

**PRE-OPTOMETRY INFORMATION
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

The following information is provided for students at San Jose State University who are contemplating a career in optometry. On the following pages information has been copied from a booklet prepared by the American Optometric Association (AOA). Profiles of the colleges of optometry and information on the OAT test can be obtained from individual schools that you are applying to, or from the American Optometric Association.

The Department of Biological Sciences and the College of Applied Sciences provide information and advice to prospective pre-optometry students regarding an appropriate academic program to follow and how to enhance their professional potential. A minimum of 90 semester units (three years of undergraduate education) of college course work and successful completion of the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is required before an applicant can be considered for admission to a school or college of optometry. The OAT program is designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The science courses that the applicant takes should be those designated for science majors and must include laboratory experience. Brief survey courses (GE) in the sciences will not be sufficient preparation for optometry school. The science and math courses should include biology, general and organic chemistry, physics, and math up to calculus. Each optometry school has specific requirements to which the student should pay close attention when applying for admission. Admission to a school of optometry depends on a number of factors that are reviewed by the individual schools and is not guaranteed. Therefore a student should enroll in an undergraduate academic program leading to a degree as an alternative career goal. Because many of the requirements of the schools of optometry are in the sciences, most students work toward a degree in Chemistry or Biology (BS).

The general course requirements are the following although they may differ depending on the college you will be applying to. Pay close attention to the prerequisites for these courses in the school catalogue. Permission to take these courses may need to be obtained from the instructor. Biology majors need to take the core courses (Biol. 1, 2, & 3) to enroll in Microbiology 101. The student should become familiar with the SJSU catalog so that he/she meets the requirements and prerequisites for their respective degree program.

<u>Required courses</u>	<u>SJSU Courses</u>	<u>Semesters</u>	<u>Requires a lab.</u>
Biology	BIOL 2 & 3	2	√
Microbiology	MICR 101	1	
General Chem.	CHEM 1A & 1B	2	√
Organic Chem.	CHEM 8 & 9 or 112A & 113A	1	√
Physics	PHYS 2A & 2B	2	√
Calculus	MATH 20	1	
Statistics	BIOL 155	1	
English		2	
Psychology*		2	
Social & Behavioral Sci.**		2	
Other Courses Recommended: Anatomy (BIOL 65 or 165), Physiology (BIOL 124/125), Biochemistry (CHEM 135)			

* A statistics course taken in a psychology department may not be counted for fulfillment of the psychology requirement.

** Any combination of 2 semesters or 2 quarters in sociology, economics, anthropology, history, political science, or additional psychology.

Test Requirement:

All schools and colleges of optometry require the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). The test is offered in October and February of each year. For most schools the test must be taken no later than the fall of the year proceeding the intended date of entry into the program. Students are advised to take the OAT at an early stage in their academic career and plan to retake the test, if necessary, to improve scores. The schools of optometry use the highest total testing score for ranking purposes.

Additional information on Optometry can be obtained by writing the American Optometric Association, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141, (314) 991-4100.

Suggested Timetable for applicant: Beginning in the sophomore year for senior entry or in the junior year for entry after graduation.

April-June: Renew and establish contact with professors and optometry professionals as potential candidates who would write letters of recommendation in your behalf.

June-September: Prepare for the OAT. "Optometry Admission Test (OAT): The Betz Guide" is available from the Betz Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1745, Rockville, MD 20849, (800) 634-4365 (as of May 1995 the price was \$24.95 plus UPS charges). Your local bookstore may carry this guide. Some students benefit from taking a test preparation course taught by a professional service such as Kaplan.

September: Review academic progress to make sure prerequisites have either been completed or will be completed by the expected entry date.

October-November: Take or retake the fall OAT. Obtain application to a school of optometry; early application is advised. Verify that your recommendation file is complete and have letters sent to schools.

Application and preparation materials for the OAT may be obtained by writing or calling:

Optometry Admission Testing Program
211 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 1840
Chicago, IL 60611-2678

(312) 440-2693

Volunteer Experience and letters of Recommendation

Volunteer Experience: Volunteer experience with an optometrist is highly appropriate in your preparation for optometry school. First, as a prospective optometry professional, you gain valuable insight into your decision whether optometry is the career path for you. Second, you develop the opportunity to receive a letter of support from an optometry professional, a vital element of you application.

Letters of Recommendation: Letters of recommendation are critical. Most schools of optometry require three letters: an ideal choice of sources would be one from a professor with whom you have done personal work (such as assisted on a specific project or served as a TA or reader), one from an optometrist who can state through documented experience that you know what the profession of optometry entails, and one from an employer or extracurricular activity advisor who can comment about your maturity, diligence, and conscientiousness. It is also wise to gather one additional letter from an instructor (preferably in the sciences)

and a second letter from another employer or activity advisor. Many applications ask for a letter or recommendation from the Pre-optometry Advisor (Dr. Adrian Rodriguez) who is also the faculty sponsor of the Optometry Club at San Jose State University. In all cases ensure that the person who writes a recommendation knows you well enough to write a positive letter. For a letter from the optometry advisor make sure that you have had several meetings with him prior to asking for a letter. The advisor needs to know more about you than can be obtained from one or two casual advisement meetings.

Other: Along with a very good academic record, 3.0 or better, the selection committees at optometry schools are interested in students who have actively participated in extracurricular activities. These activities include participation in student organizations, voluntary community work, research experience, employment, etc. The schools are looking for well rounded individuals who will be able to withstand the rigors of an intense four year optometry program.

ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITES

School	CALC	ANAT	PHYSIO	ORGAN CHEM	BIO CHEM	MICRO	STATS	PSYCH
ALABAMA University of AL at Birmingham	1 course	R	R	1 sem or 2 qtrs	R	1 course	1 course	2 courses
CALIFORNIA Southern CA College of Optometry	◆	R	R	◆	R	◆	◆	2 courses
University of California Berkeley	2 sems or 2 qtrs	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
FLORIDA Nova Southeastern Univ. College of Optometry	◆		◆	◆				
ILLINOIS Illinois College of Optometry	◆	R	R	◆	R	◆ w/lab	◆	◆
INDIANA Indiana University, School of Optometry	◆	R	R	◆	R	◆	◆	◆
MASSACHUSETTS The New England College of Optometry	2 sems or 3 qtrs	R	2 sems OR 3 qtrs	1 sem or 2 qtrs	R	1 sem or 2 qtrs	◆ 2qtrs R	1 sem or 2 qtrs
MICHIGAN Michigan College of Optometry	◆		◆	1 yr	◆	300 level	◆	◆
MISSOURI University of Missouri – St. Louis	1 sem		2 SEMS	1 sem √		1 sem	1 sem	2 sem
NEW YORK State University of New York	◆			1 yr ◆	◆R	R	◆	◆
OKLAHOMA Northeastern State University	◆ 1,2	◆ SR	◆R	1 sem w/ lab	1 sem	◆ 3	◆	◆
OHIO The Ohio State University	◆	SR	◆ w/ lab intermed level	◆	◆	◆ w/ lab	R	◆
OREGON Pacific University	◆	◆	◆	◆	R	◆	◆	◆
PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania College of Optometry	R	R	R	◆ √√	◆ √√	◆ w/ lab	◆	◆
PUERTO RICO Inter American University	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
TENNESSEE Southern College of Optometry	◆	R	R	1 yr w/ labs	R	◆ w/ lab	◆	◆
TEXAS University of Houston	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

- One course in Biochem can substitute for one course of either general or organic chemistry
- √ Two sem. in General Chemistry and one sem in Organic Chemistry are required
- √√ One sem. Of Organic Chemistry I and one sem. Of Organic Chemistry II or Biochem or Molecular Biology required
- 1 2 sem. each: gen chem w/ lab, physics w/ lab, and english required. 1 sem. of gen. Zoology/biology w/ lab required
- 2 College Algebra and Trigonometry
- 3 Medical or junior level microbiology
- ◆ One course required

Perf = Preferred
 HR = Highly recommended
 R = Recommended
 SR = Strongly Recommended
 sem = Semester
 qtr = Quarter

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY

Applicant Profile for 1998 Entering Class

2/23/1999

SCHOOL	APP FEE	APP DEAD LINE	AVG GPA	HI/LOW GPA	AVG OAT	APPLY/ ADMIT	RES APPLY/ ADMIT	NON-RES APPLY/ ADMIT	TUITION FEES (RES/NON)	LAST OAT	BA REQ	% WITH BA	MALE/ FEM RATIO	STATES
ALABAMA Univ. AL at Birmingham	\$40	3/1	3.61	4.0/3.07	334	328/40	48/23	280/17	1=\$6,462/\$15,786 2=\$8,012/\$20,448	Feb	No	98%	19/21	9+ Canada
CALIFORNIA So. CA Coll. of Opt.	\$50	3/15	3.51	4.0/3.06	348	637/97	367/77	270/20	\$17,850	Feb	Yes	100%	33/64	14
University of CA. Berkley	\$40	12/31	3.48 ***	4.0/2.64	359	332/60	237/44	95/16	\$7,176/\$16,750	Oct	No	97%	22/38	13
FLORIDA Nova Southeastern Univ.	\$50	4/1	3.10	3.98/2.6	325	614/102	161/39	456/63	\$13,900/\$17,900	Feb	No	70%	50/52	22
ILLINOIS Illinois College of Opt.	\$50	4/1	3.26	N/A	330	849/174	111/50	738/124	\$22,851/\$22,851	Feb	R	96%	77/97	29
INDIANA Indiana University	\$40	1/1	3.46	N/A	331	509/81	79/34	430/47	\$7,698/\$21,380	Feb	No	81%	34/47	18
MASSACHUSETTS New Eng. Coll. of Opt.	\$75	3/31	3.27	3.94	336	841/103	44/14	797/89	\$21,609	Feb	HR	100%	39/57	20
MICHIGAN Michigan Coll. of Opt.	\$20	2/1	3.49	3.97/2.95	328	297/32	87/25	210/7	\$8,480/\$17,362	Oct	No	56%	15/17	6
MISSOURI Univ. of MO-St. Louis	\$50	3/15	3.40	3.9/2.8	325	377/42	56/22	321/20	\$14,268/\$27,714	Feb	Pref	99%	17/25	14
NEW YORK State University of NY	\$75	2/15	3.23 ***	3.98/2.71	342	528/72	147/34	381/38	\$10,840/\$21,940	Feb	No	93%	12/60	11
OKLAHOMA Northeastern St. Univ.	\$45	2/1	3.39	3.96/2.8	312	100/26	43/19	57/7	\$4,632/\$11,110	Oct	Pref	88%	20/6	4
OHIO The Ohio State Univ.	\$30	2/1	3.6	4.0/3.04	353	467/64	102/33	364/31	\$9,228/\$27,099	Feb	No	91%	31/33	13+ Canada, Nthrlnds
OREGON Pacific University	\$55	2/15	3.50	4.0/2.62	330	420/88	N/A	N/A	\$18,900	Feb	Yes **	75%	48/40	22+ Canada
PENNSYLVANIA PA Coll. of Optometry	\$50	3/31	3.30	4.0/2.55	327	898/154	124/46	774/108	\$15,285/\$20,985	Feb	No	89%	77/77	24
PUERTO RICO Inter. American Univ.	\$31	4/1	2.99	3.84/2.53	270	90/48	38/16	60/24	\$13,599/\$13,599	Feb	No	68%	18/22	10
TENNESSEE Southern Coll. of Opt.	\$50	3/1	3.38/ 3.34 **	4.0/2.5	334	871/122	323/60	548/62	\$9,872/\$14,872	Feb	Pref	96%	72/50	29+ Canada
TEXAS University of Houston	\$50	2/1	3.37	4.0/2.2	328	257/107	180/83	177/24	\$6,239/\$15,677	Oct	No*	93%	40/67	15

* Will be required by the year 2000 ** Before the third year *** Prerequisite course GPA
 1= 1st & 4th years (3 qtrs) 2= 2nd & 3rd years (4qtrs)

ASCO
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY
STUDENT AFFAIRS AND/OR ADMISSIONS OFFICES

ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

3241 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616
Phone: (312) 949-7410
Toll-Free: (800) 397-2424
Fax: (312) 949-7680

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

School of Optometry
800 East Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana 47401
Phone: (812) 855-1292
Fax: (812)855-4389

**INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF
PUERTO RICO**

School of Optometry
118 Eleanor Roosevelt
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00919
Phone: (787) 765-1915 (ext. 2510)
Fax: (787) 765-3920

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

at Ferris State University
1310 Cramer Circle
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307
Phone: (616) 592-3703
(After 6/5/99, (231) 591-3703)
Fax: (616) 592-2394
(After 6/5/99, (231) 591-2394)

**THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY**

424 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
Phone (617) 369-0163
Fax: (617) 369-0162

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Optometry
1001 North Grand Avenue
Tablequah, Oklahoma 74464
Phone: (918) 456-5511 (ext. 4036)
Fax: (918) 458-2104

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

College of Optometry
3200 S. University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328
Phone: (954) 262-1101
Toll-Free: (800) 356-0026 (ext. 1101)
Fax: (954) 262-2282

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Optometry
338 West Tenth Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1240
Phone: (614) 292-3246
Fax: (614) 292-7493

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

College of Optometry
2043 College Way
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116
Phone: (503) 357-6980
Toll-Free: (800) 635-0561
Fax: (503) 359-2929

**PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY**

Elkins Park Campus
8360 Old York Road
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania 19027
Phone: (215) 780-1313
Toll-Free: (800) 824-6262
Fax: (215) 780-1396

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY**

2575 Yorba Linda Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Phone: (714) 449-7445
Toll-Free: (800) 829-9949
Fax: (714)992-7878

SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

1245 Madison Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
Phone: (901) 722-3228
Toll-Free: (800) 238-0180
Fax: (901) 722-3328

ASCO
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLIJEGES OF OPTOMETRY
STUDENT AFFAIRS AND/OR ADMISSIONS OF FICES
(Continued)

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

State College of Optometry
100 East 24th Street
New York, New York; 10010
Phone: (212) 780-5100
Fax: (212) 780-5104

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT
BIRMINGHAM**

School of Optometry/The Medical Center
1716 University Boulevard
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0010
Phone: (205) 934-6150
Fax: (205) 934-6758

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY**

School of Optometry
390 Minor Hall
Berkeley, California 94720-2020
Phone: (510) 642-9537
Fax: (510) 643-5109

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT ST. LOUIS

School of Optometry
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121
Phone: (314) 516-5607
Fax: (314) 516-6708
Revised April 1999

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

College of Optometry
Houston, Texas 77204-6052
Phone: (713) 743-1961
Fax: (713) 743-2053

**UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL
School of Optometry**

3744 Gean Brillant
Local 110
Montreal, Quebec, H3T 1P1 Canada
Phone: (514) 343-6948

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

School of Optometry
Faculty of Sciences
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 Canada
Phone: (519) 885-1211

Revised April 1999