

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRELAW CENTER

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## PREOPTOMETRY REQUIREMENTS

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.opt.indiana.edu/programs/od/>.

Indiana University Optometry offers a Doctor of Optometry degree (O.D.). A bachelor's degree is not required for admission to the IU School of Optometry, but one is strongly recommended. There is no preference for a particular undergraduate major. Applicants must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours prior to the time they begin their professional studies, **including** the following courses.<sup>1</sup>

COURSES	SEMESTER HOURS
<b>CHEMISTRY</b>	
CHEM-C 117	5
CHEM-C 341 and 343 or CHEM-C 341 and 342	3,2 or 3,3
CHEM-N 330 <sup>2</sup>	5
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	
BIOL-L 112	3
BIOL-L 113	3
BIOL-M 250 and 255	3,2
Advanced (animal or developmental) biology <sup>3</sup>	3 – 5
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	
MATH-M 211 or MATH-M 119 and 120	4 – 6
<b>PHYSICS</b>	
PHYS-P 201 <sup>4</sup>	5
PHYS-P 202 <sup>4</sup>	5
<b>ENGLISH</b>	
ENG-W 131 <sup>5</sup> and Intensive Writing <sup>6</sup>	3, 3
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE<sup>7</sup></b>	6 – 8
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	
PSY-P 101 <i>or</i> 106	3 - 4
<b>STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES</b>	
STAT-S 300 or alternative statistics course <sup>8</sup>	3
<b>ARTS AND HUMANITIES<sup>6</sup></b>	6
<b>SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES<sup>6</sup></b>	6
<b>ELECTIVES to total 90 credit hours</b>	12 - 20

<sup>1</sup> A 'C' is the lowest acceptable grade in any of these courses.

<sup>2</sup> In order to obtain the best preparation to meet admission criteria for all optometry schools, students should complete the sequence of courses for chemistry majors through CHEM-N 330, including CHEM-C 341, 342, and 343. Students should complete CHEM-C 342 and 343 before CHEM-N 330. In some cases the Indiana University School of Optometry will accept CHEM-C 118 in place of CHEM-N 330. However, based upon recommendations of the IUB Department of Chemistry, the IU School of Optometry and HPPLC strongly recommend all preoptometry students complete CHEM-N 330 rather than CHEM-C 118 to meet the general/inorganic requirements for admission to optometry schools.

<sup>3</sup> Recommended courses: ANAT-A 215 or PHSL-P 215 or BIOL-M 350.

<sup>4</sup> See an advisor for appropriate alternatives.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Students should select either an Arts and Humanities (A&H) or a Social and Historical (S&H) course to fulfill the Intensive Writing requirement.

<sup>7</sup> 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 this requirement. Students entering with a bachelor's degree are also exempt from this requirement; however, most IU Bloomington students entering the Indiana University School of Optometry have completed an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Sciences. The College requires completion of three or four semesters of foreign language, depending on the degree.

<sup>8</sup> PSY-K 300 or SPEA-K 300 or MATH-K 310 or PSY-K 310.

## RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES FOR IU'S O.D. PROGRAM

- Business: Business Administration: Intro, BUS-X 100, or Small Business Management, BUS-W 300 (P: BUS-A 200 or equivalent)
- 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

Please consult the requirements for other optometry schools available through the website of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry at <http://www.opted.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3343>.

**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](http://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, Room 310, (812) 855-1917, early in your undergraduate career. It is vital that you also review the School of Optometry website at <http://www.opt.indiana.edu/admis/index.htm>.
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/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3343>.
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. Open a recommendation file in the Health Professions and Prelaw Center by your sophomore year. Consider that different schools may have different recommendation requirements.
2. 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 <http://www.opted.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3444>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> of the year in which you are applying.
3. Submit your application early for the IU School of Optometry program, as early as July 15 but **no later than February 1**. As of July 2009 applicants will submit applications to the IU School of Optometry and other optometry schools through the OPTOMCAS centralized application service at [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org). IU's program has a rolling admission process, so it is beneficial to submit your application early.
4. The School of Optometry has an "Early Decision" plan for talented students. Contact the Office of Student Administration at 855-1917 for details. See their website at <http://www.opt.indiana.edu/programs/od/approces.htm>.
5. Prepare for your interview. **Know** 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, e-mail IUOPT@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.<sup>9</sup>

1. Grade point average: the mean for the 2008 entering class was 3.49.
2. Mean Optometry Admission Test Scores for the 2008 entering class at the IU School of Optometry were:

Biology	330		Reading	330
Physics	320		Quantitative	340
Chemistry	320		Academic Average	330
Organic	340		Total Science	330

3. Admissions interview: The interview provides the interviewer the opportunity to learn about you – your personal and academic attainments, your communication skills, and empathy for people, as well as your knowledge of the profession.
4. Recommendations: Three letters of recommendation are required. Preferably, two should be from faculty who know you well and one is required from an optometrist.
5. Other factors considered are extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, work experience, and exposure to the profession.
6. Criteria for admission differ from school to school. Consult *Schools and Colleges of Optometry: Admission Requirements* available at <http://www.opted.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3446>.

### CLASS SELECTION

The regular application period for students entering with or without a bachelor's degree begins on July 15 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 as they relate to different professions, and the factors considered in admissions decisions. These vary from school to school and profession to profession. Advisors at HPPLC specialize in helping students construct a thoughtful plan of action.

We encourage you to use e-mail to ask questions, check your recommendation files, and to communicate with our preoptometry advisors. Send e-mail to an individual preoptometry advisor or to [hpplc@indiana.edu](mailto:hpplc@indiana.edu). Please check the HPPLC website for notices about upcoming meetings, campus visits by admission representatives, and other items of interest.

<sup>9</sup> From Indiana University School of Optometry *Bulletin 2007-2009*, 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.