

Pre-Optometry

Undergraduate Studies

Pre-Optometry Plan

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)

Students are free to choose any major while pursuing their undergraduate degree and fulfilling pre-optometry requirements. When selecting a major, students should consider subjects they find interesting and challenging, and those in which they perform best. Optometry schools do not require a specific major to enter the professional program, but they do have minimum entrance requirements. Most students accepted to optometry school earn a bachelor's degree while satisfying pre-optometry requirements.

Although the Commonwealth of Kentucky does not have an optometry school, 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 by 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.

Pre-optometry requirements differ but generally include:

- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of English
- 1 or 2 semesters of mathematics
- 1 or 2 semesters of general biology or zoology with labs
- 1 semester of microbiology with lab
- 2 semesters of general physics with labs
- 1 or 2 semesters of organic chemistry
- 2 semesters of statistics
- 1 or 2 semesters of psychology

Some schools may also require biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology. Check individual optometry schools for specific course requirements.

Students interested in optometry school should meet with a Pre-Optometry advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum and subscribe to the Pre-Health listserv by contacting ukcareercenter@uky.edu, and visit the Pre-Optometry Web site at www.uky.edu/careercenter/pre-optometry for more information. Students in the College of Arts & Sciences are encouraged to contact an advisor by emailing ASAdvisingCenter@uky.edu