

## *So, You want to be an Optometrist!*

**Check out these Websites:**     [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

**General Prerequisite Courses:**

2 semesters of general chem. with labs  
2 semesters of organic chem. with labs  
2 semesters of general biology with labs  
2 semesters of physics with labs  
Statistics

**Recommended courses:**

Genetics  
Microbiology  
Biochemistry  
Psychology  
Immunology

**What is an Optometrist?**

Independent primary health care providers, who examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures. Among the services optometrists provide are prescribing glasses and contact lenses, rehabilitating the visually impaired, and diagnosing and treating ocular diseases.

**The “Other” Factors:**

- Minimum science GPA of 3.0 (average ~3.2)
- Entrance Exam: OAT (Optometry Admissions Test)  
Minimum OAT score ~ 300
- Volunteering/observing/shadowing with an optometrist
- Leadership skills
- 3 letters of recommendation are required, one from the pre-professional committee is recommended.
- State of Residency

**The Application:**

- All pre-optometry students should apply in the summer between their Junior and senior year.
- You should take the OAT in February of your junior year. The OAT is given 2x per year, in October and February.

**Pre-Health Professions Office at FAU:**

**All pre-health students are encouraged to read the Pre-Health Professions Handbook, located online at: [www.science.fau.edu/preprof.htm](http://www.science.fau.edu/preprof.htm)**

You will want to seek out the services of the Pre-Health Professions Office. The office is set up to assist FAU students in obtaining admission to the Health Professions School of your choice. However, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that you are well qualified for admissions. The Pre-Health Professions Office is located in the Science and Engineering building at FAU, Room 234. You must be a junior to set up a folder with the office.

**There are 17 schools and colleges of optometry - 16 are in the continental United States, and one is in Puerto Rico.**

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO  
MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

**Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)**

There are 4 sections on the OAT

1. Survey of the Natural Sciences -100 questions:(Biology-40, general chemistry-30 and organic chemistry-30)
2. Physics-40 questions
3. Reading Comprehension-50 questions
4. Quantitative Reasoning-50 questions

-Each section or subsection of the OAT is scored on a 200-400 scale, with 300 signifying an "average" score.

-Scores of 320 or better are typical of successful applicants.

-Scores from the Physics Test and the Survey of Natural Sciences are combined for a Total Science Score.

-All six section/subsection scores are averaged to get an Academic Average.