



**vision**  
for the future



## What is Optometry?

Optometry is an independent primary health care profession that encompasses the prevention and remediation of disorders of the eye and visual-system. Doctors of optometry perform comprehensive examinations of both the internal and external structures of the eye and subjective and objective tests to evaluate patient vision, analyze test findings, and diagnose, treat, and manage visual efficiency and eye health. Optometrists also work with other health professionals in co-managing the care of patients.

All optometrists provide general eye and vision care—some through general practice and others through more specialized practice such as contact lenses, geriatrics, low vision services (for visually impaired patients), occupational vision (to protect and preserve workers' vision and minimize eye strain), pediatrics, sports vision, and vision therapy.





"An optometrist meets interesting new people every day, and improves their eyes as well as their lives."

Robert D. Newcomb, OD  
OSU Class of 1971

About 75 percent of optometrists are self-employed.

American Optometric Association

## Admissions

To apply to any school or college of optometry, you must file an application through OptomCAS (Optometry Centralized Application Service [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org)) starting July 1. Once they have filed an application through OptomCAS, applicants will receive an email invitation to file the OSU Supplemental Application. All application materials must be submitted by March 31. Applications that are not complete by the March 31 deadline will not be reviewed by the Admission Committee. Candidates also must take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT), which is an assessment of your academic ability and knowledge in six sections: biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, math (quantitative), and reading comprehension. The OAT is offered throughout the year at Prometric Testing Centers. Information about the test and registration instructions and materials can be found on the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry website ([www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)), which also provides a tutorial, test preparation materials, and a sample test.

Sixty-four students are selected for each class in a highly competitive rolling admissions process. The admissions committee carefully reviews the following factors:

- Undergraduate academic performance, including prerequisite coursework
- OAT scores
- Exposure to the profession evidenced through at least 10 hours of observation with an optometrist
- Application materials, including activities, honors and personal essay
- Strength of evaluation letters

The average grade point for the 2010 entering class was 3.56 on a 4.0 scale, and the Optometry Admission Test Total Science average was 333 on a 200-400 standard scale. Although a state assisted institution, OSU Optometry gives equal consideration to Ohio resident and non-Ohio resident applicants.

## College Preparation

Contrary to popular belief, there is no one “right” major in preparation for the College of Optometry. Students often select a course of study that is somewhat related to the professional area of study such as biology, chemistry, or zoology, but there really are no limits as long as the necessary prerequisite course work is integrated into the undergraduate major.

Although the majority of optometry applicants complete an undergraduate degree and then apply for admission to the professional program, a bachelor’s degree is not required for admission to the College of Optometry.

## Pre-Optometry Requirements

	Quarter Hours	Semester Hours
English Composition	5	3-4
Mathematics		
Algebra and Trigonometry	5	3-4
Analytical Geometry & Calculus	5	3-4
Chemistry		
General, with laboratory	15	10
Organic	6-8	3-4
Biochemistry *	5	3-4
Physics, with laboratory	15	10
Biology, with laboratory	10	6-8
Microbiology, with laboratory	5	3-4
Intermediate Physiology	10	6-8
Introductory Psychology	5	3-4
Humanities	10	6-8
Social Sciences	10	6-8

*Note: The Physiology requirement must be a comprehensive, systems physiology course. At some institutions, two physiology or physiology/anatomy courses are needed to meet this requirement.*

*\* At some institutions, the prerequisite for Biochemistry is two semester/quarters of organic chemistry.*

# PREPARATION AND REQUIREMENTS



“Optometrists are quickly becoming the central cog in the eye care model and are effectively the primary care physicians of the eye.”

Ryan Subler, OD  
OSU Class of 2006

Employment of optometrists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018.

U.S. Bureau of Labor  
Statistics



# CONTACT US



## Please contact us for more information:

The Ohio State University  
College of Optometry  
338 W 10th Avenue  
Columbus OH 43210

(614) 292-2647

Toll free: (866) OPT-OHIO

(866) 678-6446

[www.optometry.osu.edu](http://www.optometry.osu.edu)

[optometry@osu.edu](mailto:optometry@osu.edu)

[www.facebook.com/OSUoptometry](http://www.facebook.com/OSUoptometry)



College of  
**OPTOMETRY**