



# Pre-Optometry

## The Profession

Optometry is the branch of the health services concerned with the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions or impairments of the vision system. Doctors of Optometry (O.D.) are highly trained state licensed practitioners who examine eyes and related structures to detect the presence of vision problems, eye diseases, and other eye-related problems. Optometrists are the major providers of vision care in this country.

## The Program at UW-Platteville

The pre-optometry program at UW-Platteville involves three to four years of study. Pre-optometry is a preprofessional program; therefore, the student must also indicate an academic major because a preprofessional program is not a major but rather a statement of intent.

## Optometry School

Upon completing the program, students apply to a college of optometry. Applicants should have a strong undergraduate record, competitive scores on the Optometry Admissions Test, and other related material.

At the college of optometry, the student enters a four-year professional program of course study, followed by a state board examination. Depending on the professional school the student enters, he/she can not only receive certification as a Doctor of Optometry but also receive a baccalaureate degree.

Another option is to complete the bachelor's degree at UW-Platteville and apply to a college of optometry. Applicants holding a bachelor's degree will at some colleges of optometry be given preference over applicants with similar academic credentials who do not have a degree.

## High School Preparation

In preparing to enter the pre-optometry program, the high school student needs to acquire a strong science/mathematics background. In addition, a good background in communication and social skills is also helpful.

## Faculty and Facilities

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville provides the student with a strong liberal studies curriculum and with modern facilities to support the program. This ranges from well-equipped chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories to moderate sized classes and strong humanities and social sciences curricula.

## Placement

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville has an excellent record of placing qualified students in accredited optometry schools.

## Outstanding Career Opportunities

Optometry is the nation's third largest independent health-care profession. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for future optometrists is promising as a 10-20% increase in demand is projected through the year 2008.

Over 130 million persons in the United States currently wear some form of eyewear. It is estimated that nearly half of the remaining population has need of visual attention. As our society becomes more highly mechanized, vision requirements are becoming more exact. The number of persons needing professional help for near-point visual tasks, including both older citizens and school children, is steadily growing. Increased demands for vision care result not only from population growth, but also from increased understanding of how good vision relates to industrial production, student achievement, adjustments to aging, and other areas crucial to modern society.

## Suggested Course of Study

The requirements of the UW-Platteville pre-optometry program are designed to prepare students for entrance into the Illinois College of Optometry. Requirements for other optometry schools may vary slightly. Therefore, pre-optometry students are advised to seek information about requirements from the professional school they plan to attend.

- a. General Chemistry 1140, 1240; Organic Chemistry 3540 and 3510; Biochemistry 3630/3610;
- b. Physics 1110, 1140, 1210, and 1240;
- c. Calculus 2640, Statistics 1830;
- d. Zoology 1450, Anatomy and Physiology 2140 and 2240, Microbiology 3240 (required) and 4 credits of Advanced Biology electives
- e. English 1130 and 1230
- f. Psychology 1130 and 3 credit elective
- g. Recommended: Cell Biology 2040, Genetics 3330, Computer Science, Economics, Sociology, Public Speaking

## For More Information

For more information, write to the Pre-optometry Advisor, Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818-3099, or call 608.342.1793.

For general information on the university and its programs, consult the website at [www.uwplatt.edu](http://www.uwplatt.edu) or contact the UWP Prospective Student Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099, or call toll-free 1.877.897.5288 or locally 608.342.1068.

## Suggested Course of Study

### First Year

#### First Semester

|      |      |                      |   |
|------|------|----------------------|---|
| Engl | 1130 | Freshman Composition | 3 |
| Psyc | 1130 | General Psychology   | 3 |
| Chem | 1140 | General Chemistry    | 4 |
| Biol | 1450 | General Zoology      | 5 |
| PE   | 1000 | Fitness Assessment   | 1 |

#### Second Semester

|      |      |                      |   |
|------|------|----------------------|---|
| Engl | 1230 | Freshman Composition | 3 |
| Math | 1530 | College Algebra      | 3 |
| Chem | 1240 | General Chemistry    | 4 |
| Biol | 1350 | General Botany       | 5 |
| PE   |      | Elective             | 1 |

### Second Year

#### First Semester

|      |      |                        |   |
|------|------|------------------------|---|
| Biol | 2140 | Anatomy & Physiology I | 4 |
| Biol | 2040 | Cell Biology           | 4 |
| Math | 2450 | Precalculus <u>OR</u>  |   |
| Math | 2530 | Trigonometry           | 5 |
|      |      | Humanities             | 3 |

#### Second Semester

|      |      |                         |   |
|------|------|-------------------------|---|
| Biol | 2240 | Anatomy & Physiology II | 4 |
| Spch | 1010 | Public Speaking         | 2 |
| Math | 2640 | Calculus                | 4 |
|      |      | Humanities              | 3 |
|      |      | Social Science          | 3 |

### Third Year

#### First Semester

|      |      |                       |   |
|------|------|-----------------------|---|
| Biol | 4240 | Animal Physiology     | 4 |
| Phys | 1140 | General Physics       | 4 |
| Phys | 1110 | General Physics Lab   | 1 |
| Chem | 3540 | Organic Chemistry     | 4 |
| Chem | 3510 | Organic Chemistry Lab | 1 |
|      |      | Social Science        | 3 |

#### Second Semester

|      |      |                     |   |
|------|------|---------------------|---|
| Biol | 3040 | Comparative Anatomy | 4 |
| Phys | 1240 | General Physics     | 4 |
| Phys | 1210 | General Physics Lab | 1 |
|      |      | Social Science      | 3 |

\*February OAT

### Fourth Year

#### First Semester

|      |      |                |   |
|------|------|----------------|---|
| Biol | 3330 | Genetics       | 3 |
| Chem | 4630 | Biochemistry   | 3 |
|      |      | Ethnic Studies | 3 |
|      |      | PE             | 1 |
|      |      | Electives      | 2 |
| Biol | 3240 | Microbiology   | 4 |

\*October OAT

#### Second Semester

|      |      |            |   |
|------|------|------------|---|
| Biol | 4340 | Histology  | 4 |
| Math | 2430 | Statistics | 3 |
|      |      | Electives  | 9 |

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