**GETTING STARTED**

Create a Medical Applicant Portal (MAP) via myNortheastern. MAP is an online resource for students and alumni to identify themselves as Pre-Optometry and stay informed of important dates and events. It also serves as a portfolio to help prepare students for the application process.

Our website houses a great deal of pertinent information and resources for your perusal: undergraduate.northeastern.edu/prehealth

**MAJOR OPTIONS**

Students admitted to US optometry schools come from all undergraduate majors. Optometry schools appreciate academic diversity. You are encouraged to select a major based on your interests. Common majors include Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Behavioral Neuroscience and Health Science.

**EXPERIENTIAL PREPARATION**

**Community Engagement:** Volunteer in your local or global community. Service experiences do not need to be within the field of healthcare, but should follow your interests and demonstrate a passion for helping those in need. Explore your campus community - join organizations that tap into your own passions and interests, such as a health professions club. Demonstrate your ability to lead. Connect with faculty and build up your professional network at Northeastern and beyond.

**Clinical:** Experiences within the field of healthcare are an important way to demonstrate ongoing interest in the profession and gain exposure to a diverse array of specialties. Experiences should include direct interaction with practitioners and patients, but need not be at an advanced level, such as shadowing or clinical co-op positions.

**Research:** 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.

**REQUIRED COURSEWORK**

Requisite courses are school specific. For detailed course requirements, please review:

- Optometry Centralized Application Service

  Common courses include:

  - Two semesters of Biology with labs
  - Two semesters of Chemistry with labs
  - One semester of Organic Chemistry with lab
  - Two semesters of Physics with labs
  - One semester of Anatomy & Physiology
  - Microbiology and/or Biochemistry with lab (Requires Genetics & Molecular Biology)
  - Two semesters of Math (Calculus & Statistics)
  - Two semesters of English Composition/Writing Intensive courses
  - Psychology

**AP credit** is sometimes not accepted for prerequisite courses. In this case, students should complete upper-level coursework to satisfy the requirement. Please refer to program websites for more detail on their AP credit policy.

**ENTRANCE EXAM**

Pre-Optometry students will sit for the Optometry Admissions Exam (OAT). It is recommended that three to five months are dedicated to study before taking the exam, following completion of prerequisite courses.

**CONNECT**

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