

UCO PRE-OPTOMETRY ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2021

Northeastern State University College of Optometry

University of Central Oklahoma

Health Professions Advisor

Department of Biology

200 Howell Hall

(405) 974-5733

Cbentley3@uco.edu

This four-year program does not require a specific undergraduate degree, but students must complete the prerequisites and have at least 90 credit hours before matriculation. 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.

UCO Courses that Meet Required Courses for NSU (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 OR 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 OR BIO 3054 Microbiology for Majors & Lab

Other courses strongly recommended by NSU: 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/FutureStudents/ApplicationProcess/Prerequisites.aspx>

Applications for admission will be accepted through February 1st 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.

A recently admitted class had the following academic averages: 220 Applied | 28 Admitted | 3.55 Avg. Cumulative GPA | 320 Avg. OAT

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. 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 3.55 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. A minimum of 30 shadow hours is recommended.

STARTING SALARY: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national average salary for an Optometrist is **\$115,250**.

For more information about Optometrists and Optometry Programs:

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

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

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

Email: nsuopt@nsuok.edu or napi02@nsuok.edu

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