



OPTOMETRY

Doctor of Optometry

The following requirements for the major are subject to change without notice. To assure accuracy of the information on this sheet, you should consult with the Optometry counselor, or review articulation agreements via the Internet at WWW.ASSIST.ORG You may also consult the Articulation Officer for specific articulation agreements.

CAREER

Optometrists are primary health care providers who diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. They also prescribe treatment such as corrective lenses, contact lenses or vision therapy. They may practice as independent practitioners, in a group practice, or in a health clinic or hospital. Job opportunities are expanding rapidly.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Admission is competitive. College grades and the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores are used as preliminary screening. The OAT is given in October and February and is usually taken in the fall of your junior year and is now being offered as a computerized test at Prometric Testing Centers www.2test.org. The OAT tests the following: biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, quantitative ability, physics, and reading comprehension. The test announcement describes the test, application procedures, and test dates in more detail. A copy of the announcement can be obtained from the Optometry Admission Testing Program, 211 East Chicago Ave. 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611. (800) 232-2159

Volunteer experience with an optometrist is highly recommended in preparation for optometry school. First, as a prospective optometry professional, you gain valuable insight into your decision whether optometry is the career path for you. Second, you develop the opportunity to receive a letter of support from an optometry professional, a vital element of your application. Letters of recommendation are critical to application process.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Another booklet of interest to applicants is "Optometry: A Career with Vision," giving descriptions and comparisons of individual school programs, entering class profiles, costs, etc. This booklet may be obtained, at no cost, by writing the American Optometric Association, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141.

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry <http://www.opted.org>

Information on UC Berkeley's Pre-professional preparation can be found at <http://www.assist.org>

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, FULLERTON www.scco.edu

Bachelor's degree is required from a regionally accredited university. In 2006, 96 students were admitted from 550 applications. The overall GPA was 3.3. Tuition is approximately \$25,000 per year.

Prerequisites for the Doctor of Optometry program: Anatomy 32; Physiology 31; Biology 101-102; Chemistry 1A-1B, 7A; English 1A-1B; Math 160 or 190, 150; Microbiology 33; Physics 2A-2B or 1A-1B-1C or 3A-3B; Psychology 5

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY <http://optometry.berkeley.edu>

Bachelor's degree is required. In 2006, 60 students were admitted from 200 applicants. The average GPA for course prerequisites was 3.45. Students desiring to enter the School of Optometry should arrange to take the OAT no later than October before entrance.

Required courses: Anatomy 32; Biology 101-102-1C; Chemistry 1A and 7A-7B; English 1A-1B; Math 160-161 or 190-191, 150; Microbiology 33; Psychology 5; Physics 3A-3B or 1A-1B-1C; Physiology 31; and Biochemistry (El Camino College does not offer a comparable course to Biochemistry).

Recommended course work in genetics, cell biology, physiology/aging, cell biology of eye and mechanisms of ocular disease, molecular and cell biology, integrative biology.