

## Pre-Optometry

### Prerequisites

Admissions requirements may vary from school to school. Students should consult school websites for updated information on specific requirements for the schools to which they plan to apply.

Prerequisites	Mason Courses
Biology, two semesters with labs	BIOL 213 and BIOL 311
Anatomy & Physiology, required or strongly recommended	BIOL 124 or BIOL 430
Microbiology	BIOL 305/306
Biochemistry, can vary by school	BIOL 483/CHEM 463
General Chemistry	CHEM 211 and CHEM 212
Organic Chemistry, can vary by school	CHEM 313/315 and CHEM 314/318
Physics, two semesters with labs	PHYS 243/244 and PHYS 245/246
Calculus, can vary by school	MATH 113
Statistics	BIOL 214/STAT 250
English, two semesters	ENGH 101 and 302
Psychology, can vary by school	PSYC 100, 211, 231
Social Sciences, can vary by school	

For further information, see the [OptomCAS School and College Prerequisites](#).

### Optometrists

The [Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry \(ASCO\)](#) defines Doctor of Optometry as “The independent primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye. Doctors of Optometry prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical procedures. Optometrists counsel their patients regarding surgical and non-surgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations, and lifestyle.”

### Optometry Programs

According to [ASCO](#), "Doctors of Optometry must successfully complete a four-year accredited degree program at one of the schools or colleges of optometry. Most students accepted by a school or college of optometry have completed an undergraduate degree. However, each institution has its own undergraduate prerequisites, so applicants should contact the school or college of their choice for specific requirements."

### **Optometry Admission Test (OAT)**

[ASCO](#) states, "The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The OAT is sponsored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for applicants seeking admission to an optometry program. All schools and colleges of optometry in the United States, and the University of Waterloo, Canada require the OAT. The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning. The OAT exam is computerized and examinees are allowed to take the OAT an unlimited number of times but must wait at least 90 days between testing dates. However, only scores from the four most recent attempts and the total number of attempts will be reported."

More information about the [OAT](#) can be found online.

[Oat Program Guide 2015](#)

### **OptomCAS**

[OptomCAS](#) allows "optometry applicants to use a single web-based [application](#) and one set of materials to apply to multiple schools and colleges of optometry. Applicants who apply through OptomCAS submit a completed web-based application comprised of biographical data, colleges and universities attended, academic course history, letters of recommendation, work experience, extracurricular activities, honors, and a personal essay. It is the applicant's responsibility to read and follow specific instructions for OptomCAS and the schools and colleges of optometry. APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY EARLY. Applicants may start and submit the OptomCAS application as soon as it is available. Application deadlines will vary for each school or college of optometry. Information on application deadlines can be found in the [Directory of Schools and Colleges](#).

### **Employment Outlook and Earnings**

The current [Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook for Optometrists](#) can be found online.

### **Pre-Optometry Advising**

The information contained on this page should be discussed with a [the Health Professions Advisor](#). The availability of these health professions advising opportunities is announced through the [HEALTHPROFESSIONS-L listserv](#) for Mason students.

Students must still be advised in their department regarding their major.

6/30/2015