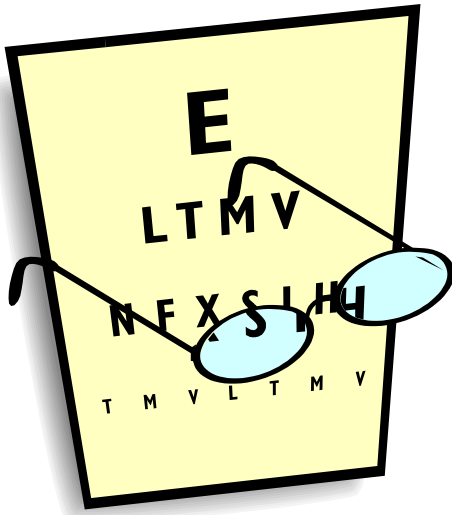


PRE-OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

Wright State University

Director: Jacqueline Neal



Optometry

In 2012 optometry was listed as #12 in CNN Money's "Best Jobs in America" due to its regular hours, few emergency calls and collaboration with other professions. Although there has been steady increase in the ophthalmic market, there has been a downward trend in applications to optometry trend in applications to optometry school.

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.

In 2010 there were 34,200 practicing optometrists in the United States. The American Optometric Association estimates that a ratio of one practicing optometrists 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 solo practice, with a team of optometrists, or with other health either in professionals. Others choose a career in military, public health, or at hospitals, clinics, teaching institutions, and community health centers.

CORE PRE-REQUISITES

Physiology:	ANT 3110 & 3120
Biology (+labs):	BIO 1120 & 1150
Physics:	PHY 1110 & 1120
Chemistry (+labs):	CHM 1210 & 1120
Psychology:	PSY 1010
Lifespan	
Development:	PSY 3410
Chemistry (+labs):	CHM 2110, 2120
English:	ENG 1100,2100
Biochemistry :	BMB 4210
Mathematics :	MTH 1340, 2240
Microbiology:	M&I 220 or BIO 310/311
Humanities & Social Sciences:	7 Sem. Hrs. each

Recommended Courses

Courses in statistics, ethics, histology, sociology, medical terminology, and small business management are strongly recommended

Ohio State University follows 10 Years Course rule: All science courses taken longer than 10 years ago need to either be retaken or the student needs to be able to demonstrate mastery of subject to the Admissions Committee

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.

Optometry and Wright State University

Wright State University is prepared to help you plan a career in optometry. We offer all the prerequisite courses necessary for applying to optometry school. Most students admitted to optometry programs have bachelor's degrees (>80%) or three years or more 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 degree.

Pre- Optometry

Doctors of Optometry are independent primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat, and manage disease and disorders of the visual system (American Optometric Association). The U.S. ophthalmic market continues to increase over the years and according to Forbes, is currently one of the nation's third best jobs for woman and ranked as number 50 on the 300 best paying jobs in 2011. Growth in the eyewear and eye care market is attributable to:

- Steady but moderate growth in 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 the population wear glasses or contacts)
- The public's enhanced awareness of the importance of good eye health

"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. Additional information on the OAT can be found at www.opted.org.

Ohio State University

The admission process at The Ohio State University College of Optometry is competitive with only 64 new students being admitted each year. The grade point average for entering optometry students is among the highest of all schools and colleges of optometry. The entering class of 2010 had a GPA of 3.56 cumulative GPA and an average total science Optometry Admission Test (OAT) score of 333. The deadline for applications (OptomCas) is March 31 for the class entering the following autumn. All application materials, including supplementary applications and letter of evaluation must be received by this deadline. Application materials become available to the preceding July and can be obtained online at www.optometry.osu.edu . Prospective students are encouraged to apply early.

When applying to OSU it is necessary to have three Letters of Recommendation, one must be from an optometrist as well as one from a professor.

"WHAT ARE THE REASONS STUDENTS CHOOSE OPTOMETRY AS A CAREER?"

- Excellent income: According to the 2011 American Optometric Association Economic Survey, the average net income for optometrists in \$129,385
- Satisfying professional career: Optometrists have the satisfaction of helping their patients care for the most highly valued sense-sight
- Highly Respected Profession: Optometrists are viewed as leaders in their community
- 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.
- 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 to put their patients and to students with information on optometry as a career

Wright State University

College of Science &
Mathematics

For additional information please
visit our website:

[http://www.wright.edu/cosm/pre
med](http://www.wright.edu/cosm/premed)

Or contact the advisor
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