PREPARATION FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN OPTOMETRY

Important general information
Students interested in the pre-optometry advising track must obtain a bachelor’s degree and complete the necessary prerequisites in order to apply for a Doctor of Optometry program. Those interested in pursuing optometry should consult with a pre-professional health adviser to learn about requirements that are specific to the program and/or school to which they hope to apply.

Admission to and completion of a pre-optometry program or advising track does not constitute admission to an optometry school.

If interested in preparing for an optometry program, students should declare an academic major while also declaring their pre-optometry advising track through the Office of Pre-professional Health Advising. Students do not earn a pre-optometry degree. If unsure of their academic majors initially, students should clarify their academic interests through regular conversations with their advisers. Pre-optometry students are encouraged to major in fields of greatest interest to them.

Prerequisites for an optometry program
It is recommended that students select a challenging course load of science and math courses each semester to ensure adequate preparation for the academic rigor of an optometry program.

Students need to complete their bachelor’s degrees, the required science prerequisite courses and the Optometry Admissions Test before being eligible to start an optometry program.

Science and non-science courses required for a pre-optometry doctoral program
General biology, cell biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry and physics are required science prerequisites for admission to optometry school. The science courses should be pre-professional level courses designed for science majors or health professional students and should offer laboratory experience.