



## Pre-Optometry Prerequisites Guide

This guide contains course prerequisites and other requirements for optometry schools. Because admissions requirements vary among programs and institutions, you should consult with optometry school websites or admission offices to ensure proper coursework and that all other requirements are met or exceeded.

### Course Prerequisites at WSU

#### Biology

- General Biology with lab
  - BIOL 106 – Introductory Biology: Organismal Biology
  - BIOL 107 – Introductory Biology: Cell Biology and Genetics

#### Anatomy and Physiology

- Human Anatomy with lab
  - BIOL 315 – Gross and Microanatomy
- Human Physiology with lab (select one course)
  - BIOL 251 – Introduction to Human Physiology
    - Introductory courses may not meet requirement for some programs, check with specific optometry programs
  - BIOL 353 – Advanced Human Physiology

#### Microbiology

- Microbiology with lab (select one or more courses)
  - MBIOS 101 - Introductory Microbiology
    - Introductory courses may not meet requirement for some programs, check with specific optometry programs
  - MBIOS 304 – Microbiology and Molecular Biology laboratory
  - MBIOS 305 – General Microbiology

#### Immunology

- Immunology (recommended; requires MBIOS 305 as prerequisite)
  - MBIOS 440 - Immunology



## Physics

- Introductory Physics with lab
  - PHYS 101 (and 111) - General Physics 1 (with lab)
  - PHYS 102 (and 112) - General Physics 2 (with lab)

## Math

- Calculus
  - MATH 171 – Calculus I
- Introductory Statistics (select one course)
  - STAT 212 – Introduction to Statistical Methods
  - PSYCH 311 - Statistics in Psychology

## Chemistry

- General Chemistry with lab
  - CHEM 105 - Principles of Chemistry I
  - CHEM 106 - Principles of Chemistry II
- Organic Chemistry
  - CHEM 345 – Organic Chemistry I
  - CHEM 348 – Organic Chemistry II
- Biochemistry (highly recommended)
  - MBIOS 303 – Introductory Biochemistry

## English

- English - Introductory Writing (select one)
  - ENGLISH 101 – College Composition
  - ENGLISH 298 – Writing and Research (Honor's students only)
- Advanced Writing (select one)
  - ENGL 301 – Writing and Rhetorical Conventions
  - ENGL 402 – Technical and Professional Writing

## Social Sciences

- Psychology
  - PSYCH 105 – Introductory Psychology
  - PSYCH 320 – Health Psychology (recommended, not required)
- Other Social Sciences (recommended, not required)
  - SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology
  - PHIL 365 – Biomedical Ethics



## Other Common Program Requirements

In addition to the prerequisite courses listed above, most optometry schools require additional requirements for applying to their programs. Most programs use holistic admissions, where more than GPA and OAT ([Optometry Admissions Test](#)) scores are used to determine admissions. It is important to check the institution's website for specifics on their program requirements and to ensure you meet or exceed these requirements.

For most optometry schools, the following requirements are used to holistically determine admissions:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree with a strong GPA (for most programs a 3.4 or higher GPA is competitive)
- Completion of prerequisite courses (usually with a C or 2.0 or higher grade)
- OAT or similar exam ([GRE](#), [DAT](#), [MCAT](#)) scores
- Observations with licensed Optometrist (40 or more hours are usually recommended but look at the requirements for each Optometry program)
- Experiences
  - Work and volunteer experiences
  - Teaching and tutoring experiences
  - Non-academic pursuits: hobbies, interests, athletics, leadership, etc.
- Letters of recommendation
  - check with each program for number of letters needed and list of acceptable letter writers
- Personal Statement
- Completion of the OptomCAS ([Optometry Centralized Application Service](#)) application
- Personal interview
  - each school will determine the format and specifications for their interview process