



# Pre-Optometric Pre-Professional Program

Students desiring to become optometrists should recognize that no university offers a “major” in Pre-Optometry. Those desiring to obtain a major can opt for any number of choices but must include the specific pre-optometric course requirements. All courses necessary for a pre-optometry curriculum are available at UW-La Crosse.

Most schools of optometry require a minimum of 90 semester hours, with the completion of the baccalaureate degree highly recommended prior to commencing the professional program.

The general requirements, outlined by the American Optometric Association, include the following:

General Biology or Zoology	1-2 semesters
General Chemistry	1 year
General Physics	1 year
English	1-2 semesters
College Mathematics	1 year

All optometry schools and colleges require additional courses for admission. Students should become acquainted (see Pre-Optometry Advisor) with the requirements of schools of their choice and adapt their curriculum accordingly.

Described on the other side of this page are the requirements of the Illinois College of Optometry and the equivalent UW-La Crosse course numbers.

In addition to the required pre-optometric curriculum, recommended electives for ICO include: Biochemistry, Cellular Biology, Human Anatomy, Physiology, Genetics, Computer Science, Business, Economics, Sociology, Public Speaking and additional Psychology courses.

Students should also be aware that the courses taken to satisfy a pre-optometric curriculum do not constitute a major curriculum, and additional coursework will be required to satisfy their baccalaureate major and/or minor.

There are currently 12 schools of optometry in the U.S. admitting students to their programs. The schools include both private and state supported. Almost all will take out-of-state students. Private schools are more expensive than are state schools. Specific information as to schools is available from the Pre-Optometry Advisor.

Students in the pre-optometric program should consult with the Pre-Optometry Advisor early on to obtain complete information and to avoid problems.

#### Pre-Optometry Advisors:

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**Illinois College of Optometry Requirements**

**UW-La Crosse Equivalent**

	Credits		Credits
<b>One year of English Composition</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Eng 110 College Writing I</b>	<b>3</b>
		<b>Eng 303 College Writing II</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>One course in College Calculus</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Math 207 Calculus &amp; Analytic Geometry</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>One course in Statistics</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Math 145 Statistics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>One year College Biology with laboratory</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Bio 105 General Biology</b>	<b>4</b>
		<b>Bio 210 Animal Biology*</b>	<b>4*</b>
		* Bio 203 Organismal Biology (5cr.) is also equivalent, though that course should only be taken by students majoring in the Biomedical Science or Cellular and Molecular Biology Concentrations.	
<b>One course in Microbiology with laboratory</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Mic 230 Fundamentals of Microbiology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>One year of General Chemistry with laboratory</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Chm 103 General Chemistry</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>Chm 104 General Chemistry</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>One course in Organic Chemistry (laboratory not required)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Chm 300 Survey of Organic Chemistry*</b>	<b>5*</b>
		* Chm 303/304/305 Organic Chemistry Theory (8cr. total) is also equivalent, and may be advantageous for students with certain majors or planning to minor in chemistry.	
<b>One year of Physics with lab</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Phy 103 Fundamental Physics I</b>	<b>4</b>
		<b>Phy 104 Fundamental Physics II</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Psy 100 General Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Social Science</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Other Psychology or Social Science</b>	<b>3</b>