



### The Pathway to Optometry School

#### GETTING STARTED

Create a **Medical Applicant Portal (MAP)** via Student Hub. MAP is an online resource for undergraduate 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.

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, Marine Biology, Biochemistry, Behavioral Neuroscience and Health Science.

Our **website** houses a great deal of pertinent information and resources for your perusal:  
[undergraduate.northeastern.edu/prehealth](http://undergraduate.northeastern.edu/prehealth)



#### 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 the Pre-Optometry Club. Demonstrate your ability to lead. Connect with faculty and build up your professional network at Northeastern and beyond.

**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.

**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. Examples may include shadowing or clinical co-op positions.

#### REQUIRED COURSEWORK

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

- [OptomCAS School & College Prerequisites](#)

Common courses include:

- **Biology** with labs (Two semesters)
- **General/Inorganic Chemistry** with labs (Two semesters)
- **Organic Chemistry** with lab (One semester)
- **Physics** with labs (Two semesters)
- **Anatomy & Physiology** (One semester)
- **Microbiology** with lab (Requires Genetics and Molecular Biology)
- **Biochemistry** with lab (Requires Organic Chemistry II & Genetics and Molecular Biology)
- **Math** (One Calculus & One Statistics)
- **Writing** (Two semesters of Writing-Based Social Science or Humanities/English Composition coursework)
- **Psychology**

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

#### ENTRANCE EXAM

Pre-Optometry students will sit for the **Optometry Admissions Exam (OAT)**. The OAT should be scheduled only after all science prerequisite courses are successfully completed and the applicant has had 3-5 months to study.

#### CONNECT WITH US

**Meet our staff** and find who your advisor is based on your path and/or last name.

Sign up for our **monthly newsletter** which includes program updates and events as well as both on and off-campus opportunities for all PreHealth students!

Read up on our latest **blog posts** from students, staff, and alumni!

