

PRE-OPTOMETRY

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Optometrists are the major providers of vision care. They are concerned with eye health, general health problems that affect the eyes, how well a person sees, how the eyes work together - color vision, depth perception, and visual performance. Optometrists are primary health professionals.

Optometry programs require that applicants complete a specific set of prerequisite courses prior to enrollment. PSU does not offer an optometry program. Some optometry programs may not require the applicant to earn a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculating, however, most students accepted by a school or college of optometry have completed an undergraduate degree. Regardless, it is strongly recommended that students complete a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculating to optometry school. **Portland State offers a strong pre-optometry program** whereby students complete their prerequisite coursework, earn a baccalaureate degree, and obtain assistance with the optometry school preparation, selection, and application process. Pacific University's College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon, to complete the professional phase. For a listing of all optometry schools, please visit the web site for the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) at www.opted.org.

Pacific University Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
Biological Sciences – minimum 18 quarter credits (12 semester credits)	
Must include the following complete courses with labs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbiology • Complete human or vertebrate anatomy • Complete human or vertebrate physiology Note: Sequential courses combining human anatomy and physiological are acceptable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 234, 235 (6) – Elementary Microbiology & Lab • BI 301, 302, 303 (12) - Human Anatomy & Physiology (BI 301-303 has a recommended prerequisite of one year of college biological science and a previous course in chemistry. The recommended biology sequence is Principles of Biology – BI 251, 252, & 253) Note: Science courses must be those for pre-professional or science majors & include a lab
Chemistry – minimum 18 quarter credits (12 semester credits)	
One-year general chemistry course One-year organic chemistry or a survey of organic chemistry course with lab A course in Biochemistry is strongly recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 221, 222, 223 (12) - General Chemistry & CH 227, 228, 229 (3) - General Chemistry Lab (MTH 111 is the recommended prerequisite) • CH 334, 335, 336 (12) - Organic Chemistry with Lab CH 338, 339 (4)- (CH 221-223 with lab is the recommended prerequisite) • Recommended - CH 350 (4) - Biochemistry (CH 223 & 332 or 336 are the recommended prerequisites) *Please note that students may take the 2 term Elements of Organic Chemistry + Biochemistry, keep in mind that the Elements of Organic Chemistry is only offered during the summer.
General Physics – minimum 12 quarter credits (8 semester credits)	
One year. These courses need not be calculus based.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH 201, 202, 203 (12) - General Physics & PH 214, 215, 216 (3) - General Physics Lab (MTH 112 is the recommended prerequisite)
Statistics – minimum 4.5 quarter credits (3 semester credits)	
From one of the following departments: psychology, sociology, statistics, or math.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAT 243 (4) & 244 (4) - Introduction to Probability & Statistics I & II (MTH 95 or 2nd year high school algebra is the recommended prerequisite) * non-business version of statistics is preferred

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Pacific University Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
Math – minimum 4.5 quarter credits (3 semester credits)	
A course in either analytical geometry or calculus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTH 251 (4) & 252 (4) - Calculus I & II (MTH 112 is the recommended prerequisite for 251)
English – minimum 12 quarter credits (8 semester credits)	
Must include two courses in writing composition (expository, technical and scientific writing courses are strongly recommended). Speech and communication courses will not meet this requirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English or Writing. Recommended: WR 121, 222, 227, & 323 • Note: Pacific may accept University Studies courses to satisfy this requirement – submit course descriptions to Pacific for review.
Psychology – minimum 4.5 quarter credits (3 semester credits)	
General psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 200 (4) - Psychology as a Natural Science OR • PSY 204 (4) - Psychology as a Social Science Psychology elective to reach minimum 4.5 credits

Completion of the preparatory courses does not guarantee acceptance into the Optometry program. Admission is limited and competitive. Most professional programs require that an **A, B, or C** be earned in all required preparatory courses, and most students accepted by professional schools have an average overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Additional Pacific University – College of Optometry Admissions Requirements:

- The Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) is required. The OAT is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability & comprehension of scientific information. The OAT exam is computerized. See www.opted.org for details and registration information.
- Applicants are required to have a minimum of 30 hours of unpaid observation with an optometrist **prior to application**. Pacific University encourages the observation be completed within a diversity of optometry settings.
- Student must have a bachelor's degree at time of entrance in professional program or complete bachelor degree requirements for PSU or Pacific University by end of the second year of the professional program. Please contact the adviser for more information on the Bachelor's Degree Option through Pacific University.
- Minimum number of credits in preparatory phase – 135

Pacific University – College of Optometry Application Information:

- Application period begins August 1st
- **Preferred application deadline (postmarked): January 9th**
- Application deadline (postmarked): March 13th
- Admissions decisions: November – April
- Pacific University's Admissions Committee strongly encourages applicants to take the OAT early and apply by the preferred application deadline of January. Well qualified applicants who apply early are more likely to gain admission to Pacific University College of Optometry. **The OAT must be taken by March 1st to be accepted for the Fall entry.**
- Enrollment in the professional program is limited to 90 students per class.
- The best way to ensure that Pacific will accept your courses is to complete a prerequisite worksheet (available at <http://www.pacificu.edu/admissions/grad/optometry/prereq.cfm>) and submit it to Pacific, along with a copy of your transcripts and course descriptions.

Tips & Recommendations:

- We encourage you to get in contact with the Optometry school you will be applying to as early as possible. **CONTACT SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1 FOR FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION.**
- **Periodically** and before the beginning of your last year at PSU, **check with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements, and application procedures.
- Personally read the information/admission brochure of each of the professional programs to which you plan to apply.

Pacific University College of Optometry Admissions Contact Information:

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