



SMU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Suggested Pre-Optometry Plan



Note: Some science courses may be completed in summer terms.

Individual program requirements may change at any time, and this plan may not reflect the most current information. It is the student's responsibility to review, understand, follow, and remain up-to-date with the policies, guidelines, and requirements (including pre-requisite coursework) of each individual optometry program and the application service.

This plan could vary depending on the major chosen. Consult your academic advisor and check individual degree plans for suggested sequencing of courses. **Grades of C (not C-) or better** are required to meet specific science (and math) pre-requisites for admission to optometry school. **Consult with your advisor before advancing to the next level course.** Science pre-requisites include courses coded as biology, chemistry, physics, and math (including statistics). *Subjects in italics will appear as content on the OAT (Optometry Admission Test), while additional courses are recommended for better preparation. See additional notes.*

1st Year Fall

CHEM	1303	General Chemistry I
CHEM	1113	General Chemistry I Lab
BIOL	1301	Introductory Biology I
BIOL	1101	Biology I Lab
DISC	1312	Discernment and Discourse <i>(UC 2016)</i>
WRTR	1312	Introduction to Academic Writing <i>(CC 2020)</i>
MATH	1337	Calculus

1st Year Spring

CHEM	1304	General Chemistry II
CHEM	1114	General Chemistry II Lab
BIOL	1302	Introductory Biology II
BIOL	1102	Biology II Lab
DISC	1313	Discernment and Discourse <i>(UC 2016)</i>
WRTR	1313	Writing and Critical Reasoning <i>(CC 2020)</i>
STAT	2331	Statistics

2nd Year Fall

CHEM	3371	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM	3117	Organic Chem. I Lab
BIOL	3304	Genetics
PHYS	1307	General Physics I
PHYS	1105	Physics I Lab

2nd Year Spring

CHEM	3372	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM	3118	Organic Chem. II Lab
BIOL	3350	Cell Biology
PHYS	1308	General Physics II
PHYS	1106	Physics II Lab

3rd Year Fall

BIOL	4310	Biochemistry
BIOL	4306	Human Anatomy with Physiology
BIOL	3106	Physiology Lab
BIOL	3370	Microbiology
BIOL	3170	Microbiology Lab

3rd Year Spring

BIOL	4364	Integrated Human Physiology with Endocrinology
BIOL	4164	Functional Anatomy & Histology Lab



Students can choose any major; however, most successful applicants to optometry school have taken considerably more than the minimum number of biology courses listed above. Additional recommended courses include Developmental Biology, Virology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, and Neuroscience. Courses in behavioral science (psychology/sociology) are also recommended (and required) by some programs. Completing upper-level science courses before taking the OAT is recommended for additional preparation; however, some students begin studying for the OAT (and take the exam) after completing science courses in Year 2 of the Suggested Plan.

Pre-calculus (MATH 1304) may be required prior to calculus (MATH 1337). Statistics can be moved to a later semester (before the OAT) to complete CALC. Pre-optometry students may incorporate study abroad in their college plan, usually before the spring of Year 3 or during the summer. Plan ahead by meeting with your academic or faculty advisor.

Students may complete PHYS 1303/1105 & PHYS 1304/1106 instead of PHYS 1307/1105 & PHYS 1308/1106. Note: MATH 1338 is a prerequisite (or co-requisite) for PHYS 1304. **Physics can be moved to a later semester to better accommodate a student's schedule but is required content for the OAT. Biochemistry can be taken in the 4th year.**

Upper-level Anatomy & Physiology courses (up to 8-credit hours) are required by some optometry programs and strongly recommended by others. **It is the student's responsibility to understand the specific requirements for individual programs.**

Pre-optometry students should plan to take the OAT and apply no later than June of Year 3. The OAT is offered multiple times during the year. **A 90-day waiting period is required before retesting.** Meet with the Pre-Health Director for more information and visit: <https://www.optomcas.org/information-about-schools-colleges/school-college-prerequisites> and <https://www.ada.org/en/oat/guide> to begin preparing for application to optometry school.