

Basic Pre-Optometry Timeline (Regardless of Major) *

<p><u>First Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Chemistry I – 1031/1033 • Calculus I 1041 • Analytical Reading & Writing 0802 <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Chemistry II – 1032/1034 • Biology I - 1111 • Calculus II 1042 • Mosaic I <p>Summer – Exposure to Optometry /Community Service /Research**</p>	<p><u>Second Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Chemistry I – 2201/2203 • Biology II – 2112 • Mosaic II <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Chemistry II 2202/2204 <p>Summer – Exposure to Optometry /Community Service /Research**</p>
<p><u>Third Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics I 2201 • OAT preparation <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics II 2202 • OAT Preparation <p>Summer –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take OAT Exam by May/June • Apply to Optometry School <p>Summer: Exposure to Optometry /Community Service /Research**</p>	<p><u>Fourth Year</u></p> <p>Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Biology, Statistics, Psychology or Biochemistry for non-science majors*** • Completion of requirements for major • Optometry School Interviews <p>Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Biology, Statistics, Psychology or Biochemistry for non-science majors*** • Completion of requirements for major • Optometry School Interviews • Completion of Financial Aid form (FAFSA) <p>Summer – Take a break and then prepare to begin your optometry studies!</p>

* **Chemistry and Biochemistry majors** must take Physics 2021 and 2022 in year 2, as well as Calculus I, II, and III before year 3

** **Exposure to Optometry** is an important part of your preparation/application.

***Optometry school pre-requisites may vary... **Additional Science Courses** may be required or recommended. Be sure to check institutions of interest early in the preparation process.

Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (*OPPHS*)

Pre-Optometry Advising

Advising offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (*OPPHS*) supplements the academic advising (course registration, major requirements and graduation review) provided by the advising center in the student's primary college. Students planning to apply to optometry schools must initiate a **portfolio** with the *OPPHS* as early as their freshman year.

The Pre-Optometry Timeline / Application Process

Application Timeline

Pre-optometry students should map out an individualized academic timeline based on:

- the pre-optometry course requirements for the medical schools to which they will eventually apply;
- courses required by their major; and University Gen Ed Requirements.
- Pre-requisite science courses should not be taken during summer sessions.

All Pre-Optometry students are required to:

- attend an orientation session during the Fall semester on the Temple Pre-Professional Health Evaluation Committee process as they consider or re-consider timeline possibilities.
- attend at least one workshop offered by the *OPPHS* during each semester
- schedule an advising appointment with *OPPHS* as questions arise.

Letters of Recommendation

Begin requesting letters of recommendation as you are completing classes in the sciences and have performed well in the class (A or B+). Provide your letter writers with a "Professional School Recommendation Form" available on the Health Advising web site. As you prepare to apply, an interview with a member of the Pre-Professional Health Evaluation Committee will be required before letters are released to health professional schools on your behalf.

Optometry Medical School Application Information

- **Optometry Schools**
At the schools and colleges of optometry in the United States (including Puerto Rico), there were a total of 5,595 optometry students enrolled during the 2008-2009 academic year.
- **The Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCas)**
The Optometry School Centralized Application Service begins to receive applications in mid July. Applications will take four to six weeks to be processed and sent to optometry schools.
- **GPA / Science GPA**
On a 4.0 scale, the grade point average for the 2008 entering class ranged from a high of 3.70 to a low of 3.05.
- **Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)**
The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning.

Licensing, Qualifications, and Training

All States and the District of Columbia require that optometrists be licensed. Applicants for a license must have a Doctor of Optometry degree from an accredited optometry school and must pass both a written National Board examination and a National, regional, or State clinical board examination. The written and clinical examinations of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry usually are taken during the student's academic career. Many States also require applicants to pass an examination on relevant State laws. Licenses are renewed every 1 to 3 years and, in all States, continuing education credits are needed for renewal.

Earnings

Median annual earnings of salaried optometrists were \$105,200 in May 2008.

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos073.htm>

Overview of Required Courses

- One Semester of Analytical Reading & Writing
- One year of Mosaic (Intensive Writing Course)
- One year of General Biology with Lab
- One year of General Chemistry with Lab
- One year of Organic Chemistry with Lab
- One year of Calculus
- One year of Physics (Calculus Based)
- Additional coursework in Biology or Biochemistry for non-science majors often recommended.

Office Contact Information:

Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (*OPPHS*); 1810 Liacouras Walk, Suite 100; 215 204-2513
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Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) www.opted.org

Visit the *OPPHS* website for updates on workshops and other opportunities.

www.temple.edu/healthadvising

Information on these pages was taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09*