

Optometry School Requirements

This is an overview and should in NO WAY substitute for personally reviewing the requirements of each school

Courses At Hunter	State University of New York State College of Optometry	The New England College of Optometry, MA	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
BIOL 100	X	X	X
BIOL 102	X	X	X
BIOL 120 (A&P I)	RECOMMENDED		RECOMMENDED
BIOL 122 (A & P II)	RECOMMENDED		RECOMMENDED
BIOL 300 (BioChem)	RECOMMENDED	X	RECOMMENDED
BIOL 230 (Microbiology) ¹	RECOMMENDED	X	X
STAT 213	X	X	X ²
MATH 150	X	X	X
MATH 155			
CHEM 102	X	X	X
CHEM 104	X	X	X
CHEM 106	X	X	X
CHEM 222	X	X	X
CHEM 223	X	X	X
CHEM 224	X	X	X
CHEM 225	X	X	X
PHYS 110	X	X	X
PHYS 120	X	X	X

¹Students following the pre-health professions track may take BIOL 303 (Cell Bio 1) in lieu of BIOL 230 (Microbiology). For more details please see an advisor in the Biology department or the Pre-Health Professions office.

²Salus University will accept statistics taken through a math, psychology, or biology department.

All of the schools mentioned above require applicants to complete the Optometry Admissions test (OAT).

Each school encourages advanced science courses such as Genetics, Histology, and Cell Biology. Each school also has additional requirements in the social sciences, humanities, math, and writing. This document is only intended to be an overview of the science pre-requisites. For all non-science course requirements, please visit each Optometry School's website:

State University of New York State College of Optometry:

https://www.sunyopt.edu/education/admissions/od_program/prerequisite-courses

The New England College of Optometry: <http://www.neco.edu/admissions/requirements>

Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University: [http://www.salus.edu/Colleges/Optometry-\(1\)/Doctor-of-Optometry-%E2%80%93-Traditional-Program/Application-Process/Application-Criteria-Prerequisites.aspx](http://www.salus.edu/Colleges/Optometry-(1)/Doctor-of-Optometry-%E2%80%93-Traditional-Program/Application-Process/Application-Criteria-Prerequisites.aspx)

There are 20 schools and colleges of optometry - 19 are in the continental United States, and one is in Puerto Rico. Most of these schools accept between 70-100 students a year.

Optometry school admissions committees prefer when courses that are taken at 4-year institutions with rigorous science programs. Students who have taken more upper level science courses are generally the preferred applicants. While, optometry schools accept credits from community colleges, if students take their pre-optometry courses at community colleges, optometry schools recommend that students take upper level science courses at 4-year institutions. Optometry schools require that the science courses be taken in a traditional in-class format with lab. Being well rounded in the social sciences and the humanities can also be important for admission to optometry schools. Students might consider biology as a major, with a minor in a social science or humanities area.

While many optometry programs will consider applicants who have completed 90 undergraduate credits, the more coursework a candidate has completed the stronger their application. Completion of a bachelor's degree is highly recommended. Students should strive to have at least a 3.3 science and mathematics GPA. This is also the minimum GPA required to receive a Committee Letter from the Hunter College Pre-Health Advisory Committee.

While not listed as a requirement, pre-optometry students are strongly encouraged to obtain at least 100 hours of experience in optometry. This can include shadowing an optometrist or working as a medical assistant in an optometrist's office. A letter of recommendation from an optometrist can be an important part of your application and this experience shows admissions committees that an applicant understands the true nature of the profession.

Research experience also makes for a good optometry school applicant. Faculty in the Biology and Chemistry departments at Hunter may be able to provide students with research experience in their laboratories so prospective applicants should seek out opportunities to work as research assistants, particularly in these departments.

If you are planning on applying to Optometry School, you will need to have a Committee letter submitted on your behalf. You should open a file with the Pre-Health Professions Office and start collecting evaluations and recommendations from the appropriate faculty, instructional staff, and supervisors. You can do this by going to: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/prehealth/links-resources>. To learn more about committee letters and your Pre-Health file, please see the guides on the Pre-Health Website at www.hunter.cuny.edu/prehealth .

Helpful Websites:

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
www.opted.org

Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS)
optomcas.org