



**PRE-OPTOMETRY INFORMATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**  
**GENERAL ACADEMIC BUILDING 220**

**Students may prepare for application to the optometry schools by taking courses at the University of North Texas and applying through the Pre-Optometry Program. Since the optometry school curriculum is rigorous, it is necessary to prove to the optometry schools' admission boards that you are capable of success in their programs. You may choose any major at UNT, as long as you complete the pre-optometry prerequisite courses required by each optometry school. Below are admission requirements and advice that may lead to your successful enrollment in the optometry school of your choice.**

**Admission requirements to optometry school:**

1. **Bachelor's degree**
2. **GPA:** Maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA (those accepted in 2004 had overall GPA of 3.42)
3. **Optometry Admission Test (OAT)** (those accepted in 2004 had average OAT score of 325)
4. **Get involved!** Participate in a variety of extracurricular and volunteer activities at UNT and in the community.
5. **Complete prerequisite courses.**
6. Apply to the optometry school online at the University of Houston August 1, 2005-Feb. 1, 2006: [www.opt.uh.edu](http://www.opt.uh.edu)
7. **Composite letter of evaluation** from the UNT Pre-Professional Advisory Committee (preferred by optometry schools):
  - a. Complete PPAC file the semester you are applying. It will contain:
    - i. letters of recommendation from professors (at least 1 Chemistry and 1 Biology)
    - ii. Complete the "Applicant Data Sheet" provided by Dr. Beck
    - iii. Transcripts from all schools attended
    - iv. Copy of OAT scores
8. **Interview with PPAC**

**UNT Workshops & Seminars:**

*Personal Statement Workshop provided by PPAC*

*Application Seminar by the PPAC*

*Interview Workshop by the PPAC*

**OAT information:** Go to the web site at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

1. Composed of 4 sections:
  - a. Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry)
  - b. Reading Comprehension
  - c. Physics
  - d. Quantitative Reasoning

**PREP MATERIALS FOR OAT:**

Kaplan: [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)

Princeton: [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com)

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## Requirements for the University of Houston College of Optometry\*

### Math: 12 hours

Math 1100 College Algebra (3 hours) (prerequisite for Math 1650)  
Math 1650 Pre-Calculus (5 hours)  
Math 1710 Calculus I (4 hours)

### Physics: 8 semester hours

Phys 1410 General Physics I (3 hours)  
Phys 1430 Laboratory Sequence for General Physics I (1 hour)

Phys 1420 General Physics II (3 hours)  
Phys 1440 Laboratory Sequence for General Physics II (1 hour)

### Biology: 20-24 semester hours

Biol 1710 Principles of Biology I (3 hours)  
Biol 1730 Principles of Biology Laboratory (1 hour)

Biol 1720 Principles of Biology II (3 hours)  
Biol 1740 Principles of Biology Laboratory (1 hour)

Biol 2040 Biology of Microorganisms (4 hours) **OR**  
Biol 3380 Medical Bacteriology (4 hours) (BIOL 2040 is a prerequisite for BIOL 3380)

Biol 2401 Applied Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 hours) **AND**  
Biol 2402 Applied Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4 hours)

**AND**

Biol 3800 Animal Physiology (3 hours)  
Biol 3810 Animal Physiology Laboratory (1 hour)

### Chemistry: 12 semester hours

Chem 1410 General Chemistry I (3 hours) **OR**  
Chem 1413 Honors General Chemistry I (3 hours)  
Chem 1430 Laboratory Sequence for General Chemistry (1 hour)

Chem 1420 General Chemistry II (3 hours) **OR**  
Chem 1423 Honors General Chemistry II (3 hours)  
Chem 1440 Laboratory Sequence for General Chemistry (1 hour)

Chem 2370 Organic Chemistry I (3 hours)  
Chem 3210 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I (1 hour)

### Biochemistry: 3 semester hours

Bioc 3621 Elementary Biochemistry (3 hours) **OR**  
Bioc 4540 Biochemistry I (3 hours)

### Psychology: 6 semester hours

Psyc 1630 General Psychology I (3 hours)  
Psyc 3610 Quantitative Methods in Psychology (3 hours) or MATH 1680 Statistics

**55-60 hours of prereqs must be completed before application to the optometry program at U. of H.**  
**GPA: a *minimum* of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; those accepted into optometry school in 2004 had an average GPA of 3.4.**

**OAT: take the OAT in the fall preceding the year of planned entry to the optometry program.**

**\*Shown above is a composite list of requirements for the University of Houston optometry program. Please be aware that program requirements may change without notice and can vary with each optometry school.**

The University of Houston College of Optometry is the only optometry school in the state of Texas. Housed in one of the most modern optometric facilities in the world, the \$10 million complex, including classrooms, teaching clinics, and research laboratories; serve as the primary vision educational and research center in a seven-state area. State-of-the-art equipment provides students and faculty with the best possible methods for clinical work and laboratory instruction. Students and faculty are engaged in a variety of research projects that have a direct impact on the vision needs of the community. During their four years at the college, optometry students complete about 2,000 hours of clinical training.

The college seeks students who are academically and personally qualified to complete a rigorous academic program and acquire the broad scope of clinical skills and knowledge needed for the practice of optometry. Applications are accepted from across the country and around the world between August 15 and February 1. (October 15 is a priority admission deadline.) Within the United States, over 20 states represented with the largest number of applicants from Texas, Kansas, and California. Each entering class is comprised of approximately 100 students.

Undergraduate preparation for the study of optometry requires a strong foundation in science and mathematics and a background in the humanities and social sciences, including English and psychology. Prior to enrollment in the college, a baccalaureate degree is required, including required course work (see prerequisites courses listed above).

### **Additional Information**

*Prospective students are encouraged to visit the University of Houston or write for additional information.*

**Office of Student Affairs and Admissions  
University of Houston College of Optometry  
4800 Calhoun  
Houston, Texas 77204-6052  
(713) 743-2040 or 1/800-282-8426  
[www.opt.uh.edu](http://www.opt.uh.edu)**

Information about any or all of the schools and colleges of optometry in the U.S. and Puerto Rico can be found in an informative booklet titled *Optometry: A Career with Vision*. This booklet may be obtained free of charge from:

**American Optometric Association  
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141  
(314) 991-4100  
<http://www.aoanet.org/>**

For a list of accredited Optometry schools go to: [http://www.opted.org/about\\_members.cfm](http://www.opted.org/about_members.cfm)

This booklet, revised annually, lists all the accredited optometric schools and colleges in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, their admission requirements, summary information about each school as well as general information about the optometric profession. Information about other schools can also be obtained from:

**Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry**  
**6110 Executive Blvd.**  
**Suite 510**  
**Rockville, Maryland 20852**  
**(301) 231-5944**  
**<http://home.opted.org/asco/>**

Doctors of Optometry are independent primary health care providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures. Among the services optometrists provide are: prescribing glasses and contact lenses, rehabilitation of the visually impaired, and the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease. Optometrists are the major providers of eye care in America and the only providers thoroughly trained in all aspects of vision sciences and optics.

All optometrists provide general eye and vision care. Some optometrists work in a general practice, while others work in specialties such as contact lenses, geriatrics, low vision services (for visually impaired patients), occupational vision (to protect and preserve workers' vision and minimize eye strain), pediatrics, sports vision, and vision therapy. Other optometrists may choose to enter optometric education and/or perform scientific research.

Doctors of Optometry must successfully complete a four-year accredited degree program at one of the 17 schools or colleges of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico. Most students accepted by a school or college of optometry have completed their undergraduate degree. The requirements for admission vary, but students wishing to study optometry should take at least a year of biology, chemistry, general physics, English, and college mathematics. The science courses should be major level courses and include laboratory experience. Each school has its own additional educational requirements. In general, the schools and colleges of optometry begin accepting applications in August and September for their classes that begin the following August or September.

All optometry school and colleges also require applicants to take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT), a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The OAT includes Quantitative Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, Physics, Biology, General and Organic Chemistry. The OAT is administered twice a year, in February and October. The deadline for applications, for the exam, is approximately six weeks prior to the exam. Information regarding the OAT may be found at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

Potential optometry students may be evaluated on the basis of grade point average, performance on the OAT, extracurricular and community activities, personal interview, professional potential, etc. Each institution has its own criteria; therefore, students should contact individual school(s) or college(s) of their choice to obtain a catalog and specific application guidelines.

Optometrists must be state licensed. All states require graduation from an accredited professional optometric degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The licensure examination consists of both clinical and written parts. In most states the written examination has been replaced with the examinations given during the student's academic career by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Financial aid, primarily in the form of government-subsidized-low-interest loans, is available to students

attending schools and colleges of optometry. Other loans, grants, and work study aid are available, and vary from one institution to another. For details, students should contact the financial aid officer at the school(s) or college(s) of their choice.

Doctors of Optometry recognize that continued professional education is a life-long responsibility to maintain the full scope of optometric services for the benefit of the patient. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia require Doctors of Optometry to take continuing education courses to be eligible for license renewal. Such educational programs are readily available throughout the country.

### **Preparing to Enter Optometry School**

There are 17 school and colleges of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico. **The only College of Optometry in Texas is at the University of Houston.** The information provided here focuses on this college since most students in the state will be primarily interested in an institution that caters to Texas residents. Students interested in gaining information about optometric programs other than the one offered by the University of Houston should contact their health professions counselor or write the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry or the American Optometric Association. The addresses for both of these associations are provided along with that of the University of Houston College of Optometry.

Students may prepare for a career in optometry by consulting with practitioners and by enrolling in course work that strengthens their academic foundation and satisfies the standard for admission to a college of optometry. A second method of preparation is that of gaining practical experience by working with an optometrist or another health care provider.

Contact the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org) for further information on the profession.