

PRE-OPTOMETRY

Optometry is a healthcare profession that is autonomous, educated, and regulated (licensed/registered); and optometrists are the primary healthcare practitioners of the eye and visual system who provide comprehensive eye and vision care, which includes refraction and dispensing, detection/diagnosis and management of disease in the eye, and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system.

REQUIRED PRE-REQUISITE UNIVERSITY COURSES

Waterloo's School of Optometry and Vision Science offers an accredited, professional, four-year **Doctor of Optometry (OD)** degree. The University of Waterloo is the only provider of English language instruction of optometry in Canada (the only French-language school is the École d'Optométrie at the Université de Montréal). Qualifying studies, consisting of at least 90 credit hours (or three-years) of university courses, may be completed at the University of Regina.

CREDIT HOURS	REQUIRED COURSES
6.0	BIOL 100 and 101
3.0	BIOL 224, 303, or BIOL 310
3.0	BIOC 220
9.0	CHEM 104*, 105, and 140
3.0	ENGL 100
9.0	KIN 260, 267, and 268 or
3.0	MATH 110**
3.0	PHIL 270, 272, 273, 276, or 277
6.0	PHYS 109 and 119 or PHYS 111 and 112
3.0	PSYC 101 or 102
3.0	STAT 100 or 160
39.0	13 Open Electives and/or Prep Degree Courses
90.0	TOTAL

*CHEM 104 requires CHEM 30 (at least 65%) or CHEM 100 (minimum 65%) AND PRE-CALC 30 (minimum 65%) or MATH 102.

**MATH 110 requires PRE-CALC 30 (minimum 65%) or MATH 102.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of 90 credit hours of required pre-optometry courses. It is required that these courses are completed through the Faculty of Science, though there is no specific major within Science that is required. Students should also be taking a full course load (5-classes) per semester to meet admission requirements.
2. A minimum average of 75% of all courses taken to be considered for admission. The average is not limited to the pre-requisite courses.

OPTOMETRY ADMISSIONS TEST (OAT)

All students looking for entry into the OD program must complete the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT). The OAT is a standardized test administered by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for all of North America; not the University of Waterloo. The test consists of four parts: a survey of natural sciences, reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, and physics. Once students complete their first-year organic chemistry course, they are ready to write the OAT. The test can be written as many times as a student would like, as only the highest score from all attempts is accepted. The average OAT score is 370.

CASPer TEST

CASPer is an online situational judgement test used by the College of Medicine to assist in the assessment of applicants for non-academic attributes or people skills. The CASPer test is comprised on 12 sections of video and written scenarios.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Confidential Assessment Forms (References)
2. Job Shadowing, Working, or Volunteering with an Optometrist (8-hours is required)
3. Meet & Greet

MISSING YOUR CHEM 30?

Students who are missing this requirement can either upgrade their CHEM 30 at the Allan Blakeney Adult Campus, SaskPolytechnic, or take CHEM 100 at the U of R prior to starting in CHEM 104.

MISSING YOUR PRE-CALC 30?

Students who are missing this requirement can either upgrade their PRE-CALC 30 at the Allan Blakeney Adult Campus, SaskPolytechnic, or take MATH 102 at the U of R prior to starting in MATH 110.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION STATISTICS

The Admissions Committee uses the following criteria in determining an applicant's academic and personal qualifications for admission:

Academic Requirements:

- Undergraduate Academic Record
- OAT Scores

Non-Academic Requirements:

- CASPer
- Meet & Greet
- Optometry Related Experience
- Confidential Assessment Forms

Due to the large number of qualified applicants, most applicants who are offered admission have averages over 80%.



90 SEATS AVAILABLE FOR ADMISSION

Number of Applicants for Fall 2020 - 245



2019-20 OPTOMETRY ADMISSION STATS

Admission Average: 80-95%
Average OAT Score: 380

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCING

YEAR 1

Listed below is the recommended course sequence for the requirements of the Pre-Optometry program. This sequence must be followed in order to complete the required courses in three years.

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
BIOL 100* CHEM 104 ENGL 100 MATH 110 Prep Degree	BIOL 101** CHEM 105** CHEM 140 Prep Degree Prep Degree (PHIL 100 Recommended)

*BIOL 100 is a Fall and Spring/Summer course

**BIOL 101 and CHEM 105 are usually Winter only courses

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
BIOC 220*** KIN 260 STAT 100 or 160 PSYC 101 or 102 PHYS 109 or 111	PHIL 270, 272, 273, 276, 277 BIOL 310 or Prep Degree KIN 267 Prep Degree PHYS 119 or 112	BIOL 224 KIN 268 Prep Degree Prep Degree Pre Degree	Prep Degree Prep Degree Prep Degree Prep Degree Prep Degree

***BIOC 220 is a fall only course

Prep Degree Definition: Professional Programs expect that while completing admission requirements, students are working towards an undergraduate degree program. This is what we call a prep degree! Question to ask yourself - what is your plan B? Choose something you like and that you are good at! For more information on how to align your goals and your interests, please connect with an academic advisor.

Note: Course requirements are based solely on the University of Waterloo's Doctor of Optometry requirements, and are subject to change.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT US!



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