

Optometry (O.D.)

Degree	<p>O.D. Doctor of Optometry</p> <p>"Doctors of optometry are independent primary healthcare providers who examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures as well as diagnose related systemic conditions." (American Optometric Association)</p> <p>Optometrists can specialize in contact lenses, vision therapy, sports vision, ocular disease, geriatrics, pediatrics, low vision (working with visually impaired patients), occupational vision, education and research.</p> <p>Optometry programs take an additional four years after earning your bachelors degree. After completing an O.D. program, you may go straight into practice or complete a residency program if you want additional training in a specialty.</p>
Prerequisite Courses	<p>The following are UF courses required for most optometry schools. Requirements vary from school to school, so it is your responsibility to check requirements of individual programs:</p> <p>General Chemistry: CHM2045/L and CHM2046/L or CHM2051;OR CHM2047/L (CHM2054L may be substituted for CHM2045L and CHM2046L)</p> <p>General Biology: BSC2010/L and BSC2011/L (BSC2044L may be substituted for BSC2010L and BSC2011L)</p> <p>Organic Chemistry: CHM2210 or CHM2212 and CHM2211 or CHM2213 and CHM2211L (CHM3217, CHM3218, and CHM2211L may substitute)</p> <p>Physics: PHY2053/L or PHY2048/L or PHY2060/2064L and PHY2054/L or PHY2049/L or PHY2061/2064L</p> <p>Biochemistry: BCH4024 or CHM3218</p> <p>Microbiology: MCB3020/L or MCB3023/L</p> <p>Anatomy and Physiology: APK2100C and APK2105C <i>or</i> PHY4723C and ZOO3713C</p>

	<p>Math: STA2023 and MAC2311</p> <p>Psychology: PSY2012</p> <p>English: Two semesters of any English department course. Examples are ENC1101, ENC1102, ENC3254, LIT2110)</p>
Major	<p>You may choose ANY major and go on to optometry school.</p> <p>Optometry schools do not have a preference for any particular major. Choose a major based on your own personal interests and strengths. It doesn't need to be a science major- ;majors in the social sciences or humanities are just fine as long as you take the prerequisite courses. We recommend that non-science majors take a few additional science courses beyond the prerequisites.</p>
Application Services	<p>OPTOMCAS: Optometry Centralized Application Service</p>
Admissions Test	<p>OAT: Optometry Admissions Test</p> <p>The sections of the OAT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Survey of Natural Sciences (includes General Biology 1 and 2, some Anatomy and Physiology, General Chemistry 1 and 2, and Organic Chemistry 1 and 2) -Reading Comprehension -Physics -Quantitative Reasoning (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, etc.)

<p>Timing of Application</p>	<p>Many optometry schools conduct admissions on a rolling basis, which gives preference to candidates who apply early in the application season. For your best chance of admission in any given year, you should apply early.</p> <p>OPTOMCAS starts accepting applications around July 1st each year, for the following year's entering class.</p>
<p>Reference Guide for School Selection</p>	<p>"Schools and Colleges of Optometry: Admissions Requirements" is available for free, from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website (click on "Admissions Requirements handbook").</p>
<p>Number of schools to apply to</p>	<p>Most students apply to around 5 schools.</p> <p>For guidance on choosing schools, watch our workshop on Choosing Schools, use the references above, and visit individual school websites.</p>
<p>Letters of Recommendation</p>	<p>We recommend 2-3 individual letters for most programs (this varies by school, check individual school requirements):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One to two letters from science professors who have taught you in a lecture course -One letter from a non-relative, practicing O.D. whom you have shadowed or worked with
<p>Personal</p>	<p>Pre-optometry students should engage in extracurricular activities that develop and</p>

<p>Attributes and Experiences</p>	<p>demonstrate the personal attributes that are valued in optometrists. Students are encouraged to participate in meaningful volunteering and shadowing, community service, research, and leadership experiences that will help them gain an understanding of the profession and their future patients. See our Prepare section to learn more.</p>
<p>Florida Programs</p>	<p>The programs in Florida are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nova Southeastern University
<p>Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry • Optometry Centralized Application Service (OPTOMCAS) • American Academy of Optometry
<p>Suggested Timelines</p>	<p>Sample timeline for pre-optometry students.</p>