Doctors of Optometry are primarily health care providers who diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system as regulated by state law. They may practice as independent practitioners, in a group practice, or in a health clinic or hospital.

Most students earn a Bachelors degree before enrolling in optometry school, but a degree is not required for admissions at all optometry schools. The schools that accept students after three years of undergraduate study usually offer a Bachelor of Science degree upon completion of some portion of the optometry curriculum coursework.

**Choosing an Undergraduate Major**

“Pre-optometry” is not a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. A discipline in natural science is often a popular major selected. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary.

Students applying to optometry school need to plan carefully and complete not only the optometry schools requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

**Optometry School Selection Criteria**

- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades or pre-optometry coursework grades, depending on the school.
- Your score on **admissions tests** such as the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT).
- To determine oral and written communication skills, optometry applicants are required to participate in optometry **interviews**.
- Admissions committees expect that you have **knowledge of the optometry profession** and that you know some of the issues optometrists currently face. Additionally, the admissions committee will want to know specifically why you are pursuing a career in the optometry profession.

**Recommended Websites**

- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry [www.opted.org/info_faq.cfm](http://www.opted.org/info_faq.cfm)
- Acceptance Profile Information [www.opted.org/info_profile2.cfm](http://www.opted.org/info_profile2.cfm)
- UC Berkeley Career Center [http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/PharmPrep.stm](http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/PharmPrep.stm)

**Select Optometry School Websites**

- Illinois College of Optometry [www.ico.edu](http://www.ico.edu/)
- Indiana University School of Optometry [www.opt.indiana.edu](http://www.opt.indiana.edu/)
- Michigan College of Optometry [www.ferris.edu/mco](http://www.ferris.edu/mco/)
- New England College of Optometry [www.neco.edu](http://www.neco.edu/)
- Northeastern State University [http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~optometry/index2.html](http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~optometry/index2.html)
- Nova Southeastern University [www.nova.edu](http://www.nova.edu/)
- Ohio State University [http://optometry.osu.edu](http://optometry.osu.edu/)
- Pacific University [http://opt.pacificu.edu/test/index.html](http://opt.pacificu.edu/test/index.html)
- Pennsylvania College of Optometry [www.pco.edu](http://www.pco.edu/)
- Southern California College of Optometry [www.scco.edu](http://www.scco.edu/)
- Southern College of Optometry [www.sco.edu](http://www.sco.edu/)
- State University of New York [www.sunyopt.edu](http://www.sunyopt.edu/)
- UC Berkeley - Optometry [http://spectacle.berkeley.edu/](http://spectacle.berkeley.edu/)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham [www.uab.edu/optometry](http://www.uab.edu/optometry)
- University of Missouri, St. Louis [www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/](http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/)
- University of Houston [www.opt.uh.edu](http://www.opt.uh.edu/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Citrus College Courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One year of English</td>
<td>ENGL 101 &amp; 102, 103 or 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Biology</td>
<td>BIOL 124 &amp; 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHEM 210/211 &amp; 220/221</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Physics</td>
<td>PHYS 201 &amp; 202 or 203</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Math</td>
<td>MATH 190, 191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>BIOL 220</td>
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