

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

Course	CSUF Course	Notes
Biology	BIOL 151^ & BIOL 152^	^Both courses meet GE biological sciences requirements
Chemistry	CHEM 120 A*^ & CHEM 120B	* Must take CHEM 115 or pass Chem placements exam ^ Meets GE physical science requirements
Organic Chemistry	CHEM 301A + 306A^ (lab), 301B	^CHEM 301A and 306A must be taken together
Physics	PHYS 211* + 211L^, 212 + 212L^	*MATH 115/125 and 130 prerequisites for PHYS 211 ^Physics labs must be taken with respective lecture
Mathematics	Calculus: MATH 130 OR 150A Statistics*: MATH 120 OR 338	Most major specific statistics courses will meet this requirement (ie. PUBH 349, KNES 349, SOCI 303, etc.)
Biochemistry	CHEM 421 OR 423A	Labs are not typically required. If required CHEM 422 meets lab requirements
English	ENGL 101 AND 301	One year required. Included in GE and graduation requirements

Suggested Courses

Anatomy w/lab	BIOL 361* OR BIOL 191A**^ AND 191B	Strongly recommended, required by some *BIOL 361 prerequisites: CHEM 120B, BIOL 251 **BIOL 191A prerequisites: 3.0 GPA, 30 units ^BIOL 191A and 191B are the same as KNES 191A and 191B
Physiology w/lab	BIOL 362* OR BIOL 310** and 310L OR BIOL 191A***^ AND 191B	Strongly recommended, required by some *BIOL 362 prerequisites: CHEM 120B, BIOL 251 **BIOL 310 prerequisites: BIOL 151 or 152; must be taken with 310L ***BIOL 191A prerequisites: 3.0 GPA, 30 units ^BIOL 191A and 191B are the same as KNES 191A and 191B
Microbiology	BIOL 302 AND 302L*	Strongly recommended, required by some * Prerequisites: BIOL 251 and CHEM

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 open November prior to your intended application cycle. Please contact the HPAO.

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/>

