

Application Resources Optometry



- Association of Schools & Colleges of Optometry:** www.optometriceducation.org/
- OptomCAS:** www.optomcas.org/
- Instructions and FAQ:** www.help.unicas.com:8888/optomcasHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/index.html
- Program Directory:** www.optomcas.org/information-about-schools-colleges/directory-of-school-and-colleges
- OptomCAS application:** The 2017-18 application cycle opens on or around July 1st, 2017. The OptomCAS application fee is \$165 for one program. If you choose to apply to additional programs, it will cost \$65 per designation, even if you submit those programs later in the application cycle.
- Fee Waiver:** Although there is not a formal fee assistance program through OptomCAS, individual schools may grant fee assistance or waivers on their secondary fees.
- Social Media:** Follow ASCO for updates and application tips: twitter.com/OptometricED and www.facebook.com/OptometricEducation/
- Optometry Admissions Test:** www.ada.org/en/oat The OAT is offered year-round at Prometric Testing centers around the country. The fee is \$435 and includes reporting official scores to five optometry schools if requested on your application.
- Transcripts:** Order your transcripts in person or online through the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.illinois.edu/transcripts>). Submit your transcript request form (s) the same day that you place your order. Make sure that you hold the order until spring grades are available. Generally, transcripts must be ordered from the institution where the course was taken, whether or not the courses transferred to your Illinois transcript.
- Potential letter writers:** Schedule a meeting with them or provide them with information about you (resume, personal statement, etc.). Make sure to tell them they will receive an e-mail from the application service to complete their evaluation. You may also want to provide your letter writers with resources on what to include in their letter. Letters are sent electronically through OptomCAS. Applicants can have up to four individual letters.



Application Tips

- Verification:** Once OptomCAS has received your completed application, transcripts, and payment your application will go through the verification process. Until you have a “complete” application, you do not enter the verification process.
- Supplemental/Secondary applications:** Some programs may ask you to complete additional essays. Make sure to answer the questions asked. Secondary applications are often how admissions committees will distinguish which applicants have researched their programs, and how well they can communicate—beyond what has already been shared. Applicants may have applied early with primary applications, but holding onto secondary applications can have an impact, especially with schools that have a rolling admissions process.
- Coursework:** Use your academic history or unofficial transcript. Do not use DARS. Classify courses based on the content of the course.
- Proofread your entire application.** Print out a hard copy and review it for any errors or omissions.
- Demonstrate professionalism:** Your qualifications as an applicant are not solely based on official application materials—communication via email, over the phone, on interview day (even during informal interactions) can be a part of your evaluation as an applicant.
- Continue your preparation:** Keep your motivation going by continuing to be involved inside and outside of the classroom. This will allow you to have more to share in secondary essays, interviews, letters of update, or possibly in a reapplication. Keep in contact with your letter writers—they’ll want to know how you’re doing, and this will help them if you need updated letters for any reason.

Health Professions Advising & Services

- April is Application Month:** Attend these workshops to learn more about the application process. We even help you write a personal statement. Visit www.careercenter.illinois.edu for calendar of events.
- Personal Statement Reviews:** Submit your personal statement online to be reviewed. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/personal-statement-reviews
- Health Professions Advisors:** HP Advisors are available, even over summer, to assist you throughout the application process. Schedule a 30 minute appointment or visit us during Health Professions Advising Drop In Hours. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/health-professions-advising
- Mock Interviews:** Schedule a mock interview (not available over summer.)