

UCO PRE-OPTOMETRY ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2022

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. Students must also have completed the general education requirements for NSU by their second year of 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):

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| 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 & 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

Application Process

- Visit optomcas to apply: <https://optomcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- Applications are open from July 1st to February 1st. It is important to apply early. NSU Admissions reviews on a rolling admission basis. The program begins in August each year.
- Three letters of recommendation are required. Students are encouraged to have one letter written by a non-relative, optometrist that they have shadowed. A second letter should be submitted by a professor or academic advisor who can attest to the applicant's academic abilities. The final letter is up to the applicant but an additional letter from an optometrist is recommended. Please note that committee letters will be counted as one letter.
- 30+ observation hours are recommended.
- Supplemental Application Fee of \$75
 - Payment instructions will be sent through email once OptomCAS application is received, and files will not be reviewed for interviews until payment is received.
- Interview Process

- Selected applicants will be contacted by email or phone, and will be held at the main campus at 1001 N Grand Ave in Tahlequah, OK.
- The process includes three individual interviews, an opportunity to connect with a current student, and a campus tour.

PRE-OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

OPTOMETRY ADMISSION TEST (OAT):

All applicants to optometry school must take the Optometry Admission Test. Students should take the test by Nov. 1 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 310. All applicants are encouraged to retake if the score is below the average or if any subsection is below 270.

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. It is recommended to visit regularly with the pre health advisor to be known personally and benefit from their knowledge of the application process. However, it is essential that 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. 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.

STARTING SALARY: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national average salary for an Optometrist is **\$124,300**.

For more information about Optometrists and Optometry Programs: <https://collegegrad.com/careers/optometrists>

For Optometry information from Northeastern State University contact: **Alex Clover, College of Optometry,**
Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74464-7017, (918) 444-4036

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

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

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