

## OPTOMETRY

**Doctors of Optometry** are independent primary health care providers who specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures. During an examination the Doctor of Optometry also assesses general health conditions. Diabetes, high blood pressure, and arteriosclerosis are often detected during a vision examination.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES FOR SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY MEMPHIS, TN

| Requirements                        | Corresponding FHU Courses  | Total Hours |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| General Biology I & II              | BIO111 & 112   | 8           |
| General Chemistry I & II            | CHE121/121L & 122/122L   | 8           |
| Microbiology                        | BIO215   | 4           |
| Organic Chemistry I                 | CHE321   | 4           |
| Biochemistry I or Molecular Biology | CHE331 or BIO333   | 4           |
| General Physics I & II              | PHS201 & 202   | 8           |
| Calculus I                          | MAT122   | 5           |
| Statistics                          | MAT235   | 3           |
| English Composition/Lit             | ENG101 & 102 or any lit  | 6           |
| General Psychology                  | PSY210   | 3           |
| Social Science                      | Sociology, psychology, political science, history, economics, anthropology, geography, religion, or philosophy | 6           |

**RECOMMENDED COURSES:** Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Histology, & Cell Biology.

**IS A DEGREE REQUIRED?** \_\_\_\_\_ YES  NO

You may begin after the completion of 90 hours, but acceptance into optometry school without completion of the BS degree is extremely rare. Preference is given to those who have completed a 4-year degree.

**DATE OF APPLICATION:**

Applications are accepted between August 15 and March 1 of each academic year. Since acceptances are on a rolling admissions basis, early application is strongly encouraged. Apply through OptomCAS.

**IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?**

Clinical experience is required, but there is no specified number of hours. The more hours you have accumulated, the better. A letter of recommendation from an optometrist is required for admission to SCO.

**REQUIRED ENTRANCE EXAM:** The OAT (Optometry Admission Test) must be taken by March 1 of the year students apply. There is no penalty in retaking the exam to raise your score. MCAT may be considered in lieu of the OAT.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES UAB COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY Birmingham, AL**

| <b>Requirements</b>        | <b>Corresponding FHU Courses</b>  | <b>Total Hours</b> |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| General Biology I & II     | BIO111 & 112  | 8                  |
| General Chemistry I & II   | CHE121/121L & 122/122L  | 8                  |
| Microbiology               | BIO215  | 4                  |
| Organic Chemistry I        | CHE321  | 4                  |
| Biochemistry I*            | CHE331  | 4                  |
| General Physics I & II     | PHS201 & 202  | 8                  |
| Calculus I                 | MAT122  | 5                  |
| Statistics                 | MAT235  | 3                  |
| English Composition I & II | ENG101 & 102  | 6                  |
| General Psychology         | PSY210  | 3                  |
| Social Science             | Sociology, psychology,<br>political science, history,<br>economics, or anthropology | 6                  |

\*Molecular/cell biology (BIO333) is accepted as a substitute course for biochemistry.

**RECOMMENDED COURSES:** Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II & Cell Biology

**IS A DEGREE REQUIRED?** \_\_\_\_\_ YES X NO

Applicants must be pursuing a bachelor's degree for consideration. No more than 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours earned at a two-year institution may be applied toward the credit hour requirement.

**DATE OF APPLICATION:**

All applications should be submitted through OptomCAS prior to the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Since acceptances are on a rolling admissions basis, early application is strongly encouraged.

**IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?**

Applicants are required to explore the optometry field either by employment or in a volunteer/job shadow capacity for at least 40 hours.

**REQUIRED ENTRANCE EXAM:**

The OAT (Optometry Admission Test) is required. There is no penalty in retaking the exam to raise your score. It is not necessary to take the OAT before applying. Interview invitations are extended to competitive applicants without OAT scores. However, admissions decisions cannot be made without the OAT scores.

**AVERAGE GPA/OAT:**

3.63 GPA and OAT Average/Total Science was 321/311