

HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRELAW CENTER

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2017-2018

PREOPTOMETRY REQUIREMENTS

Indiana University Optometry offers a Doctor of Optometry degree (O.D.). There is no preference for a particular undergraduate major; however most candidates have a science background. Most admitted students have obtained a bachelor's degree. Applicants must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours prior to the time they begin their professional studies, **including** the following courses.¹

COURSES	SEMESTER HOURS
CHEMISTRY	
CHEM-C 117 and 127	5
CHEM-C 118 or CHEM-N 330	5
CHEM-C 341 ²	3
BIOCHEMISTRY	
CHEM-C 383 or 483 or 484 ³	3
BIOLOGY	
BIOL-L 112	3
BIOL-L 113	3
BIOL-M 250 and 315 or 380 and 315	3,2
Advanced (animal or developmental) biology ⁴	3 – 5
MATHEMATICS	
Any course or courses fulfilling Math Modeling requirements ⁵	3
PHYSICS	
PHYS-P 201 ⁶	5
PHYS-P 202 ⁶	5
ENGLISH	
ENG-W 131 ⁷ and Intensive Writing	3, 3
PSYCHOLOGY	
PSY-P 101 or 155	3 - 4
STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES	
STAT-S 303 or 300 or alternative statistics course ⁸	3

¹ A 'C' is the lowest acceptable grade in any of these courses.

² Completion of CHEM-C 342 is also highly recommended.

³ CHEM-C 383 is a course intended for non-chemistry majors and has a prerequisite of CHEM-C 341. CHEM-C 483 is a course intended for non-biochemistry majors and has a prerequisite of CHEM-C 342 or CHEM-R 340. CHEM-C 484 is a course intended for biochemistry majors and has a prerequisite of CHEM-C 342.

⁴ Recommended courses: ANAT-A 215 or PHSL-P 215.

⁵ Any math course(s) that fulfill(s) the Math Modeling requirement for IUB's General Education Program will be accepted; see <http://gened.iub.edu/courses/mathmodelingcourses.html>.

⁶ PHYS-P 221 and 222 will also be accepted.

⁷ A minimum SAT Verbal score of 670 or ACT English score of 32 will exempt the student (without credit) from the composition requirement. The applicant will still need to complete the requirement for an Intensive Writing course.

⁸ PSY-K 300 or SPEA-K 300 or MATH-K 310 or PSY-K 310.

Early Admission Option

If desiring to apply without a bachelors degree, a minimum total of 90 semester hours is required. The 90 hours must include our optometry prerequisites, two Arts & Humanities courses, and two Social & Historical courses. Students who have completed two or more years of a single foreign language in high school with an average grade of **C** or above are exempt from a foreign language requirement. One must have a minimum cumulative **GPA of 3.6** and for the Optometry Admission Test (OAT), a score of **320** on both Quantitative Reasoning and Total Science with no other category below **300**.

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES FOR IU'S O.D. PROGRAM

- Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye: TOPT-V 201
- The Miracle of Sight: From Light to Perception, An Exploration of Vision and Visual Illusions: VSCI-V 250
- Medical Terminology: CLAS-C 209
- Histology (Human Tissue Biology): ANAT-A 464 (intended for junior and senior science majors)
- Intro to Ethics: PHIL-P 140
- Independent Research: BIOL-L 490
- Business: Business Administration: Intro, BUS-X 100, or Small Business Management, BUS-W 300 (P: BUS-A 200 or equivalent)

While every effort is made to provide accurate information in this advising document, you are responsible for consulting information available on the Indiana University School of Optometry website at <http://www.optometry.iu.edu/admissions/apply/index.shtml>.

Please consult the requirements for other schools at the website of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry at <http://www.opted.org/>.

Please note: Students should be aware that some health professions programs will not accept Advanced Placement credit or credit-by-examination towards meeting admission requirements, or accept such credit only under restricted circumstances. Students should also be aware that receiving an exemption from a degree requirement is not generally considered equivalent to Advanced Placement credit, credit-by-examination, or credit from coursework.

PREPARING FOR ADMISSION

1. Read about preparing for a career in optometry on the HPPLC website at www.hpplc.indiana.edu.
2. Select a major which you enjoy, in which you will do well, and which allows you wide latitude in choosing an alternate career.
3. Make an appointment with a representative from the School of Optometry Office of Student Administration (email iubopt@indiana.edu or call 812-855-1917), early in your undergraduate career. It is vital that you also review the School of Optometry website at <http://www.optometry.iu.edu/index.shtml>.
4. Review admission requirements for other schools in which you might be interested. Information may be found at the following website: <http://www.opted.org/about-optometric-education/professional-o-d-programs/applicants-and-advisors/student-profile-prerequisites>.
5. Shadow optometrists or volunteer in clinics or private practice.
6. Learn about the profession. Consult the American Optometric Association website at <http://www.aoa.org/>.
7. Attend the annual HPPLC-sponsored Health Programs Fair to meet with representatives of optometry schools and learn about a variety of health professions.

ADMISSION PROCESS

1. The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is taken by computer at testing centers. Information about the test and the subjects covered on it is available at <https://www.ada.org/oat/>. You should begin to review the test content in the year prior to the test. For the IU School of Optometry you should plan to provide scores no later than November 30th of the year in which you are applying.
2. Submit your application early for the IU School of Optometry program. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2018. Applicants submit applications to the IU School of Optometry and other optometry schools through the OPTOMCAS centralized application service at www.optomcas.org. The OPTOMCAS application for fall 2018 enrollment will open on June 28, 2017. IU's program has a rolling admission process, so it is beneficial to submit your application early.
3. Applicants submit recommendation letters to optometry schools via OPTOMCAS.
4. Learn about the profession. Discuss opportunities and future trends with optometrists and optometry students. Participate in the Pre-Optometry Club. Meetings are held monthly. For more information call the IU School of Optometry, Office of Student Administration, at 855-1917 or e-mail jboes@indiana.edu.

FACTORS IN ADMISSION INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

The ideal candidates for the Doctor of Optometry degree should have demonstrated high scholastic ability, leadership, and a record of community and volunteer service. Applicants are judged on scholastic ability (demonstrated by college grades, admission and aptitude test scores). Written and oral communication skills are extremely important. The applicants' personal characteristics are evaluated through character references, interviews, amount and kind of extracurricular and leadership activities, work experience, and the narrative explaining why they chose optometry as a career.⁹

1. Grade point average: the mean for the 2017 entering class is 3.64.
2. Mean Optometry Admission Test Scores for the 2017 entering class at the IU School of Optometry are:

Biology	324		Reading	344
Physics	301		Quantitative	326
Chemistry	331		Academic Average	322
Organic	314		Total Science	316

3. Recommendations: Three letters of recommendation are required. At least one should be from a science professor.
4. Other factors considered are extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, work experience, and exposure to the profession.
5. Criteria for admission differ from school to school. Consult the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry website at <http://www.opted.org/about-optometric-education/professional-o-d-programs/applicants-and-advisors/student-profile-prerequisites>.

CLASS SELECTION

The regular application period for students entering with or without a bachelor's degree begins on July 1 and ends on February 1. Interviewing begins in mid-September and continues through April. A rolling admissions process is used, and the selection process is usually complete by the end of May. A new class begins each fall.

WHAT CAN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRELAW CENTER DO TO HELP?

The Health Professions and Prelaw Center encourages students to be thoughtful, well-prepared applicants. It is wise to compare professions and job style, your personal and your academic strengths and the factors considered in admissions decisions. Consult the HPPLC website for information and notices about upcoming meetings, campus visits by admission representatives, and other items of interest.

⁹ From Indiana University School of Optometry *Bulletin 2009-2011*, p. 4.

Note: This document has been prepared for Indiana University Bloomington students by the Health Professions and Prelaw Center. Please note that specific requirements and policies can change at any time without notice. Students are responsible for obtaining the most current information directly from the application services, and the school(s) and program(s) in which they have an interest.