

PRE-OPTOMETRY ADVISING

At the University of Kentucky (UK), pre-professional programs are interest areas that students complete alongside their UK Core requirements and major curriculum. Students may pursue any major as long as pre-optometry prerequisite coursework is completed.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment offers support and guidance to students throughout the college interested in applying to optometry school. In addition to outlining necessary coursework and guiding students through application processes, the college's pre-professional advisor also directs students to University programs, such as UK Education Abroad or the Center for Community Outreach, that foster well-rounded medical school applicants.

MEET WITH AN ADVISOR

Pre-optometry students should meet with a pre-professional advisor at least twice during their freshman/sophomore years and at least three times during their junior/senior years. Visit www.uky.edu/grow and click "Advising Resources" for instructions on setting up an appointment with the college's pre-professional advisor.

OAT

All optometry schools and colleges require applicants to take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). The pre-optometry courses in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics should be taken prior to taking the OAT.

CONNECT

Join the pre-med listserv to stay connected with pre-optometry announcements and information sessions. To subscribe, send an email message to listserv@lsv.uky.edu and type "SUBSCRIBE PRE-MED-L" in the body of the message.



PREPARE

Students planning to apply to a school or college of optometry should use this sheet only as a guide. Each institution publishes its own school catalog which specifies its own requirements and procedures. It is essential that students obtain a catalog from the school(s) or college(s) in which they are interested. The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) is an excellent resource, students considering optometry should become familiar with their website (opted.org).

The following is a general outline of dental school requirements (not including UK Core or major requirements):

- General Biology or Zoology (1 semester-1 year) BIO 148, 152, and 155
- Microbiology (1 semester) BIO 208 or BIO 308 and/or 209
- General Chemistry (1 year) CHE 105, 111, 107, 113
- General Physics (1 year) PHY 211, 213
- English (1 year)
- Calculus (1 semester-1 year) MA 123, 113, 132, or 137
- Statistics (1 semester) STA 296
- Psychology (1 semester-1 year) PSY 100

The following courses are also recommended or required for some optometry school admission:

- Physiology (1 semester-1 year) PGY 206, PGY 421G, or BIO 350
- Anatomy (1 semester) ANA 209
- Biochemistry (1 semester) BIO 401G

Some optometry schools have additional requirements beyond the courses listed above. Reference opted.org for the application information and deadlines.

WHY OUR COLLEGE ?

In addition to pre-professional advising services, students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment connect with a variety of passionate faculty, staff, alumni and community organizations dedicated to meaningful, enriching experiences. These connections help students discover real-world applications to their studies and become well-rounded, competitive applicants for optometry school.

While completing medical school requirements, past pre-optometry students have been successful in majors such as Human Nutrition, Food Science, Animal Sciences, and Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology.