# Optometry

## Nature of the Work

For descriptions of this profession see:

- *For Applicants and Advisors* section of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website ([www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org))
- [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

## Course Requirements

- 1 year general biology
- 1 year general chemistry
- 1 year organic chemistry
- 1 year general physics
- Schools also may require additional anatomy, biology, English, math, social science, and humanities courses (check *Schools and Colleges of Optometry: Admission Requirements* at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org))

## Application Timeline

Optometry school directly after Gettysburg College:

- Required courses completed by end of junior year
- Apply summer between junior and senior years

## Standardized Test

- Optometry Admission Test (OAT)
- Take after general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics are completed
- Website: [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)
- Given virtually daily
- Register on-line
- Length ~ 280 minutes
- 4 sections: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics, Quantitative Reasoning
- Receive scores immediately
- Scaled scores range from 200 to 400; 300 is national average
- Resources at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org):
  - OAT Guide
  - Test preparation materials and sample test

## Application Service

- Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS) ([www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org))
- Available ~ July 1
- APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines!
| **Admissions Criteria**          | • Overall and science GPA  
|                                  | • OAT scores  
|                                  | • Letters of evaluation (often including a letter from an optometrist)  
|                                  | • Interview  
|                                  | • Extracurricular activities  
|                                  | • Optometry experience  
|                                  | • Research experience  |
| **Length of Program**            | • Optometry school: 4 years  
|                                  | • Optional 1 year residency  |
| **Degree**                       | • Doctor of Optometry (OD)  |
| **Additional Resources**         | • Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry ([www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org))  
|                                  | • American Academy of Optometry ([www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org))  
|                                  | • American Optometric Association ([www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org))  |