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Requirements for Pre-Optometry Professionals

Choosing a Major:

- See an Advisor
- Pre-Optometry students must choose a major (pre-optometry is not a major).
- Commonly chosen majors include biology, chemistry, biomedical engineering or physics. However, **any major is acceptable**, so long as students complete the requirements.

Qualities of Professional School Applicants:

1. A high GPA in science and non-science courses – a competitive GPA is above a 3.4
2. High Scores on the OAT.
3. Active in volunteer/work experience/extracurricular events.
4. Has significant clinical experience – shadowing & volunteer work are essential!
5. Well known by professors.
6. Great letters of recommendation and evaluations.
7. Have a strong, working relationship with the Pre-Health Advising Office!

Common Pre-requisites for Admission to Optometry Schools:

Biology

BSC 1010, 1010L (General Bio I & Lab)
 BSC 1011, 1011L (General Bio II & Lab)

General Chemistry

CHM 1045, 1045L (Gen. Chem. I & Lab)
 CHM 1046, 1046L (Gen. Chem. II & Lab)

Organic Chemistry

CHM 2210, 2210L (Org. Chem. I & Lab)
 CHM 2211, 2211L (Org. Chem. II & Lab)

Physics I

PHY 2053, 2048L (Gen. Physics I w/out Calc) OR
 PHY 2048, 2048L (Gen. Physics I with Calc)

Physics II

PHY 2054, 2049L (Gen. Physics II w/out Calc) OR
 PHY 2049, 2049L (Gen. Physics II with Calc)

Mathematics

MAC 2311 (Calculus)
 STA 3111 (Statistics I)

Pre-Optometry Students Must Take:

BCH 3033, 3033L (General Biochemistry & Lab)
-OR- CHM 4304, 4304L (Biological Chemistry & Lab)
 MCB 3020, 3020L (General Microbiology & Lab)
 ZOO 3731, 3731L (Human Anatomy & Lab)
 PCB 3702 (Intermediate Human Physiology)
-OR- PBC 3073 (Human Physiology I)
 PCB 4233 (Immunology) *
 PSY 2012 (Intro. to Psychology)

* *Required by select schools.*

Requirements for optometry schools may **vary** (i.e. math courses, social sciences). Students should consult specific websites for information on requirements for desired schools.

AP Credits

- Not all optometry schools will accept AP credit for science.
- Contact the school(s) you are interested in to find out if they accept AP credits
- If a school accepts AP credits, they will usually require additional courses taken in that subject area

GPA Calculation

- OptomCAS will calculate an *Overall GPA* as well as a *Science GPA* and *Math GPA*.
- AP credits are **NOT** computed into your GPA
- Dual-enrollment and transfer courses **DO** count toward your GPA for admission.
- Repeated courses taken at the same school will be marked as repeated under special classification. The final attempt will have full credit value and will be included in the GPA calculations. All prior attempts will have a credit value of 0.0 and will not be included in the GPA, although the course and grade will be listed in the coursework.
- DR grades do not count in your GPA. However, avoid DR grades. Professional schools

Application Cycle

- The application cycle begins the 1st of July for fall enrollment the following year.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply EARLY!

Professional Experience

- Work and/or direct shadowing experience in the optometry field is strongly recommended. Suggested number of hours vary by school. Applicants should consult specific websites of the schools to which they are applying for details.
- Students must demonstrate a knowledge of their chosen profession when applying to professional school
 - **NOTE:** Many otherwise well-qualified applicants are not accepted because they lack sufficient experience and or knowledge of their chosen profession

****Academic Advising****

All lower-division, Pre-Health students must see an advisor in their Major Department in addition to an advisor in the Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising prior to registration each semester!