

Pre-Optometry Advisement Worksheet
Northeastern State University
2017-2018

University of Central Oklahoma

Health Professions Advisor

Department of Biology

200 Howell Hall

(405) 974-5733

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OPTOMETRY SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses

General Biology or Zoology with Lab and Microbiology:

BIO 1225 Biology II for Majors and Lab
BIO 2314 Introduction to Microbiology and Lab for Non-Majors *or*
BIO 3054 Microbiology and Lab for Majors

General Chemistry I and II with Lab:

CHEM 1103 General Chemistry I *and*
 CHEM 1112 General Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 1223 General Chemistry II *and*
 CHEM 1232 General Chemistry II Lab

Organic Chemistry (1 course with lab):

CHEM 3303 Organic Chemistry I *and*
 CHEM 3312 Organic Chemistry I Lab

Biochemistry:

CHEM 3403 Biochemistry I

Physics: 2 Semesters with lab

PHY 1114 General Physics I *and*
 PHY 1114L General Physics I Laboratory
PHY 1214 General Physics II *and*
 PHY 1214L General Physics II Laboratory

Statistics:

STAT 2103 Intro to Statistics for Sciences

Mathematics (Calculus and Statistics):

MATH 1513 College Algebra (Not required but is a prerequisite for STAT 2103)
MATH 2313 Calculus *or*
MATH 2153 Bio-Calculus
STAT 2103 Intro to Statistics for Sciences

English:

ENG 1113 English Composition
ENG 1213 English Composition and Research

Psychology (1 semester):

PSY 1103 General Psychology *or*
Upper division psychology

Other areas of study which are strongly recommended include: Human Anatomy and Physiology, Public Speaking, Experimental Psychology, Computer Science (especially data and word processing), Analytic Geometry, and Basic Bookkeeping or Accounting.

AP credits will be accepted as long as it is listed on official college transcript and accepted by undergraduate institution.

A minimum of 90 semester credit hours from an accredited college or university is required.

Students planning to apply to optometry schools other than NSU need to check the specific admission requirements of those schools by consulting their pre-optometry advisor.

PRE-OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

CREDIT HOURS AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):

All applicants to the NSU College of Optometry must present a minimum of 90 semester credit hours from an accredited college or university. Applications with only this minimum; however, are not encouraged to apply unless they have demonstrated exceptional personal and intellectual maturity. General, a B.S. is required. If a student has completed 94 hours, the possibility exists that UCO will grant a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences after successful completion of the first year in optometry school. This is an option requiring careful supervision by the pre-optometry advisor.

In addition to the minimum hours, applications must present a minimum grade point average of 2.7 (A=4.0) with a minimum grade of "C" in each required course. **For a recently entering NSU class, the average GPA was 3.5 overall.**

OPTOMETRY ADMISSION TEST (OAT):

All applicants to optometry school must take the Optometry Admission Test. Students should take the test by the fall semester of the year they apply. For more information about the test and for registration, <https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>

For a recently entering NSU class, the OAT average score was 310-320.

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. Since the premedical advisor will prepare a letter summarizing the Premedical Committee's evaluation when students apply to medical school, wise students will visit regularly enough to be known personally and benefit from their knowledge of the application process. However, it is essential that premedical 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. There is no recommended major for pre-optometry students. 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.

OPTOMETRY EXPERIENCE: In order to test the depth of their commitment, pre-optometry students are advised to get direct exposure to the practice of optometry. Many optometrists will allow students to shadow in their clinics, and talk with them about career choices. A letter of reference from an optometrist is helpful.

For more information about Optometrists and Optometry Programs:

<http://www.opted.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

For Optometry information from Northeastern State University contact: Ms. Brooke Johnson, College of Optometry, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74464-7017, (918) 444-4036

<http://www.optometry.nsuok.edu>

Email: johns283@nsuok.edu

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