

Pre-optometry

Departments
and Programs
in the College
of Science

Biochemistry &
Biophysics

Biology

Botany & Plant
Pathology

Chemistry

Environmental
Sciences

Geosciences

Mathematics

Microbiology

Molecular &
Cellular Biology*

Physics

Pre-professional
Programs in the
Health Sciences

Professional
Science Masters*

Science &
Mathematics
Education*

Statistics*

Zoology

*graduate program only

... a pre-professional option within a General Science bachelor's degree. Optometry is a health care profession specifically devoted to the correction of vision deficiencies. Optometrists examine people's eyes to diagnose vision problems and eye diseases. Most optometrists are in general, private practice. Some specialize in work with the elderly, children, or partially sighted persons. Some specialize in contact lenses, sports vision, or vision therapy.

Career Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Labor expects employment for optometrists to grow faster than average for all occupations through 2014, in response to the vision care needs of a growing and aging population. In addition to growth, the need to replace optometrists who retire or leave the occupation for another reason will create employment opportunities. According to the American Optometric Association, about three-fourths of practicing optometrists are in private practice. Although many practice alone, optometrists increasingly are in a partnership or group practice, and some are in salaried positions in physician offices or optical stores.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.. *Occupational Handbook 2006-07*

Optometrists test patients' visual acuity, depth and color perception, and the ability to focus and coordinate the eyes. They prescribe eyeglasses and contact lenses, develop treatment plans and provide vision therapy and rehabilitation. They administer and prescribe drugs, provide preoperative and postoperative care and diagnose conditions due to systemic diseases.

Preparing for Optometry

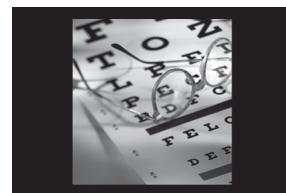
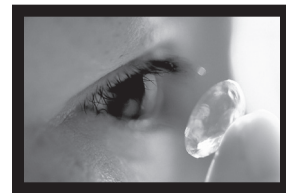
The pre-optometry program in the College of Science at OSU offers a selection of excellent courses in science and liberal arts and is designed to satisfy the entrance requirements of the 16 optometry schools in the United States. While admission to these schools is competitive, in recent years nearly all applicants who completed the OSU program have been admitted. The OSU pre-optometry program has earned an excellent reputation.

The Doctor of Optometry degree requires the completion of a 4-year program at an accredited optometry school. Applicants must take the

Optometry Admissions Test, which measures academic ability and scientific comprehension. Most applicants take the test after their sophomore or junior year.

Students interested in pre-optometry have a choice among three paths to a B.S. degree:

1. A four-year program in general science with an option in pre-optometry, leading to a B.S. degree in general science.
 2. A three-year preparation at OSU to include College of Science and baccalaureate core course requirements and transfer into the professional program at an optometry school. In this case students can obtain a B.S. degree from OSU at the end of the first year of optometry school.
 3. A four-year program at OSU and completion of a B.S. degree in one of the academic fields in the College of Science, such as biology, physics, microbiology, or any other major.
- A maximum of 48 hours of professional optometry courses can be applied as elective credit toward completion of the B.S. degree at OSU.



General Science/ Pre-optometry

Course of Study

To graduate from OSU, a student chooses one of the three paths for pre-optometry, each of which includes credits toward their major as well as 48 credits of baccalaureate core (BC) courses, consisting of writing/speech, mathematics, fitness, physical and biological sciences (27 cr.); western culture; cultural diversity; literature & arts; social processes and institutions; difference, power, and discrimination (15 cr.); contemporary global issues; and science, technology and society (6 cr.).

Sample Curriculum

An official graduation checklist may be obtained from an advisor.

Freshman Year			Sophomore Year		
		credits			credits
General Chemistry	CH 221, 222, 223	15	Organic Chemistry	CH 331, 332, 337	12
Calculus	MTH 251, 252	8	General Biology	BI 211, 212, 213	12
				PH 201, 202, 203 or 211, 212, 213	15
Computers: Applic. & Implica.	CS 101	4	General Physics	PSY 201, 202	6
BC: Writing I	WR 121	3	BC: Writing III (recommend)	WR 327	3
BC: Writing II		3			
BC: Fitness		3			
Required courses & electives		8			

Junior Year			Senior Year	
		credits		
Human Anatomy and Physiology	Z 331, 332, 333, 341, 342, 343	15	Students who undertake a four-year program should plan their senior year in consultation with the pre-optometry advisors. Courses should be selected carefully according to the major selected.	
	ST 351 or both			
Intro. to Stat. Methods	ST 201, 211	4		
Cell and Molecular Biology	BI 314	4		
History of Medicine	HSTS 417	3		
General Microbiology	MB 302, 303	5		
Required courses & electives		12-16		
Recommended:				
Biochemistry	BB 450, 451	7		
Genetics	BI 311	4		
Light, Vision, and Color	PH 332	3		

What to know about Oregon State University

Head Advisor
College of Science
128 Kidder Hall
541-737-4811

OSU Admissions
104 Kerr Administration
541-737-4411
800-291-4192

OSU Financial Aid
Student Employment
Loans & Scholarships
College Work Study
218 Kerr Administration
541-737-2241

OSU Registrar
102 Kerr Administration
541-737-4331

OSU Housing
102 Buxton Hall
541-737-4771

OSU Website
<http://oregonstate.edu>

For more information, please contact:

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Experience.
Explore.
Discover
Achieve.

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