwestern University<br><a href="https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-programs/doctor-optometry-program/arizona-college-optometry">https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-programs/doctor-optometry-program/arizona-college-optometry</a> | 1 course                       | SR  | SR  | 1 course w/lab                 | SR                             | 1 course           | 1 course       | 1 course       | SR                 |
| <b>CALIFORNIA</b><br>Southern Calif. Col. of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum Univ.<br><a href="https://www.ketchum.edu/optometry/requirements">https://www.ketchum.edu/optometry/requirements</a>   | 1 sem or 1 qtr                 | 1 sem or 1 qtr/no lab<br><i>If no PHYSIO or Combo<sup>1</sup></i> | 1 sem or 1 qtr/no lab<br><i>If no ANAT or Combo<sup>1</sup></i> | 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                 |
| <b>CALIFORNIA</b><br>U of Calif.-Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Opt. & Vision Sci.<br><a href="http://optometry.berkeley.edu">http://optometry.berkeley.edu</a>  | 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                 |
| <b>CALIFORNIA</b><br>Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry<br><a href="https://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/od/">https://prospective.westernu.edu/optometry/od/</a>  | 1 course                       | 1 course <sup>2</sup>   | 1 course <sup>2</sup>   | 1 course w/lab                 | 1 course                       | 1 course w/lab     | 1 course       | 1 course       | SR                 |
| <b>FLORIDA</b><br>Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry<br><a href="http://optometry.nova.edu">http://optometry.nova.edu</a>  | 1 course                       | 1 course <sup>3</sup>   | 1 course <sup>3</sup>   | 1 course w/lab                 | 1 course                       | 1 course           | 1 course       | 1 course       | Req minimum 10 hrs |
| <b>ILLINOIS</b><br>Chicago College of Optometry, Midwestern University<br><a href="https://www.midwestern.edu/cco">https://www.midwestern.edu/cco</a>  | 1 course                       | SR  | SR  | 1 course w/lab                 | SR                             | 1 course           | 1 course       | 1 course       | SR                 |
| <b>ILLINOIS</b><br>Illinois College of Optometry<br><a href="https://www.ico.edu/dues-dates-and-pre-reqs">https://www.ico.edu/dues-dates-and-pre-reqs</a>  | 1 course                       | Rec   | Rec   | 1 course                       | Rec                            | 1 course w/lab     | 1 course       | 1 course       | SR                 |
| <b>INDIANA</b><br>Indiana University, School of Optometry<br><a href="https://optometry.iu.edu/">https://optometry.iu.edu/</a>   | 1 course<br>Calculus or Finite | SR  | SR  | 1 course <sup>4</sup>          | 1 course                       | 1 course w/lab     | 1 course       | 1 course       | SR                 |
| <b>KENTUCKY</b><br>University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry<br><a href="http://www.upike.edu/KYCO">http://www.upike.edu/KYCO</a>   | 1 or 2 sem college math        | SR  | SR  | 1 course w/lab                 | SR                             | SR                 | SR             | 1 course       | SR                 |

<sup>1</sup>Require one sem or qtr of either: anatomy OR physiology OR combined anatomy/physiology. No lab is required <sup>2</sup> If a combined A&P course, it must be at least 4 semester or 6 quarter units. A lab is not required. <sup>3</sup>If a combined anatomy/physiology course is not taken, separate courses in anatomy and physiology must be taken. <sup>4</sup>Second course recommended, lab strongly recommended

qtr = quarter; sem = semester

Not Req = Not Required; Rec = Recommended; SR = Strongly Recommended; Req = Required

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**ADDITIONAL SCHOOL-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

| School  | CALC                        | ANAT                        | PHYSIO                 | ORGAN CHEM              | BIO CHEM                | MICRO                | STATS           | PSYCH           | SHADOWING  |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>MASSACHUSETTS</b><br><b>Massachusetts Col. of Pharmacy and Health Sci., School of Optomet</b><br><a href="https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/programs/optometry-od/admission-requirements">https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/programs/optometry-od/admission-requirements</a> | 1 course                    | Rec                         | Rec                    | 1 course                | SR                      | 1 course             | 1 course        | 1 course        | Rec  |
| <b>MASSACHUSETTS</b><br><b>New England College of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://neco.edu/admissions/requirements">http://neco.edu/admissions/requirements</a>  | 1 course                    | SR                          | SR                     | 1 course w/lab          | 1 course                | 1 course             | 1 course        | 1 course        | SR   |
| <b>MICHIGAN</b><br><b>Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University</b><br><a href="http://www.ferris.edu/mco">http://www.ferris.edu/mco</a>   | 1 sem or 2 qtrs             | 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<br>Req 20 hrs Early Adm Prog only             |
| <b>MICHIGAN</b><br><b>University of Detroit Mercy, School of Optometry</b><br><a href="https://optometry.udmercy.edu/">https://optometry.udmercy.edu/</a>   | Not Req                     | See below <sup>5</sup>      | See below <sup>5</sup> | Req<br>1 course w/lab   | See below <sup>5</sup>  | Req<br>1 course      | SR<br>1 course  | SR<br>1 course  | Req<br>minimum 10 hrs with non-relative OD       |
| <b>MISSOURI</b><br><b>University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://optometry.umsl.edu">http://optometry.umsl.edu</a>   | 1 sem or 1 qtr              | SR                          | SR                     | 1 sem or 2 qtrs w/lab   | SR                      | 1 sem or 1 qtr w/lab | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | SR 20 hrs or more                                |
| <b>NEW YORK</b><br><b>State University of New York, College of Optometry</b><br><a href="https://www.sunyopt.edu/admissions/od-admissions-requirements/">https://www.sunyopt.edu/admissions/od-admissions-requirements/</a>   | 1 sem or 1 qtr <sup>6</sup> | SR                          | SR                     | 1 sem or 1 qtr w/lab    | 1 sem or 1 qtr          | 1 sem or 1 qtr w/lab | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | SR   |
| <b>OKLAHOMA</b><br><b>Northeastern State Univ. – Oklahoma College of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://optometry.nsuok.edu">http://optometry.nsuok.edu</a>   | Not Req                     | 1 course w/lab <sup>7</sup> | 1 course <sup>7</sup>  | 1 sem w/lab             | 1 sem <sup>8</sup>      | 1 sem                | 1 sem           | 1 sem           | Minimum 30 hrs                                   |
| <b>OHIO</b><br><b>The Ohio State University, College of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://optometry.osu.edu">http://optometry.osu.edu</a>  | 1 course                    | SR                          | 1 course <sup>9</sup>  | 1 course                | 1 course <sup>9</sup>   | 1 course w/lab       | SR              | 1 course        | Minimum 10 hrs with 2 Ods in at least 2 settings |
| <b>OREGON</b><br><b>Pacific University, College of Optometry</b><br><a href="https://www.pacificu.edu/optometry-od/admissions">https://www.pacificu.edu/optometry-od/admissions</a>   | 1 sem or 1 qtr              | 1 sem w/lab                 | 1 sem w/lab            | See below <sup>10</sup> | See below <sup>10</sup> | 1 sem or 1 qtr w/lab | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | SR 10+ hrs                                       |

<sup>5</sup>One course is required: Anatomy/Physiology (can be combined) OR Biochemistry. <sup>6</sup>Pre-calculus is acceptable in lieu of Calculus. <sup>7</sup>Human Anatomy and Physiology may be taken as one course or two separate courses, with a minimum of 4 semester or 6 quarter hours. <sup>8</sup>For institutions with multiple levels of biochemistry offered, the more stringent biochemistry course is required. <sup>9</sup>If school spreads material over two courses, then both courses are required. Must cover all systems of the body. <sup>10</sup>Organic 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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|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>PENNSYLVANIA</b><br><b>Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Drexel University</b> <sup>11</sup><br><a href="https://www.salus.edu/colleges/optometry/home.html">https://www.salus.edu/colleges/optometry/home.html</a> | SR <sup>12</sup>                | SR                      | SR                      | See below <sup>13</sup>      | See below <sup>13</sup>       | 1 sem or 1 qtr               | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | 1 sem or 1 qtr  | Req 25 hrs, Optometry or Ophthalmology   |
| <b>PUERTO RICO</b><br><b>Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://www.optonet.inter.edu">http://www.optonet.inter.edu</a>   | 1 sem or 2 qtrs                 | SR                      | SR                      | 1 course w/lab <sup>14</sup> | 1 sem or 2 qtrs <sup>15</sup> | 1 sem or 2 qtrs              | 1 sem or 2 qtrs | 1 sem or 2 qtrs | SR                                       |
| <b>TENNESSEE</b><br><b>Southern College of Optometry</b><br><a href="https://www.sco.edu/academic-information">https://www.sco.edu/academic-information</a>   | 1 course                        | SR                      | SR                      | 1 course w/lab               | 1 course <sup>15</sup>        | 1 course w/lab <sup>16</sup> | 1 course        | 1 course        | SR 30 hrs minimum in at least 2 settings |
| <b>TEXAS</b><br><b>University of Houston, College of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://www.opt.uh.edu">http://www.opt.uh.edu</a>   | 1 course                        | See below <sup>17</sup> | See below <sup>17</sup> | 1 course w/lab               | 1 course                      | 1 course w/lab               | 1 course        | 1 course        | Minimum 20 hrs from 2 settings           |
| <b>TEXAS</b><br><b>Univ. of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry</b><br><a href="http://www.uiw.edu/optometry/">http://www.uiw.edu/optometry/</a>  | 1 course                        | 1 course <sup>18</sup>  | 1 course <sup>18</sup>  | 1 course w/lab <sup>14</sup> | 1 course <sup>19</sup>        | 1 course w/lab <sup>20</sup> | 1 course        | 1 course        | 20 hrs with OD                           |
| <b>UTAH</b><br><b>Rocky Mountain Univ. of Health Professions, College of Optometry</b><br><a href="https://rm.edu/optometry/">https://rm.edu/optometry/</a>   | 1 sem college algebra or higher | 1 sem w/lab             | 1 sem w/lab             | Rec                          | Rec                           | 1 sem Req w/lab Rec          | Rec             | Rec             | SR                                       |

<sup>11</sup>Refer to the PCO website for Scholars program requirements. <sup>12</sup>One semester of calculus will fulfill one year college math requirement. <sup>13</sup>One 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. <sup>14</sup>Two semesters general chemistry w/labs and one semester organic chemistry w/lab are required. <sup>15</sup>Upper-level molecular biology can substitute for biochem. <sup>16</sup>Upper-level bacteriology can substitute for microbiology. <sup>17</sup>Eight 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. <sup>18</sup>1 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. <sup>19</sup>Molecular biology can substitute for biochem. <sup>20</sup>Bacteriology can substitute for microbiology