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. They help people protect and improve their vision. They examine the eyes to determine the presence and adapt lenses, contact lenses, or other optical aids, and utilize vision training to preserve, restore, and improve vision efficiency.

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.

### LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS REQUIRED BY MOST U.S. OPTOMETRY SCHOOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One year of English</td>
<td>English 110 &amp; 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Biology</td>
<td>Biology 101, 102 &amp; 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry</td>
<td>Chemistry 155 &amp; 156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>Chemistry 211 with 222 (lab) &amp; 212 with 222 (lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One semester of Microbiology</td>
<td>Bio-Medical Sciences 127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Most schools require one semester of Calculus. Some schools require one year of calculus while others require statistics and calculus. Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Math requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>Please refer to IGETC Area 3B and Area 4.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Pass/No Pass.*

**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.

*Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for its specific requirements and the most up-to-date information.*
Optometry School Selection Criteria

- **GPA** is a major factor in the selection process. Both overall college grades and science grades are considered.
- Completion of **prerequisite coursework** listed in front.
- 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.

Salary Information

In 2012, the average annual wage in California was $102,330 with most people making between $51,950 and $150,320 according to (www.cacareerzone.com)

Recommended Websites

- Acceptance Profile Information: www.opted.org/info_profile2.cfm
- American Academy of Optometry: www.aaopt.org
- American Optometric Association: www.aoa.org/
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry: www.opted.org
- California Optometric Association: www.coavision.org/
- National Optometric Association: www.natoptassoc.org/
- UC Berkeley Career Center: http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/PharmPrep.stm

Select Optometry School Websites

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

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for its specific requirements and the most up-to-date information.