



# Pre-Optometry Quick Facts

## TYPICAL OPTOMETRY SCHOOL PREREQUISITES

Biology - BIOL 1107/L and BIOL 1108/L  
Chemistry - CHEM 1211/L and CHEM 1212/L  
Organic Chemistry - CHEM 2211/L  
Physics - PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212  
Calculus - MATH 2250  
Statistics - STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010  
Biochemistry - BCMB 3100  
Anatomy & Physiology - CBIO 2200 & 2210  
Psychology - PSYC 1101  
Microbiology - MIBO 2500/L or MIBO 3500\*

Schools may have additional requirements (e.g., social science credits, lab components). Always verify directly.

\*Lab may be required

Average  
Matriculant  
Numbers

Overall GPA: 3.5  
Science GPA: 3.6  
(OAT) AA/TS: 340/340

## GRADE TRENDS

- Positive improvement is valued.
- Strong science and overall GPAs are essential
- Negative grade trends are cause for concern (repeated withdrawals, poor science grades, excessive science coursework outside UGA).

Show you can handle rigorous scientific content.

## ADVISED PRE-OAT

Biology: BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L  
General Chemistry: CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L  
Organic Chemistry: CHEM 2211/L \*  
Physics: PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212  
Biochemistry: BCMB 3100  
Statistics: STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010

OAT - \$520

### Recommended Pre-OAT

Physiology: CBIO 2200 & CBIO 2210 / VPHY 3100 /  
PMCY 4020 / CBIO 3710  
Calculus: MATH 2250  
Microbiology: MIBO 2500/L or 3500/L  
Genetics: GENE 3200

\*Many optometry schools do not require the second organic chemistry

## OAT Overview

- Preferred by all programs; register via OATPIN at [ADA.org/OAT](http://ADA.org/OAT)
- Computer-based, 5 hours long
- Sections: Natural Sciences (Bio, Gen Chem, Org Chem), Reading Comprehension, Physics, Quantitative Reasoning
- Plan for 60-90 days advance registration
- Take before application cycle opens (late June); scores reported ~3-4 weeks post-test

## Preparation Tips

- Take 5-6 full-length practice exams
- Commercial courses optional but helpful
- Take pre-OAT courses when possible

### Freshman & Sophomore Year

**Build Credentials**

**Shadow, Volunteer,  
Network with  
Faculty and Students**

**Do not wait until  
junior year to begin!**

### Junior Year

**Fall:** Continue experiences, draft personal statement, study for OAT

**Dec-May:** Register OATPIN, Take OAT

**Feb-April:** Ask for Letters of Evaluation

### Summer Before Senior Year

**July:** Complete and submit OptomCAS early (rolling admissions)

**July-Aug:** Complete secondary applications

### Senior Year

**Fall:** Interview in late August through Spring  
Continue Experiences (Shadowing, Research, Volunteering, etc.)

**Spring:** Graduate!

## GENERAL INFORMATION

There is no single "best" major for pre-optometry students—choose a field you truly enjoy, as you're more likely to succeed in it. Be sure to meet with a pre-health advisor in the Pre-Professional Advising Office to create a plan that fits your goals.

### Optometry School Application Information

Applying early reduces the chances of available interview slots running out. Scholarships are awarded early in the application cycle. Submission of all materials by the end of June enhances the chance of admission for each student. Optometry schools accept students on a rolling basis. Schools continue interviews until the class is filled.

## PPAO INVOLVEMENT

- Check out our website for more Pre-Optometry information.
- Join our Pre-Optometry Listserv to stay updated about Optometry focused events.
- Check our calendar for general PPAO events.



WEBSITE



PPAO INSTA



LISTSERV

## JOIN THE PRE-OPTOMETRY CLUB



@UgaPreOptometry

## LETTERS OF EVALUATION

- Large lecture classes make it harder to connect, so be intentional in building relationships with professors.
- Attend office hours regularly
- Engage during class & labs
- Develop relationship over a period of time for a strong letter.

### Choose Letter Writers Wisely

- Pick people who know you well
- Choose strong, specific letters over generic letters
- Ask early and give plenty of notice.

LOE Sources	Additional Notes
Science Faculty	Biology, Chemistry, etc. – often required. Lecture, not lab.
Research Mentor	Great addition, but <u>may not</u> count as a science faculty letter.
Optometrist	Often Required
Non-Science Faculty	Optional for most, but shows well-roundedness
Other Strong Options	Volunteer coordinators, employers, etc.

Check the requirements of each school you plan to apply to. If no guidelines are given, generally aim for two hard science faculty letters, one optometrist letter, and one additional professional letter. Some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and class instruction. Don't be afraid to reach out to your target schools for clarification!