



**NORTHEASTERN**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

*College of Science & Health Professions*

**Pre-Optometry at NSU**

The Pre-Optometry program is designed to meet the requirements for the Doctor of Optometry degree granted by Northeastern State University. A GPA of 3.0 or high and an average OAT score of 300 or higher are minimum requirements to be competitive. A letter grade of C or better is required in all prerequisite courses. A **minimum of 90** college hours is required, however a **bachelor degree is strongly recommended**. Since this list is subject to change, it is the student's responsibility to obtain the latest information from the address shown on the reverse.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

		<u>Hours</u>	<u>Completed</u>
English 1113	Freshman Composition I	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
English 1213	Freshman Composition II	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biology 1123	Evolution & Diversity	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biology 1131	Investigative Laboratory	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biology 3224	Microbiology	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemistry 1123, 1131	General Chemistry I (Lecture & Lab)	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemistry 1223, 1231	General Chemistry II (Lecture & Lab)	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemistry 3123, 3132	Organic Chemistry I (Lecture & Lab)	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemistry 4214	Biochemistry	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math 1513*	College Algebra	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math 1613*	Trigonometry	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math 3513	Statistics	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physics 1115	General Physics I	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physics 1215	General Physics II	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychology 1113	General Psychology	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

Biology 2154, Human Anatomy and Biology 3314, Human Physiology are strongly recommended. Other areas of recommended study include Analytic Geometry, Public Speaking, Accounting, and/or a General Business course.

**\*Math 1513 & 1613 OR Math 2614 (Calculus I)**

For additional information contact  
Pre-Professional Health Advising  
Dr. Craig Clifford  
Tahlequah Science Building Room 141  
918-444-3002  
clifford@nsuok.edu

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Admission Requirements**

The selection of students for admission to the College of Optometry is based on many factors; for instance, the applicant's academic performance, knowledge of optometry, motivation, extracurricular activities and interests, work experience, personal achievements, autobiography, and letters of reference. Careful consideration is given to the applicant's grade-point average, number of hours completed, and scores on the Optometry Admission test, as well as results of the personal on-campus interviews with the Admissions Committee. Beginning July 15, 2009, applicants for optometric study in the United States and Puerto Rico will use a common application service, **OptomCAS**. Prospective students will file one application, which can be sent to multiple schools and colleges of optometry.

In order to be **eligible for application** to the professional program in optometry education, a student must meet the following criteria and standards:

1. The applicant must have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours of work at an accredited college or university whose credits are acceptable toward a degree at Northeastern State University. Students accepted to optometry school without completing a bachelors degree (but have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours) may be eligible to receive a degree from NSU after successful completion of the first year of optometry school. This is an option requiring careful supervision by the pre-medical advisor. Strong preference is given to students who are completing, or have completed, a bachelor's degree.
2. The applicant must submit transcripts showing a composite grade-point average of all course work attempted of at least 2.7 based on a 4.0 scale.
3. The applicant must have taken the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and had those scores submitted to NSUCO.

### **Optometry Admission Test (OAT)**

All applicants to optometry school must take the Optometry Admission Test. Students should complete all the required courses before taking the test. To prepare for it, they may obtain information at: [www.opted.org/info\\_oat.cfm](http://www.opted.org/info_oat.cfm) Students need to score at least 300 on the OAT in order to be competitive for admission. The average score for the fall 2011 class was 310.

### **Choosing a Major**

**“Pre-optometry” is not a major.** There is no recommended major for pre-optometry students. Students should select a major in a discipline that will offer satisfying challenges and provide a viable alternative to optometry school if they are not admitted. The student should be working toward a baccalaureate degree in their discipline of choice while they are completing the pre-requisites for optometry school.

### **Challenging Curriculum**

Optometry schools encourage a broad general curriculum in the social sciences and humanities, a high level of competence in the physical and biological sciences, as well as good communication skills is also important. Pre-optometry students should sequence their courses to demonstrate a capacity to handle the rigors of optometry school. Most pre-optometry students take from 15-18 hours each semester that includes at least 2 life science courses each semester. If a student chooses a lighter load of courses it will be apparent to the optometry programs that the student is protecting their GPA.

### **Advising**

When students are ready to declare a major, they are assigned to the appropriate departmental advisor. Students should also visit regularly with the prehealth advisor since this person will likely be responsible for writing a recommendation letter for you.

### **Shadowing/Volunteering Experience**

It is imperative that pre-optometry students obtain direct exposure to the world of optometry by shadowing/observing optometrists, working or volunteering in hospitals or nursing homes, visiting optometry schools, and keeping informed of new developments in optometry education/practice and current events in general. There is no minimum required hours of shadowing or volunteering required by the optometry programs, however the more hours (>50 hours) a student spends learning about the profession the more they will be able to demonstrate their knowledge and commitment to the profession.

### **Pre-optometry Club**

The purpose of this organization is to aid pre-optometry students in the admission process to optometry school as well as to create a forum for students to communicate with optometry professionals.

### **Mock Interviews**

Students may register to interview with the pre-medical faculty committee for a mock interview which can lead to a recommendation letter from the committee for medical school. Please contact the prehealth advisor for more information.

**For more information from Northeastern State University contact:** Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative, College of Optometry, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74464-7017 – 918-444-4006  
**Email:** [medearis@nsuok.edu](mailto:medearis@nsuok.edu)  
**NSU Optometry Site:** [www.optometry.nsuok.edu](http://www.optometry.nsuok.edu)  
<http://www.aaopt.org/> & [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org)