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 21 optometry schools in the United States. Education typically takes 4 years to complete. Tuition totals range from $120,000 to $240,000.

Optometry School Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. You 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.

Online Resources

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

Campus Resources

- Student organizations (Asklepiads, MAPS, & others)
- Academic departments
- Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement
- Holden Center
- TLC study support
- HPP workshops
- Duck Nest
- Career Center
- Global Education Oregon

Advising

Call 541-346-3211 and ask to schedule an appointment with an HPP advisor.
Or visit us in Oregon Hall, 1st floor, health@uoregon.edu
Sample 4-Year Plan
The chart below illustrates one way optometry school prerequisites\(^1\) 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, and other factors will help shape your own decisions, and health professions advisors are here to help along the way!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Fourth Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>CH 221 &amp; 227, MATH 112</td>
<td>CH 331 &amp; 337, BI 211</td>
<td>PHYS 201 &amp; 204, CH 360</td>
<td>HPHY 321, HPHY 322</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td>CH 222 &amp; 228, MATH 251</td>
<td>CH 335 &amp; 338, BI 212</td>
<td>PHYS 202 &amp; 205, HPHY 211(^{i})</td>
<td>PSY 201 or 202, MATH 243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>CH 223 &amp; 229</td>
<td>CH 336, BI 214</td>
<td>PHYS 203 &amp; 206, HPHY 212(^{ii})</td>
<td>BI 330 &amp; 331</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
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\(^{i}\) Prerequisites vary by school. Research specific schools that interest you to be sure you meet any additional requirements.

\(^{ii}\) These courses are prerequisites for UO’s anatomy & physiology sequence. They are not typically prerequisites for optometry school.