

Pre-Optometry



Doctors of optometry or optometrists examine people's eyes to diagnose vision problems and eye diseases. They use instruments and observation to examine eye health and to test patient's visual acuity, depth and color perception and their ability to focus and coordinate the eyes. Optometrists prescribe eyeglasses and contact lenses and provide vision therapy and low vision rehabilitation. In addition, they can prescribe drugs to treat some eye diseases. Optometrists should not be confused with ophthalmologists, physicians who examine eyes, prescribe corrective lenses perform eye surgery and diagnose and treat eye diseases and injuries.

The Doctor of Optometry requires the completion of a four year program at an accredited optometry school preceded by at least three years of pre-optometric study at an accredited college or university. Although not required, most applicants have a baccalaureate degree. There are no optometry schools in the state of Kentucky. Kentucky students can attend optometry school on state contracts with the University of Alabama in Birmingham, the School of Optometry in Indiana or the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis.

Pre-Optometry students should take the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) in the Spring semester of the junior year or no later than the Fall semester of their senior year. As many of the minimum course requirements as possible should be completed prior to taking the test.

Southern College of Optometry

The OAT is required and the following course recommendations:

The prerequisite courses are:

- English — composition and/or literature (one year¹)
- General Psychology (one course)
- Social Science² (one year¹)
- Statistics (one course)
- Calculus (one course)
- General Biology with labs (one year¹)
- Microbiology with lab³ (one course)
- General Physics with labs (one year¹)
- General Chemistry with labs (one year¹)
- Organic Chemistry with lab (one course)
- Biochemistry⁴ (one course)

Notes:

1. One year is equal to two semesters or three quarters.
2. The Social Science requirement may be satisfied by completing courses in any of the following areas: Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, History, Economics, Anthropology, Geography, Religion or Philosophy.
3. Bacteriology with lab is the only course that can be used as a substitute for Microbiology.

Molecular Biology is the only course that can be used as a substitute for Biochemistry.

University of Alabama at Birmingham Requirements

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is given in March and October. Applicants are encouraged to take the exam during the spring of the year preceding anticipated application. If the results of the exam are considered to be unsatisfactory, the applicant then has the opportunity to repeat the exam during the summer of the application year. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to the summer term of the matriculation year. At least 90 semester hours of college credit including:

- One year of Biology with labs
- One course of Microbiology
- One course of Biochemistry
- One year of General Chemistry with labs
- One half year of Organic Chemistry with a lab
- One year of Physics with labs
- One course of Calculus
- One course of Statistics
- One year of English
- One course of Psychology *
- One year of Social and Behavioral Science**

One year is equal to two semesters or three quarters. One half year is equal to one semester or two quarters.

* A statistics course taken in a psychology department may not be counted for fulfillment of both the psychology prerequisite and the statistics prerequisite.

**Any combination of two semesters or two quarters in sociology, economics, anthropology, history, political science or additional psychology.

University of Houston Requirements

Requirements

- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution is required prior to matriculation.
- 55-60 hours of prerequisite course work must be completed prior to enrollment.
- Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) Scores.

Students may apply for admission while completing their admission requirements. Students taking pre-optometry course work at other undergraduate programs are encouraged to consult the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions to assure prerequisite course equivalence.

Biology

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|--|---|
| Biological Sciences with laboratory** | 8 |
| Advanced Biological Sciences (human related; junior or senior level) | 8 |
| Microbiology with laboratory** | 4 |

Chemistry

| | |
|---|---|
| Fundamentals of Chemistry with laboratory** | 8 |
| Organic Chemistry with laboratory** | 4 |
| Biochemistry | 3 |

Mathematics

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Elementary Functions | 3 |
| Calculus I | 3-4* |

Physics

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| General Physics with laboratory** | 8 |
|-----------------------------------|---|

Psychology

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|----------------------------|---|
| Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
|----------------------------|---|

Statistics

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|---|---|
| Statistics with application in biological and social sciences | 3 |
|---|---|

Subtotal: 55-60

Indiana University School of Optometry Requirements

The Doctor of Optometry degree is offered by the IU School of Optometry. It requires the completion of a bachelor's degree including all pre-optometry requirements and satisfactory completion of the four year professional curriculum.

| Subject Area | Credit Hours |
|--|---------------------|
| Biology/Zoology General w/lab | 4 |
| Biology/Zoology Advanced | 3 |
| Microbiology w/lab | 4 |
| Chemistry General/Inorganic w/lab | 8 |
| Chemistry Organic w/lab | 4 |
| Mathematics (must include 1 calculus course) | 4 |
| Physics General | 8 |
| Statistics (Biostatistics is acceptable) | 3 |
| Psychology - Introductory | 3 |
| English Composition | 3 |
| Additional Intensive Writing Course | 3 |
| <i>Other Recommended Elective Courses:</i> | |
| Anatomy & Physiology of the Eye | 3 |
| Small Business management | 3 |
| Explore Entrepreneurship | 3 |
| Medical Terminology | 2 |
| Histology | 4 |
| Ethics | 3 |

Division of Natural Science

Campbellsville University
1 University Drive
Campbellsville, KY 42718-2799
Phone: 270-789-5062
Fax: 270-789-5170

For more information:

**Office of Student Affairs
IU School of Optometry**
(Rms 310 & 311)
800 E. Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-3680
Phone: 812-855-1917
Fax: 812-855-4389
Email: iubopt@indiana.edu
WWW: <http://www.opt.indiana.edu/>

Southern College of Optometry
1245 Madison Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104

School of Optometry
The Medical Center
University of Alabama at Birmingham
UAB Station
Birmingham, AL 35294

**University of Houston
College of Optometry**
4913 Calhoun
Houston, TX 77004

Application Deadlines:

School of Optometry at Indiana University

Deadline is January 1 for Fall admission. There is a nonrefundable \$45.00 application fee. The OAT must be taken in October or February for Fall admission.

Southern College of Optometry

January 1
(applications will be considered after this, but they will be considered late.)

University of Alabama/ Birmingham

March 1

University of Houston

January 1