

# UCO PRE-OPTOMETRY ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2019-2020

## Northeastern State University College of Optometry

University of Central Oklahoma  
Health Professions Advisor  
Department of Biology  
200 Howell Hall  
(405) 974-5733

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This four-year program does not require a specific undergraduate degree, but students must complete the prerequisites and have at least 90 credit hours. Strong preference is given to students who will have completed a bachelor's degree prior to entrance to the program. The applicant must submit transcripts showing a cumulative GPA of at least 2.7 on a 4.0 scale. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a 'C' or better. Admissions to the program are competitive, as only 28 students are selected for each class.

If you have any questions regarding prerequisites, please meet with an academic advisor in the Nigh Advisement Center. If you have specific requests regarding biology prerequisites being waived, please contact the Biology Department Chair.

### UCO Courses that Meet Required Courses for OCU (check all course prerequisites):

|           |                                                                                             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENG 1113  | English Composition                                                                         |
| ENG 1213  | English Composition & Research                                                              |
| PSY 1103  | General Psychology                                                                          |
| STAT 2103 | Intro Stats for Sciences                                                                    |
| MATH 2153 | Bio-Calculus <b>OR</b> MATH 2313 Calculus                                                   |
| CHEM 1103 | General Chemistry I. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 1112 is required.                        |
| CHEM 1112 | General Chemistry I Recitation/ Laboratory                                                  |
| CHEM 1223 | General Chemistry II. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 1232 is required.                       |
| CHEM 1232 | General Chemistry II Recitation/ Laboratory                                                 |
| CHEM 3303 | Organic Chemistry I.                                                                        |
| CHEM 3312 | Organic Chemistry I Lab                                                                     |
| CHEM 3403 | Biochemistry                                                                                |
| PHY 1114  | General Physics I & Lab                                                                     |
| PHY 1114L | General Physics I Lab                                                                       |
| PHY 1214  | General Physics II & Lab                                                                    |
| PHY 1214L | General Physics II Lab                                                                      |
| BIO 1225  | Biology for Majors: Diversity & Lab                                                         |
| BIO 2314  | Intro to Microbiology for Non-Majors & Lab <b>OR</b> BIO 3054 Microbiology for Majors & Lab |

Other courses strongly recommended: *BIO 2504 Human Anatomy and Lab; BIO 2604 Human Physiology and Lab; MCOM 1113 Fundamentals of Speech; CMSC 1103 Introduction to Computing Systems; ACCT 2113 Accounting I; PSY 3833 Experimental Psychology.*

<https://optometry.nsuok.edu/Future-Students/Application-Process/Prerequisites>

Applications for admission will be accepted through February 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the fall semester in which the applicant wishes to enter. The program begins in August. Applications should be filed as early as possible.

## PRE-OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

### **CREDIT HOURS AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):**

All applicants to the NSU College of Optometry must present a minimum of 90 semester credit hours from an accredited college or university. Applications with only this minimum; however, are not encouraged to apply unless they have demonstrated exceptional personal and intellectual maturity. General, a B.S. is required. If a student has completed 94 hours, the possibility exists that UCO will grant a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences after successful completion of the first year in optometry school. This is an option requiring careful supervision by the pre-optometry advisor.

In addition to the minimum hours, applications must present a minimum grade point average of 2.7 (A=4.0) with a minimum grade of "C" in each required course. For a recently entering NSU class, the average GPA was 3.65 overall.

### **OPTOMETRY ADMISSION TEST (OAT):**

All applicants to optometry school must take the Optometry Admission Test. Students should take the test by the fall semester of the year they apply. For more information about the test and for registration, <https://www.ada.org/en/oat>

For a recently entering NSU class, the OAT average score was 320.

**ADVISEMENT AT UCO:** Advisement for students planning to enter the health professions is coordinated by the Health Professions Advisor in the Biology Department. Graduation checks and curriculum planning are coordinated by your academic advisor; NUC 121. Since the premedical advisor will prepare a letter summarizing the Premedical Committee's evaluation when students apply to medical school, wise students will visit regularly enough to be known personally and benefit from their knowledge of the application process. However, it is essential that premedical students hold themselves responsible for knowing the requirements and deadlines. **SELECTION OF MAJOR:** It should be emphasized that "pre-optometry" is not a major. It simply means that the student is meeting requirements for admission to optometry school. Thus, in addition to satisfying these requirements, the student should be working toward a baccalaureate degree in some discipline. There is no recommended major for pre-optometry students. The College of Optometry encourages a broad general curriculum in the social sciences and humanities in addition to a high level of competence in the physical and biological sciences. Good communication skills are also important. Beyond this, the best advice for students is to select a major in an area that will offer stimulating challenges and provide a viable alternative to optometry if they are not admitted to the College.

**QUALITY OF CURRICULUM:** Pre-optometry students should choose a curriculum that demonstrates a capacity to handle the rigors of optometry school. If they choose the easiest curriculum they can manage, it will be obvious to the Admissions Committee that they have been protecting their GPA. It will certainly deprive them of the level of preparation they need for professional school.

**OPTOMETRY EXPERIENCE:** In order to test the depth of their commitment, pre-optometry students are advised to get direct exposure to the practice of optometry. Many optometrists will allow students to shadow in their clinics, and talk with them about career choices. A letter of reference from an optometrist is helpful.

**STARTING SALARY:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national average salary for an Optometrist is **\$111,790**.

For more information about Optometrists and Optometry Programs:

<https://collegegrad.com/careers/optometrists>

For Optometry information from Northeastern State University contact: **Ms. Brooke Johnson, College of Optometry, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74464-7017, (918) 444-4036**

<https://optometry.nsuok.edu/>

Email: [nsuopt@nsuok.edu](mailto:nsuopt@nsuok.edu)

To Apply to NSU and other Optometry schools: <https://www.optomcas.org/>