



Pre-Professional Track

A pre-professional program is a statement of intent on the student's part, not an academic major. 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-optometry course requirements. All courses necessary for a pre-optometry curriculum are available at UWL.

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

Sample Prerequisite Courses*

- ENG 110: College Writing I
- ENG 303: College Writing II
- MTH 207: Calculus
- MTH 145: Statistics
- BIO 105: General Biology
- BIO 210: Animal Biology
- MIC 230: Fundamentals of Microbiology
- CHM 103: General Chemistry
- CHM 104: General Chemistry
- CHM 300: Survey of Organic
- PHY 103: Fundamental Physics I
- PHY 104: Fundamental Physics II
- PSY 100: General Psychology

*Prerequisite courses depend on the optometry school's admission criteria.

Program Overview

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

In addition to the required pre-optometry curriculum, recommended electives include: biochemistry, cellular biology, human anatomy, physiology, genetics, computer science, business, economics, sociology, public speaking and additional psychology courses.

All optometry schools and colleges require additional courses for admission. Students should become acquainted with the requirements of schools of their choice and adapt their curriculum accordingly.

There are currently 23 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 state schools. Specific information regarding schools is available from the pre-optometry adviser.

Students in the pre-optometry program should consult with the pre-optometry adviser early on to create a strategic academic plan.

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