

Optometry

Nature of the Work	<p>For descriptions of this profession see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For Applicants and Advisors</i> section of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website (www.opted.org) • <i>Optometry: A Career Guide</i> available at www.opted.org • www.explorehealthcareers.org
Course Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Schools and Colleges of Optometry: Admission Requirements</i> at www.opted.org)
Application Timeline	<p>Optometry school directly after Gettysburg College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses completed by end of junior year • Apply summer between junior and senior years
Standardized Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optometry Admission Test (OAT) • Take after general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics are completed • Website: 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OAT Guide – Test preparation materials and sample test
Application Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS) (www.optomcas.org) • Available ~ July 1 • APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines!

Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optometry school: 4 years • Optional 1 year residency
Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Optometry (OD)
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (www.opted.org) • American Academy of Optometry (www.aaopt.org) • American Optometric Association (www.aoa.org)