

This guide offers a recommended course sequence for students preparing for optometry school. The courses listed indicate only the **MINIMUM requirements** for most optometry schools in the U.S. and is **not designed for any specific major**. Students who plan to apply for optometry school bear the ultimate responsibility of determining specific coursework required for their application and must fulfill the requirements for their degree and major in order to graduate.

Each school determines its own course requirements for admission. While there is significant similarity among the schools, differences do occur. Students should refer to the respective optometry school's website for the official and most current requirements.

FRESHMAN	
FALL	SPRING
BIO 1305 & 1105-Modern Concepts of Bioscience & Lab	BIO 1306 & 1106-Modern Concepts of Bioscience & Lab
CHE 1301 & 1101-Basic Principles of Modern Chem I & Lab	CHE 1302 & 1102-Basic Principles of Modern Chem II & Lab
MTH 1321-Calculus I	Statistics: 3 semester hours

SOPHOMORE	
FALL	SPRING
BIO 3322 & 3122-Human Physiology & Lab or advanced BIO course ^{1 2}	BIO 4302 & 4102-General Microbiology & Lab
CHE 3331-Organic Chemistry I	CHE 3332-Organic Chemistry II
PSY 1305 (any semester)	CHE 3238-Organic Chemistry Lab

¹ University of Houston Optometry requires a minimum of 3 hours of upper-level Physiology (**BIO 3322**) or Anatomy (**BIO 3429** or **4432**)

JUNIOR	
FALL	SPRING
CHE 4341-General Biochemistry	BIO-Advanced BIO course ²
PHY 1408-General Physics for Natural & Behavioral Physics I -or- 1420 General Physics I	PHY 1409-General Physics for Natural & Behavioral Physics II -or- 1430 General Physics II

² Suggested Advanced Level BIO courses include, but are not limited to: **BIO 3330** (Medical Genetics) **BIO 3342** (Molecular Cell Biology), **BIO 4301** (Immunology) **BIO 4306** (Molecular Genetics & Genomics), **BIO 4106** (Molecular Genetics & Genomics Lab), **BIO 4320** (Pathophysiology), **BIO 4426** (Vertebrate Histology)

SENIOR	
FALL	SPRING
Complete Degree Requirements	Complete Degree Requirements & Graduate

Note: Adjustments can be made to the Pre-Optometry course sequence, but students are encouraged to discuss such adjustments with the appropriate advisor ahead of time

Connect with other Pre-Optometry students by joining the [Pre-Optometry Professional Society \(POPS\)](#) student organization

Important Websites:

ada.org/en/oat

optomcas.org

Additional Information for Pre-Optometry students:

Choosing a major: Optometry schools do not prefer/require any specific major. Students should choose a major that interests them, and in which they can earn strong grades. There is no “best” major or minor.

Grades: Most optometry schools require a grade of C or higher in all prerequisite coursework.

AP Credit: Not all optometry schools accept AP credit for prerequisite courses. Students should work with their academic advisor to determine their best options for their degree and major.

Pass/Fail Credit: Most optometry schools do not accept Pass/Fail grades for prerequisite courses. Some exceptions were made for courses completed in Spring 2020 through Fall 2021, which varies by school.

Online Coursework: Some optometry schools accept credit for online prerequisite courses, while others do not. Students are encouraged to take all their Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses in-person at Baylor University.

Science coursework: All coursework should count toward a degree in a science major. Courses for allied health professions or Business students, such as BIO 2401 & BIO 2402, HP 1420 or MTH 1309, do not fulfil the requirements for optometry school admission.

Courses offered through the Office of Prehealth Studies: The Office of Prehealth studies offers several courses beneficial to student preparation for professional school:

- **PHP 1106:** Introduction to the Health Professions – Any student interested in a health professions career is welcome to take this course in any semester, though it is a New Student Experience course each Fall.
- **PHP 2105:** Prehealth Professional Development – Sophomore-level course focusing on professionalism within healthcare including appropriate personal attributes and expectations, integrity, interpersonal communication, and self-appraisal. Credit for PHP 1105 or PHP 1106 required.
- **STL 1102:** Prehealth First Generation Success – Specifically for first-generation college students, recommended during Freshman year. Priority will be given to Hallie Earle Scholars.

OAT: Optometry Admission Test, required for admission to most optometry schools. Some schools also accept other admissions exams for professional schools such as the MCAT, DAT, and GRE.

Pre-Optometry qualification: Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to remain designated as Pre-Optometry at Baylor.

Podcast: We recommend checking out our **Prehealth Particulars** podcast on our website at baylor.edu/prehealth or on Apple Podcasts.