Did you know?

- Not to be confused with ophthalmologists (a physician’s specialty) or dispensing opticians, Doctors of Optometry (ODs) are primary care doctors of the eye who examine, diagnose, treat, and manage eye diseases, injuries, and disorders.

- Optometrists practice in a variety of settings including individual private practice, partnership/group practice, military, research labs, and corporations.

- While most ODs practice primary care optometry, optometrists may choose to specialize. Areas of emphasis include cornea and contact lenses, geriatric care, pediatric care, occupational vision, sports vision, vision therapy and rehabilitation, ocular disease, and more.

- There are 23 optometry schools in the United States. Education typically takes 4 years to complete. Average first-year tuition & fees range from $18,381 to $50,828 (2018).

Optometry School Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. Applicants must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (shadowing, volunteer work, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, OAT scores, and a strong admissions essay.

- The Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) consists of four sections: survey of the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and organic chemistry), reading comprehension, physics, and quantitative reasoning.

- Applying to optometry school is a year-long process. Students applying in their final year at UO will have a gap year before starting optometry school. Students can work, take courses, travel, etc. during the year.

- Be sure to research individual programs about any COVID-19 related changes (pre-requisites and OAT exceptions, Pass/Fail Policy, etc.)

Online Resources

Health Professions Program Website  healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  opted.org
American Optometric Association  aoa.org
Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS)  optomcas.org
Exploring Health Careers  explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Organizations
- Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement
- Tykeson College and Career Advising
- Duck Nest
- Global Education Oregon
- TAEC study support
- Holden Center
- HPP workshops
- University Career Center

Advising

Schedule an appointment with an HPP advisor online or call 541-346-9200
Or visit us in Tykeson Hall, 2nd floor, health@uoregon.edu
Sample 4-Year Plan
The chart below illustrates one way optometry school prerequisites can fit into a 4-year plan. Keep in mind that a good graduation plan is as unique as the student following it. Math placement, major, transfer credits, application timeline, personal/family commitments, and other factors will shape your graduation plan and timeline. Health Professions Advisors are here to help you create a graduation plan that works best for you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes    | CH 221 & 227  
            | MATH 112    | CH 222 & 228  
            | MATH 251    | CH 223 & 229  
            | HPHY 211 ii |        |
| Experience |       |        |        |        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes     | CH 331 & 337  
            | HPHY 212 ii | CH 335 & 338  
            | BI 211    | CH 336  
            | BI 212    |        |
| Experience  |         |       |        |        |        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes    | HPHY 321  
            | HPHY 322    | PSY 201 or 202  
            | MATH 243    | PHYS 203 & 206  
            | BI 214    |        |
| Experience |         |       |        |        |        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fourth Year</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes     | PHYS 201 & 204  
            | CH 360    | PHYS 202 & 205    |        | PHYS 203 & 206  
            | BI 330 & 331    |        |        |        |
| Experience  |         |       |        |        |        |

Prerequisites vary by school. Research specific schools that interest you to be sure you meet any additional requirements.

These courses are prerequisites for UO’s anatomy & physiology sequence. They are not typically prerequisites for optometry school.