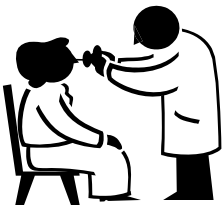


Optometry

Optometrists are independent, primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, and treat diseases and disorders of the eye and visual system. This includes measurement and prescription for glasses and contacts, diagnosis and treatment of eye coordination and focusing issues, treatment of eye diseases such as glaucoma, and detection of systemic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Optometrists also perform non-invasive surgical procedures. Areas of subspecialty include low vision rehabilitation, pediatric or geriatric eye care, vision therapy, sports vision, and ocular disease.

Working in Optometry



Most optometrists are in private practice with a growing trend toward partnerships and group practice. Those in private practice are responsible for the “business aspects” of running an office such as hiring employees, developing a patient base, maintaining records and purchasing equipment and supplies.

The median annual salary range for all optometrists for 2006 as reported in the Occupational Outlook Handbook was \$91,040. Optometrists in established private practices tend to earn higher salaries, with a median salary of \$105,000. While the demand for the profession is expected to grow in the next decade, the growth due to replacement will be small, as relatively few optometrists leave the profession before retirement.

Additional Information

Health Professions Advisors

TILT

Colorado State University

Fort Collins, CO 80523-1052

Phone: (970) 491-7095

Email: prehealth@colostate.edu

The American Optometric Association

243 North Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63141-7881

(314) 991-4100

www.aoanet.org

Association of Schools of Optometry

6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 510

Rockville, MD 20852

(301) 231-5344

www.opted.org

Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)

www.opted.org/info_oat.cfm

CSU Pre-Optometry Club

www.casa.colostate.edu/advising/preprof/opt/club.cfm

Human Health Pre-Professional Programs

www.casa.colostate.edu/advising/preprof/index.cfm

Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE)

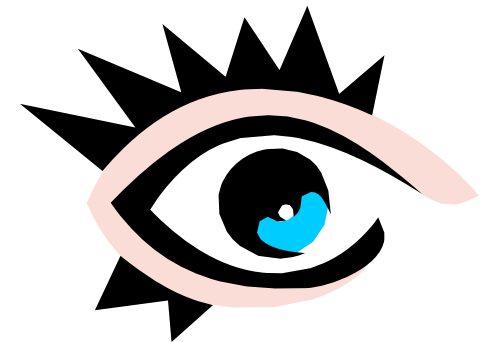
Professional Student Exchange Program

www.wiche.edu/sep/psep/opto.asp



Center for Advising and Student Achievement

OPTOMETRY



Health Track Advising

Professional Programs

There are 17 accredited optometry schools - 16 in the United States and one in Puerto Rico. The minimum preparation time required for the doctor of optometry degree (O.D.) is seven (7) years. Students must complete at least three years of undergraduate classes. However, some optometry schools require a bachelor's degree. The optometry school curriculum is four years.

For more information about specific optometry schools contact: www.opted.org

Last updated 3/09—Information is subject to change.

Admissions Requirements

Admissions requirements are GENERAL and may differ from school to school. Please contact the individual schools to discuss specific admissions requirements.

- Minimum of 90 semester credits of college education (most applicants have a bachelor's degree)
- Competitive cumulative GPA
- Competitive Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) score
- Application submitted to each school
- Letters of recommendation
- Interview

Typical Academic Prerequisites

General Biology	(2 semesters w/labs)
General Chemistry	(2 semesters w/labs)
Organic Chemistry**	(1 or 2 semesters w/labs)
Human Anatomy	(1 semester w/lab)
Physiology	(1 semester w/lab)
Microbiology**	(1 semester w/lab)
General Physics	(2 semesters w/labs)
English/Writing	(2 semesters)
Mathematics	(Usually 1 semester of Calculus)
Psychology	(1 or 2 semesters)
Statistics	(1 semester)
Social Sciences/	(1-3 semesters)
Humanities	

Recommended CSU Courses

LIFE 102 and LIFE103
CHEM 111/112 and CHEM 113/114
CHEM 245/246 or CHEM 341 or CHEM 343 & CHEM 344
BMS 301
BMS 300/BMS 302, MIP 300/302
PH 121 and PH 122 OR PH 141 and PH 142
CO150, CO 300/301
MATH 155 or 160
PSY 100, other PSY courses
STAT 301, ERHS 307, or STCC 307
Courses from prefixes ANTH, ECON,HDFS,JTC,POL,PSY,SOC AND ART,D,E,MU,PHIL,SPCM,TH. Languages (contact specific school for other course options)