

Optometry Advising Sheet

Doctors of Optometry diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. Responsibilities include prescribing medication, providing vision therapy and rehabilitation after injury or worsening ailment, prescribing glasses or contact lenses, and performing surgeries. ODs follow regulations issued by state law, in order to counsel their patients in visual care or surgery in order to meet the visual needs of their life and work. An optometrist can work in private practice, group practice, or in a health care clinic or hospital. Most OD schools require a bachelor's degree, although specific admission requirements differ widely among schools.

Four years of specialized professional education and clinical training are required in order to become a doctor of optometry. Two of these years must be dedicated to the basic health and visual sciences, and the other two to diagnostic and treatment techniques. After graduation and passing of state examinations, ODs can be licensed, but must complete 50 hours of continuing education every two years in order to keep this license.

Common Pre-Optometry Prerequisite Courses

Biology	One Year of Coursework with Lab (dependent on your major)	BIOL 151 & BIOL 152
Chemistry	One Year of Coursework with Lab	CHEM 120A & CHEM 120B
Organic Chemistry	One semester with lab is required. Some schools may require one year . Contact individual schools for specific requirements.	CHEM 301A & CHEM 301B (LAB: 302)
Physics	One Year of Coursework with lab	PHYS 211 (LAB : 211L) & PHYS 212 (LAB: 212L)
Mathematics	At least one semester of Math is generally required. Some schools require calculus, while others require calculus and statistics.	#1) MATH 150A & MATH 150B (Calculus 1 & 2) #2) MATH 130 & MATH 338 (short course calc & stats) **for stats: OR stats courses offered by your department for your major
Biochemistry	One semester is strongly recommended but may be required by other Medical Schools. *A full year of Biochemistry is highly recommended for the MCAT.	Biology majors: CHEM 421 (LAB: CHEM 422) Biochem majors: CHEM 423A & CHEM 423B (LAB: 422)
Molecular Biology	One semester is recommended yet required by other schools.	BIOL 309
Anatomy/Physiology	One semester is strongly recommended yet required by other schools.	Anatomy: BIOL 361 Physiology: BIOL 310 (LAB: 310L) Integrated Anatomy & Physiology: BIOL 191A, BIOL 191B, BIOL 210
Immunology	Very few optometry schools require this course. (i.e. UC Berkeley)	BIOL 424
English	One year is required for most medical schools in the country. Please note: this can be integrated in upper-division science courses that fulfill writing requirements for major.	ENGL 101 & ENGL 301
Social Science	Many Optometry schools require at least one course in Psychology.	PSYC 101

Application Timeline

Preparing for the OptomCAS Process:

- Create your OptomCAS application account and review the OptomCAS instructions.
- Research and review the admissions requirements for each school or college of optometry to which you are interested in applying to. Please schedule an appointment with the HPAO for advisement.
- Request a personal copy of all your transcripts to have before you apply to OptomCAS.
- Contact the CSU Fullerton Health Professions Advising Office for a Chair/Committee Letter via the Intent to Apply process.
- Contact your evaluators regarding writing letters of evaluation on your behalf.

OptomCAS Application Tips:

- Use the OptomCAS Transcript Form to arrange for ALL of your official transcripts to be received by OptomCAS by the application deadline.
- Contact the CSUF Health professions Advising Office for help with the application and for letter upload.
- Contact and confirm your evaluators and complete the Letters of Evaluation section of the application.
- Designate your OAT scores when taking the exam to be reviewed by those schools and colleges for which you plan to apply.
- Compose your personal statement and contact the HPAO to have it reviewed by the Pre-health Professions Advisor.
- Review your application for accuracy as you cannot edit your application once it is submitted
- Print your completed application for your personal records.
- Once coursework is verified, review your GPA breakdown available in the status bar of your application
- As needed, submit a secondary application and fees directly to the school or college of optometry by their deadline
- Arrange for your fall transcripts to be sent to OptomCAS as soon as they are available
- Contact the CSUF Career Center and the HPAO for a mock interview to practice before interviewing with the professional Optometry schools.

Intent to Apply

The HPAO at CSUF offers this service to all Optometry applicants each cycle. This service helps the student obtain a Chair/Committee letter from the Health Professions Committee on campus and proof reads all letters of recommendation before writers upload to professional Optometry schools. The HPAO will also assist you in filling out your application. The Intent to Apply cycle always starts in February. Please contact the HPAO for more information.

Resources:

On Campus: Pre-Optometry Club, SHPA

CSUF Career Center- <http://www.fullerton.edu/career/>

Off Campus: Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry- <http://www.opted.org/>

Centralized Application Service for Schools of Optometry- <http://www.optomcas.org/>

American Optometric Association- <http://www.aoa.org/?sso=y>

California Optometric Association-

<http://www.coavision.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

American Academy of Optometry- <http://www.aaopt.org/>

National Optometric Association- <http://nationaloptometricassociation.com/>



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on campus!*

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