



# Pre-Optometry

## Guidance for Students transferring to University of Waterloo Doctor of Optometry

The University of Waterloo offers an accredited, professional, 4 year Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree. Admission is selective and competitive. Students should be prepared to achieve well above the minimum to qualify. There are approximately 300 applications per year for 90 seats. Students are advised to check the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry's website for details to all admission requirements, selection criteria and FAQ's.

<b>Marie Amodeo,</b> Admissions Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:opt-admissions@uwaterloo.ca">opt-admissions@uwaterloo.ca</a> On-campus mail: Admissions Office, OPT Website: <a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/optometry-vision-science/">https://uwaterloo.ca/optometry-vision-science/</a>	Admissions Office School of Optometry and Vision Science University of Waterloo Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1
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All applicants are required to have completed a minimum of 3 years of Bachelor of Science Studies, including:

- Completion of all of the specified Optometry prerequisite courses by the deadline
- A minimum overall university science average of 75%, or 3.0 GPA (the competitive average of students accepted in the program range from 79% to 92%)

### Minimum Overall University Average of 75% (3.0/4.0)

The science average is the overall average of all courses taken while registered in your BSc Studies and is **not** limited to the prerequisites. If courses are repeated, both grades are used in the average calculation.

The School of Optometry is looking for the proven ability to handle a **full course load of 5 courses each semester**

Achieving a very high academic average does not guarantee admission just as a lower academic average does not necessarily exclude you from being admitted. Several factors contribute to qualifying for admission and are taken into consideration.

Students need to achieve more than the minimum to qualify for admission and are advised to follow the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree, as a back up plan.

### The Remaining Non-prerequisite BSc courses

Which courses you take to fulfill the remaining B.Sc. requirements is up to you. Keep in mind that you may not be accepted to Optometry and may want to continue on with your BSc studies.

### Non-academic Requirements

In addition to completing the academic prerequisites, applicants must meet the following non-academic requirements. The applicant is responsible for completing these requirements so the results can be submitted to the School's Admission office by the deadlines.

Non-academic requirements include:

- OAT - Optometry Admissions Test (go to: [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org) for test preparation material, sample tests, etc.)
- Non-academic application sections
  - Academic Awards and Non-Academic Awards,
  - Work Experience,
  - Volunteer Experience,
  - Optometry-Related Experience (Job Shadowing)
- Interview
- Confidential Assessment Forms
- English Language Requirements
- Citizenship

## Optometry Prerequisite Courses

To be eligible for admission to the School of Optometry, each applicant must have successfully completed the following required prerequisite courses.

Prerequisite Courses	Number of terms	TRU course equivalents	Prerequisite
<b>Arts</b>			
Introductory Psychology	1	PSYC 1110	None
Introductory Ethics	1	PHIL 2010, or PHIL 2210, or PHIL 3010, or PHIL 4330	2 <sup>nd</sup> year standing, None, One of PHIL 1020, 2210, and 3rd or 4th year standing 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> year standing
English	1	ENGL 1100, or ENGL 1110, ENGL 1120, ENGL 1140, or ENGL 1210	English 12 (73%) or equivalent, English 12 (80%) or equivalent
<b>Biology</b>			
Introductory Biology with lab	2	BIOL 1110 and 1210	BIOL 11 or 12 with C+, CHEM 11
Microbiology	1	BIOL 2160	BIOL 1110/1210, CHEM 1500/1510 or 1520
Physiology (Human or Mammalian)	2	BIOL 3540 and BIOL 3550	BIOL 2130 (C) Corequisite: BIOL 3130, BIOL 3540 (C)
<b>Chemistry</b>			
Introductory Chemistry with lab	1	CHEM 1500, <b>and</b> CHEM 1510 or CHEM 1520	CHEM 11 or 12, Pre-Calculus 12, <b>and</b> Chem 1500 (C-)/Chem 11 or Chem 1500 (C-)/Chem 12 (B)
Organic Chemistry	1	CHEM 2120	Chem 1500 (C-)/1510 (C-) or 1520 (C-)
Biochemistry	1	BIOL 3130	Biol 2130 (C)/ Chem 2120/2220
<b>Mathematics</b>			
Calculus	1	MATH 1140, or MATH 1150	Pre-Calculus 12 C+
Statistics	1	STAT 2000, or BIOL 3000	Math 1140 or Math 1150, Math 1140/1240 or 1150/1250 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year standing
<b>Physics</b>			
Introductory Physics with lab	2	PHYS 1100 and 1200, or PHYS 1150 and 1250	PHYS 11, Pre-Calculus Math 12, or PHYS 12, Pre-Calculus Math 12

Typically, students will begin the application process before they have completed all the prerequisite courses (up to 14 months before the Optometry September start date). Students are responsible for completing the remaining courses by the May deadline, *and* having your final transcripts submitted to the School by the June deadline.

**Note: The following information is intended as a guideline for application to Optometry at the University of Waterloo. Due to changes that can occur at any post-secondary institution, it is the students' responsibility to check that courses selected meet the requirements of the institution they are planning to attend.** Please refer to the "Future Optometry Students" section of University of Waterloo's School of Optometry website for more information.