

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Doctors of Optometry are independent primary health care providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions.

Optometrists are primary-care providers and therefore must recognize ocular and visual signs of disease, and understand the wide range of health problems affecting a patient and refer patients to appropriate specialists. Some optometrists work in a general practice, while others work in specialties such as contact lenses, geriatrics, low vision services (for visually impaired patients), occupational vision, and vision therapy. Other optometrists may choose to enter optometric education and/or perform scientific research.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Doctors of Optometry must successfully complete a four-year accredited degree program at one of the 16 schools or colleges of optometry in the United States. Most students accepted by a school or college of optometry have completed their undergraduate degree. The requirements for admission vary, but students wishing to study optometry should take at least a year of biology or zoology, chemistry, general physics, and college mathematics. The science courses should be pre-professional level courses designed for science majors and should include laboratory experience. Each school has its own additional educational requirements.

All optometry schools and colleges also require applicants to take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT), a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The OAT includes Quantitative Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, Physics, Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry. The OAT is administered twice a year, in February and October. Students may request a free OAT information booklet and test application by contacting:

Optometry Admission Testing Program  
211 East Chicago Avenue, Ste 1846  
Chicago, IL 60611-2678  
(312) 440-2693

Potential optometry students may be evaluated on the basis of GPA, performance on the OAT, extra-curricular and community service activities, personal interview, professional potential, etc. Early application is desirable and deadlines range from October to April for the various schools and colleges of optometry. Each institution has its own guidelines; therefore, students should contact the schools or colleges of their choice to obtain a catalog and specific application procedures. Contact information can be obtained at the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website: [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org).

Optometrists must be state licensed. All states require graduation from an accredited professional optometric degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. Most states accept the results of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

**ACCREDITED OPTOMETRY SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.**

**ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

3241 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60616  
Tel: (800) 397-2424

<http://www.ico.edu>

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

School of Optometry  
800 East Atwater Avenue  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405-3680  
Tel: (812) 850-4447

<http://www.opt.indiana.edu>

**MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**

1310 Cramer Circle  
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307  
Tel: (800) 592-6499 x 3703

<http://www.ferris.edu/mco>

**PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

College of Optometry  
2043 College Way  
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116  
Tel: (800) 933-9308

<http://www.opt.pacificu.edu/test>

**NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY**

424 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115  
Tel: (800) 824-5526

<http://www.neco.edu>

**NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

College of Optometry  
1001 North Grand Avenue  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464  
Tel: (918) 456-5511 x 4000

<http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~optometry>

**NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

College of Optometry  
3200 S. University Dr.  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33328  
Tel: (800) 541-6682 x 1101

<http://optometry.nova.edu>

**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

College of Optometry  
338 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbia, Ohio 43210-1280  
Tel: (614) 292-2020

<http://optometry.osu.edu>

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT  
BIRMINGHAM**

School of Optometry/The Medical Center  
1716 University Blvd.

Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0010

Tel: (205) 934-6150

Fax: (205) 934-6758

<http://www.uab.edu/optometry>

**PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY**

8360 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania 19027-1598  
Tel: (215) 780-1400

Fax: (215) 780-1336

<http://www.pco.edu>

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY**

2575 Yorba Linda Boulevard  
Fullerton, California 92831  
Tel: (800) 829-9949

<http://www.scco.edu>

**SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

1245 Madison Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38104-2222  
Tel: (800) 238-0180

<http://www.sco.edu>

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

State College of Optometry  
33 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10036  
Tel: (800) 291-3937

<http://www.sunyopt.edu>

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY**

School of Optometry  
397 Minor Hall  
Berkeley, California 94720-2020  
Tel: (510) 642-9537

Fax: (510) 643-5109

Email: [admissions@optometry.berkeley.edu](mailto:admissions@optometry.berkeley.edu)

<http://spectacle.berkeley.edu>

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS**

School of Optometry  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4400  
Tel: (314) 516-5606

Tel: (888) EYE-UMSL (393-8675)

<http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry>

**OPTOMETRY EDUCATION IN TEXAS**

The University of Houston College of Optometry is the only optometry school in the state of Texas. Housed in one of the most modern optometric facilities in the world, the \$10 million complex, including classrooms, teaching clinics, and research laboratories, serves as the primary vision educational and research center in a seven-state area. State-of-the-art equipment provides students and faculty with the best possible methods for clinical work and laboratory instruction. Students and faculty are engaged in a variety of research projects that have a direct impact on the vision needs of the community. During their four years at the college, optometry students complete about 2,000 hours of clinical training.

The college seeks students who are academically and personally qualified to complete a rigorous academic program and acquire the broad scope of clinical skills and knowledge needed for the practice of optometry. Applications are accepted from across the country and around the world. Within the United States, over twenty states are represented with the largest number of applicants from Texas and California. Each entering class is comprised of approximately 100 students.

Undergraduate preparation for the study of optometry requires a strong foundation in science and mathematics and a background in the humanities and social sciences. Prior to admission in the college of optometry students must have a baccalaureate degree and must have satisfactorily completed 55-60 hours of prerequisite courses (listed below) with a grade of ‘C’ or better. Students may apply for admission while completing their pre-optometry course work.

For the entering class of 2006 at the UH College of Optometry, the following statistics may be helpful to better understand admissions standards.

Mean GPA	3.39
Mean GPA for Prerequisite Courses	3.36
Mean OAT “Academic Average” Score	323
Mean OAT “Total Science” Score	326
Females	76%
Males	24%
Age Range	20-48
Age Mean	23
African American	6%
Asian	41%
Hispanic	10%
White	43%
Other	3%

Students taking pre-optometry courses at a college or university other than the University of Houston should enroll in courses equivalent to those offered at UH. A listing of equivalent courses or other information may be obtained by visiting [www.opt.uh.edu](http://www.opt.uh.edu) or:

Office of Student Affairs and Admissions  
University of Houston College of Optometry  
Houston, TX 77204-6052  
Tel: (713) 743-2040  
Fax: (713) 743-2046  
Email: [OSA@optometry.uh.edu](mailto:OSA@optometry.uh.edu)

**Prerequisite Courses**  
**University of Houston College of Optometry**

A bachelor's degree is required for all entering students.  
Students should check the University of Houston College of Optometry website and/or published materials for specific information or updated requirements.

<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Sem. Hrs.</b>	<b>UT Dallas Courses</b>
College Math	3	Math 2312 or Math 2419
Calculus	4	Math 2417 or 1325
Physics I (calculus-based recommended)	3 lecture 1 lab	Phys 3341 or 2325 Phys 2125 or 1101
Physics II (calculus-based recommended)	3 lecture 1 lab	Phys 3342 or 2326 Phys 2126 or 1102
Biology/Zoology I	3 lecture 1 lab	Biol 2311 Biol 2111
Biology/Zoology II	3 lecture 1 lab	Biol 2312 Biol 2112
Microbiology/Bacteriology	3 lecture 1 lab	Biol 3V20 (lecture and lab)
Animal or Human Physiology	4 lecture/lab	Biol 4365 (still need lab unless taken 3455& 3456 @ UTD)
Human Anatomy	4 lecture/lab 4 lecture/lab	Biol 3455 (lecture and lab) Biol 3456 (lecture and lab)
General or Inorganic Chemistry I	3 lecture 1 lab	Chem 1311 Chem 1111
General or Inorganic Chemistry II	3 lecture 1 lab	Chem 1312 Chem 1112
Organic Chemistry	3 lecture 1 lab	Chem 2323 Chem 2123
Biochemistry I	3 lecture 1 lab	Biol/Chem 3361 Biol/Chem 3161
Psychology	3	Psy 2301
Statistics with Research Design	3	Stat 3332 or Psy 2317
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>55-60</b>	