

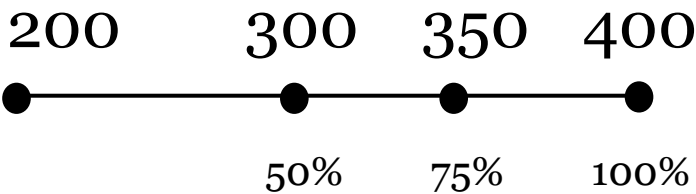
Pre-Optometry

Competitive GPA: 3.4+

- BCP, Cumulative GPA - all attempts
- Avg accepted: 3.33/3.46

Competitive OAT: 330+

- Varies by school



Natural Sciences <i>Gen Bio, Gen Chem, Organic Chem</i>	90 mins
Reading Comprehension <i>3 science passages</i>	50 mins
Physics	50 mins
Quantitative Reasoning <i>Basic Math, Algebra, Prob/Stats</i>	45 mins
Total time (with breaks)	280 minutes (4.5 hours)

Preparing for the OAT:

Guide to prepare

Plan for **2-6 months** and **400-600 hours** of study

- Create a study schedule
- Content review + question practice
- *All optometry schools accept the OAT and some accept GRE, MCAT, DAT, or PCAT*

Free resources:

- [Khan Academy](#)
- YouTube ([Chad's Prep](#))

\$ exam prep:

- Practice tests through the ADA: [OAT practice tests](#)
- [CourseSaver](#)
- [OAT destroyer](#)
- [Kaplan](#)
- [Princeton Review](#)

- [Learn more about the Optometry profession](#)
- [School Directory](#)
- [OptomCAS: Optometry Centralized Application Service](#)

Applying to
optometry school is
expensive...

Item	Cost
Test registration	\$490
Test prep	\$300-3,000+
Application (1 school)	\$180
Additional schools	\$70
Secondary applications	\$30-75
Interview costs	\$100-1000+
Total cost	\$1,000-10,000+

Experiences

- Community service
 - Serving the underserved
 - 150+ hours
- Clinical exposure
 - Shadowing (depends on program; 30-50 hours)
- Extra-curricular involvement
 - Leadership
 - Research

Core Competencies

- Empathy and disposition to serve others
- Dedication and persistence
- Deductive reasoning
- Interpersonal communication

Timeline

January-July: Take OAT

June: Application opens; apply by July to be most competitive

July-August: Secondary applications

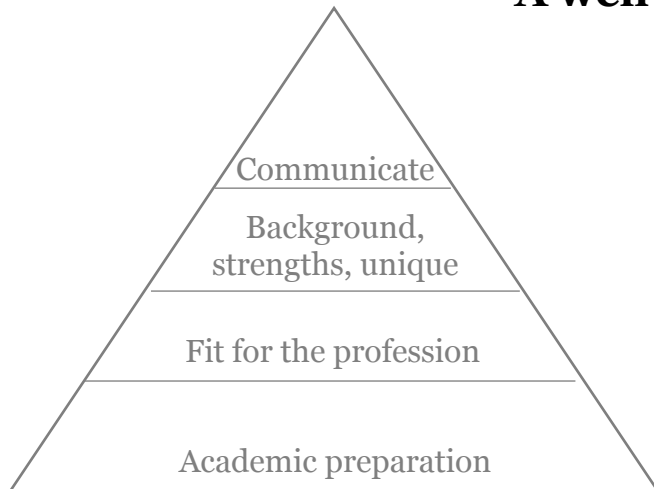
August-March: Interviews and decisions

July/August: Optometry school begins

Parts of the Application

- Biographical information
 - Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement (Essay)
 - Experiences (Resume)
 - School Selection

A well-rounded application shows...



- Ability to communicate effectively on the application and in an interview
- Background, strengths, and what makes you unique
- Passion and fit for the optometry profession
- Ability to do the academic work

A gap year could make you a stronger applicant

- Whether you need to improve your grades, study for the OAT, gain more experiences, or save money for optometry school, a gap year can be a good thing.
- Apply when your application is strong; then you won't need to reapply.