

# PRE-OPTOMETRY

<b>Undergraduate Credit Required</b>	90 hours or Bachelor's degree
<b>Entrance Exam</b>	OAT
<b>Professional Schooling Required</b>	3-4 years of professional school; Doctor of Optometry
<b>Local Professional Schools</b>	None in Nebraska – see opted.org
<b>Professional Websites</b>	opted.org

## **REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED UNL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Specific admission requirements vary at optometry schools. Students should consult with schools of interest directly to determine their admission requirements. A list of each school's requirements is also available at [opted.org](http://opted.org). A list of generally accepted requirements, with specific UNL courses that will fulfill the requirement, is located below.

**Math Requirement:** Some required science courses, like chemistry, require math as a prerequisite. See your pre-health advisor for math placement information.

### REQUIRED COURSES

Biological Sciences with lab – 2 courses		
LIFE 120/120L, 121/121L		
Course	Term	Grade
Physiology with lab – 1 course		
BIOS 213/213L		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS 213		
Anatomy – 1 course		
BIOS 214		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS 214		
Microbiology with lab – 1 course		
BIOS 312/314		
Course	Term	Grade
Chemistry with lab – 1 series		
CHEM 109 and 110 or 113, 114, and 221		
Course	Term	Grade
CHEM		
CHEM		
Organic Chemistry with lab – 1 or 2 courses depending on school		
CHEM 251/253 and 252/254 or 261/263 and 262/264 or CHEM 255/257		
Course	Term	Grade

Biochemistry – 1 course		
BIOC 321/321L or BIOC 431 (with 433 if lab is required)		
Course	Term	Grade
Physics with lab – 1 series		
PHYS 141 and 142 or 211/221 and 212/222		
Course	Term	Grade
PHYS		
PHYS		
Calculus – 1 course		
MATH 106		
Course	Term	Grade
MATH 106		
Statistics – 1 course		
STAT 218, EDPS 459, ECON 215, PSYC 350		
Course	Term	Grade
Psychology – 1 or 2 courses depending on school		
PSYC 181 and/or Upper-Level Psych course		
Course	Term	Grade
English Composition – 2 courses		
ENGL 101, 150, 151, 254, or 354		
Course	Term	Grade

90 Credit hour sequence Suggested Sequence of Required & Suggested Science & Math Courses	
<b>Semester 1</b> General Chemistry I with lab LIFE 120/12 Calculus	<b>Semester 2</b> General Chemistry II with lab LIFE 121/121L
<b>Semester 3</b> Organic Chemistry I with lab Physics I with lab	<b>Semester 4</b> Organic Chemistry II with lab or BIOC 321/321L Physics II with lab BIOS 213/213L
<b>**Take the OAT 12-15 months prior to entering Optometry school (contact optometry schools directly for the latest OAT accepted).</b>	
<b>Semester 5</b> Biochemistry with lab Statistics	<b>Semester 6</b> BIOS 214 Microbiology with lab

4 year sequence Suggested Sequence of Required & Suggested Science & Math Courses*	
<b>Semester 1</b> LIFE 120/120L Math (per MPE)	<b>Semester 2</b> General Chemistry I with lab Calculus
<b>Semester 3</b> General Chemistry II with lab LIFE 121/121L	<b>Semester 4</b> Organic Chemistry I with lab
<b>Semester 5</b> Organic Chemistry II with lab or BIOC 321/321L Physics I with lab	<b>Semester 6</b> BIOS 213/213L Physics II with lab Statistics
<b>**Take the OAT 12-15 months prior to entering Optometry school (contact optometry schools directly for the latest OAT accepted).</b>	
<b>Semester 7</b> Biochemistry with lab Microbiology with lab	<b>Semester 8</b> BIOS 214

\*Sequence may vary from above depending on declared major requirements

#### EXTRA CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVITIES

Pursuing optometry school requires more than just coursework. Your extracurricular activities, employment, and healthcare experiences like shadowing and volunteering will contribute greatly to your success in this field. See your pre-health advisor in the Explore Center to plan extracurricular activities that will prepare you for this program.

#### APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

- Application: Students apply through the centralized application service, OptomCAS. See [optomcas.org](http://optomcas.org) for application process information. Applications are generally accepted beginning in August or September of the academic year preceding the anticipated date of enrollment. Deadlines for applications also vary. For all specific application and admission deadlines, students must contact the school of interest directly.
- Entrance Exam: Most schools require applicants to take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT), which is a computer based exam. Some schools consider the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) an acceptable substitute for the OAT. Information about the OAT is available from the following organizations: Optometry Admission Testing Program and Association of Schools of Colleges of Optometry – both at [opted.org](http://opted.org)
- Additional admission requirements: Letters of recommendation are generally required and vary by school.

Recommended Courses for OAT
LIFE 120/120L LIFE 121/121L BIOS 213/213L CHEM 109 and 110 or 113, 114, and 221 CHEM 251/253 and 252/254 or 261/263 and 262/264 BIOC 321/321L (if didn't take the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Organic Chem class) PHYS 141 and 142 or 211/221 and 212/222
<i>For more information on the OAT exam, visit <a href="http://opted.org">opted.org</a>.</i>

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Explore Health Careers:** [explorehealthcareers.org](http://explorehealthcareers.org)