

# OTPMETRIST

Optometrists specialize in the study of the human eye. They examine patients' eyes with a diverse set of instruments. Additionally, they treat vision problems, usually by prescribing eyeglasses or contact lenses, vision therapy, or rehabilitation programs. They also prescribe medicines to treat eye diseases and allergies.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National median salary: \$131,860
- » National projected career growth: 9%
- » Many optometrists own and operate their own practices

## TYPICAL EDUCATION\*\*

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 7-8 years
- » Minimum required GPA: 3.22
- » Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) required
- » Most programs require 90 credits of undergraduate coursework, but a bachelor's is highly encouraged

## NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » Nebraska does not have an optometry school
- » Illinois College of Optometry: 165-170
- » University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry: 46
- » Chicago - Midwestern University College of Optometry: 60
- » Glendale - Midwestern University College of Optometry: 56

## COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Score well on the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)
- » Participate in volunteer and leadership opportunities
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Gain clinical experience as an optometry technician

## WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY

“

Optometry has a lot to offer patients. The days of contact lenses are gone. I am motivated to continue to spread the truth and the word about the intellectual capacity of the profession."

-Larry Alexander, OTD

“

There are always challenges but optometry has always adapted. I am very optimistic about our profession's future."

-Marjorie Knotts, OTD

## WORDS FROM SUCCESSFUL O.T. STUDENTS

“

Working as a clinic tech and gaining additional hours in the field benefited not only my application process, but also my experience in optometry. I felt I had a smoother transition into school as I was more familiar with different optometric terms."

-Northeastern State University:  
Oklahoma College of Optometry Student

\*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*Data and information from Chicago Midwestern University  
Last update: 9.2024

Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">Illinois College of Optometry</a>	<a href="#">University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry</a>
<a href="#">Chicago - Midwestern University College of Optometry</a>	<a href="#">Glendale - Midwestern University College of Optometry</a>

\*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

\*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

### Typical Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 16)			
BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab	5	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 1750 Biology II & Lab	5	F, S, M	BIOL 1450
BIOL 2440 The Biology of Microorganisms & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740

Chemistry (minimum credits: 16)			
CHEM 1180/1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190/1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	CHEM 1180 & 1184 and MATH 1300 or 1320
CHEM 2210/2214 Fund of Organic Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S	CHEM 1140 & 1144 or 1190 & 1194
CHEM 3650/3654 Fund of Biochemistry & Lab	4	F, S	CHEM 2210 & 2214 or 2260 & 2274
<b>OR</b>			
CHEM 1180/1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190/1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	CHEM 1180 & 1184 and MATH 1300 or 1320
CHEM 2250 Organic Chemistry I	3	F, S, M	CHEM 1190 & 1194
CHEM 2260/2274 Organic Chemistry II & Lab	5	F, S	CHEM 2250
CHEM 3650/3654 Fund of Biochemistry & Lab	4	F, S	CHEM 2210 & 2214 or 2260 & 2274

Physics (minimum credits: 10)			
PHYS 1110 & 1154 General Physics I & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320
PHYS 1120 & 1164 General Physics II & Lab	5	F, S, M	PHYS 1110 & 1154

Advanced Physics may be substituted

Recommended Mathematics (minimum credits: 8)			
MATH 1950 Calculus I	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 & MATH 1330
<b>AND</b>			
PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
SOC 2130 Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I	3	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320

Psychology (minimum credits: 3)			
PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	

Recommended Electives			
Composition, Social Sciences, Humanities, Computer Science, Business, Economics, Sociology, and Public Speaking.			

\*It is recommended students take courses in chemistry, biology, mathematics, & psychology beyond the required minimum.