

Course Prerequisites for Optometry

Due to variation in each school's curriculum, the following is merely a guideline of typical requirements. To determine the exact requirements for each program, the student should work with their academic advisor to review each school to which he/she is applying.

A bachelor's degree is required by some optometry schools and preferred for all other programs. Most students major in the natural sciences in college (biology, chemistry, etc.) because the prerequisites for optometry school are science intensive. However, prospective students can major in any degree discipline as long as they complete all of the prerequisite courses for optometry.

SMSU Course Number	Pre-Requisite courses for Program	Semester Credit Hours
Biol 200	Introduction to cellular biology with lab	4
Biol 201	Introduction to Biodiversity and Evolution	4
Biol 303	Microbiology with Lab	5
Biol 305/306	Anatomy and Physiology I and II with Lab (highly recommended)	8
Chem 231/232	General Chemistry I and II with lab	10
Chem 351/352	Organic Chemistry I and II with lab	10
Chem 473	Biochemistry with lab	4
Phys 141/142	College Physics I and II	8
Math 140 or 150 and Math 200	Calculus a short course OR Calculus I and Statistics	3 or 5 3
Eng 151	Academic Writing	4
Eng 251	Writing in the Professions	3
Psych 101	General Psychology	3
Courses in Behavioral or Social sciences	Minimum of two courses from Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, economics, political science, or history	6+

Most applicants are required to take the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) to general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information and perceptual ability. The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) contains material in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics, so prospective applicants are encouraged to complete as many of the science pre-requisite courses as possible before taking the exam. Information regarding the OAT may be found at <https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>

