Optometry School Preparation
at the University of Oregon

Did you know?

- Not to be confused with ophthalmologists or dispensing opticians, Doctors of Optometry (ODs) are physicians who examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the eye.
- Optometrists practice in a variety of settings including individual private practice, partnership/group practice, HMOs, retail stores, and hospitals.
- Most ODs practice primary care optometry; however, optometrists may choose to specialize. Areas of emphasis include family practice, cornea and contact lenses, geriatric care, pediatric care, occupational vision, sports vision, vision therapy and rehabilitation, ocular disease, and more.
- There are 21 optometry schools in the United States.
- Education typically takes 4 years to complete. Some optometrists also complete a residency. Tuition and expenses range from $120,000 to $240,000.

Medical School Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. You must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (shadowing, volunteer work, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, OAT scores, and a strong admissions essay.
- The Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) consists of four sections: survey of the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and organic chemistry), reading comprehension, physics, and quantitative reasoning.
- Applying to optometry school is a year-long process. Students applying in their final year at UO will have a gap year before starting optometry school. Students can work, take courses, travel, etc. during the year.

Online Resources

Health Professions Program Website  http://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  http://www.opted.org
American Optometric Association  http://www.aoa.org
Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS)  http://www.optomcas.org
Exploring Health Careers  http://explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Organizations
- Holden Center
- Service Learning Program
- Peer Health Education
- Global Education Oregon
- Career Center
- Academic departments
- Undergraduate research
- TLC study support
- HPP workshops

Advising

For more information and individualized academic planning, call or visit the Teaching and Learning Center (541-346-3226, 68 PLC) to schedule an appointment with a health professions advisor.
**Sample 4-Year Plan**

The chart below illustrates one way optometry school prerequisites can fit into a 4-year plan. Keep in mind that a good graduation plan is as unique as the student following it. Math placement, major, transfer credits, application timeline, and other factors will help shape your own decisions, and health professions advisors are here to help along the way!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>CH 221 &amp; 227 MATH 111</td>
<td>CH 222 &amp; 228 MATH 112 BI 211</td>
<td>CH 223 &amp; 229 MATH 251 BI 212</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Second Year |      |        |        |        |
| Classes     | CH 331 & 337 BI 214 | CH 335 & 338 | CH 336 MATH 243 |        |
| Experience  |      |        |        |        |

| Third Year  |      |        |        |        |
| Classes     | PHYS 201 & 204 CH 360 | PHYS 202 & 205 HPHY 211" | PHYS 203 & 206 HPHY 212" |        |
| Experience  |      |        |        |        |

| Fourth Year |      |        |        |        |
| Classes     | HPHY 321 HPHY 322 | PSY 201 or 202 | BI 330 & 331 |        |
| Experience  |      |        |        |        |

\*Prerequisites vary by school. Research specific schools that interest you to be sure you meet any additional requirements.

\*These courses are prerequisites for UO’s anatomy & physiology sequence. They are not typically prerequisites for optometry school.