Pre-Optometry Plan

Pre-optometry is not a major at the University of Kentucky. Students are free to major in whatever they wish while fulfilling pre-optometry requirements. While selecting a major, students should consider subjects they may find most interesting and challenging and in which they perform best.

According to Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO):

“Most students major in the natural sciences in college (biology, chemistry, etc.) because the prerequisites for optometry school are science intensive. However, prospective students can major in any degree discipline as long as they complete all of the prerequisite courses for optometry.” (Schools and Colleges of Optometry: Admission Requirements 2009-2010)

Pre-optometry requirements differ, but generally include:

- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs (CHE 105 107, 111, 113)
- 2 semesters of biology with labs (BIO 150, 151, 152, 153)
- 1 or 2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs (CHE 230, 231, 232, 233)
- 2 semesters of physics with labs (PHY 211, 213 or PHY 231, 241, 232, 242)
- 2 semesters of English (ENG 104 and Graduation Writing Requirement)
- 1 or 2 semesters of mathematics (MA 123, 132, 113)
- 1 semester of microbiology with lab (BIO 208 or 308 and BIO 209)
- 1 semester of statistics (STA 291)
- 1 or 2 semesters of psychology (PSY 100)

Some schools also require additional science courses like, but not limited to, biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology.

It is important to refer to individual optometry schools of interest for the exact list of prerequisites, exceptions to the list above, and additional course recommendations.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not have an optometry school; however contract seats are available to legal Kentucky residents at the University of Alabama, Indiana University, and Southern College of Optometry through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Students accepted for the SREB contract program are exempt from the out-of-state tuition. Students are competitively selected from the optometry school to receive a contract seat. Kentucky residency and acceptance into the Doctor of Optometry program does not guarantee a contract seat. Contract availability is subject to change as state legislatures annually review budget expenditures. For the number of contract seats available and more information, contact the specific optometry school.

Students enrolled at the University of Kentucky pursing optometry should visit the pre-optometry web site below and utilize the pre-professional advising provided by Undergraduate Studies.

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