What does it mean to be Pre-Optometry at Northeastern?

Major Options

Students admitted to U.S. optometry schools come from ALL undergraduate majors. Optometry schools appreciate academic diversity. Choose a major based on your interests!

Required Courses

Requisite courses are school specific. For detailed course requirements, please review:
- Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS)

Common courses may include:
- 2 semesters of Biology with labs
- 2 semesters of General Chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of Physics with labs
- Organic Chemistry with Lab
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Genetics and Molecular Biology with lab
- Biochemistry or Microbiology with lab
- 2 semesters of Math (Calc. & Stats.)
- 2 semesters of English
- Psychology

Do you have AP/IB credit? Schedule an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor to review required coursework.

Getting Started

- Create a Medical Applicant Portal (MAP) via myNortheastern! MAP is an online resource for students and alumni to identify themselves as a Pre-Health.
- Review the Pre-Health Website! https://web.northeastern.edu/prehealth/

Create Community

Faculty: Get to know your faculty! Show interest in your academics, develop mentorships, and establish your professional network.

Campus: Explore extra-curricular activities and find a few that you truly enjoy. Join a health professions student group, find clubs related to your major and/or future career, play a sport, and/or participate student government. Seek out leadership positions.

Local: Volunteer with people and directly serve Boston’s diverse population and their communities.

Global: Explore opportunities to gain experience in other countries and/or with other cultures and better prepare yourself to professionally practice in an increasingly global society.

Experiential Preparation

Community Service / Volunteer Experience: Community service doesn’t need to be healthcare related. Rather, it should follow your interests and demonstrate that you care about others!

Clinical Experience: Clinical experiences are an important way to explore the healthcare field and demonstrate ongoing interest in the profession. Experiences should include direct interaction with practitioners & patients but need not be at an advanced medical level (i.e. shadowing & volunteer experiences).

Laboratory / Research Experience: Though not required for optometry school, research experience makes your application stand out among the applicant pool. Having a solid understanding of research allows for an informed interpretation of hypotheses, results and translation to practice.

Entrance Exam

Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)

Take the exam after you’ve finished the required courses and had 4-6 months to study.

Questions? Book an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor via MyNortheastern!