

Last Update:  
July 2016

# Optometry Prerequisite Guide

***This resource represents the recommended coursework for optometry school preparation. Individual schools may expect additional coursework.***

AP and proficiency credits are not always accepted by optometry schools to fulfill prerequisite requirements

Prerequisite Area	MINIMUM RECOMMENDATION	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Course Number(s)
<b>Communication</b>		
Written	2 Lectures	Composition I (GenEd), Advanced Composition (GenEd)
<b>Biological Sciences</b>		
General Biology	2 Lectures/2 Labs	MCB 150/MCB 151*, IB 150/IB 151*
Anatomy & Physiology	2 Lectures/2 Labs	MCB 244/MCB 245, MCB 246/MCB 247
Microbiology	1 Lecture/1 Lab	MCB 100/MCB 101 OR MCB 300/MCB 301 (level depends on program)
Genetics	1 Lecture	MCB 250 OR IB 204
<b>Physical Sciences</b>		
General Chemistry	2 Lectures/2 Labs	CHEM 102/CHEM 103, CHEM 104/CHEM 105
Organic Chemistry	1 Lecture/1 Lab	CHEM 232/CHEM 233
Physics	2 Lectures/2 Labs	PHY 101 <sup>^</sup> , PHY 102 <sup>^</sup>
Biochemistry	1 Lecture	MCB 354 OR MCB 450
<b>Mathematics/Statistics</b>		
Calculus	1 Lecture	MATH 220 (or equivalent)
Statistics	1 Lecture	STAT 100/MATH 161 (or equivalent)
<b>Humanities</b>		
	Varies by program	May include: history, philosophy, religion, literature
<b>Social/Behavioral Sciences</b>		
Psychology	1 Lecture	PSYC 100

## Optometry Admission Test (OAT)

*The following courses are recommended as preparation for the OAT:*

General Biology, General Chemistry I and II, Organic Chemistry I, Physics

**For more exam information visit: [www.ada.org/en/oat](http://www.ada.org/en/oat) For general information visit: [www.opted.org/](http://www.opted.org/)**

\*Students who choose to take upper level labs do not need to take MCB 151 and/or IB 151

<sup>^</sup>PHY 211 may substitute for PHY 101 and PHY 212 may substitute for PHY 102

# Preparation Timeline

**Directions:**

1. Write the academic years of your preparation.
2. Write in prerequisite courses AND out-of-classroom preparation activities you plan to complete each term.
3. Write in when you plan to take your admissions test and apply to health professional school.
4. Review timeline periodically by your academic advisor & a health professions advisor at The Career Center and make revisions as needed.

**Keep In Mind:**

Plan to take, on average, 2-3 science courses (6-8 credit hours) per semester. During your first semester on campus, it's okay to take only 1 science course.

Plan for more than one term in advance. Check that courses will be offered the semester that you want to take them.

Note that AP and community college credits are not always accepted by health professional programs.

Plan to take most of your prerequisite courses at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign during the fall or spring semester.

Out-of-classroom preparation (volunteering, shadowing, research, etc.) should happen throughout the academic year—not just during breaks and summers.

Plan to take most prerequisite courses before you apply or take your admissions test.

The application process can take more than a year. Since most health professions begin the application process in the summer, plan to take to take your admissions test (MCAT, DAT, OAT, PCAT, etc.) by the spring. *For example: If you want to enter professional school fall 2018, you would take the admissions test spring 2017 and apply summer 2017.*

Academic Year	Fall	Spring	Summer