

Pre-Optometry Program

This information is subject to change. Please check the Pre-Health Advising Website for the most updated information. VCU offers a Pre-Optometry program for students who are interested in attending optometry medical school. You may choose any major at the University and must complete all required courses for both the major and optometry school. The following requirements apply to the doctoral program in optometry medicine (OD) at Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Students are encouraged to check the websites of other optometry schools to find out more about prerequisites for different programs:

COURSES	SEMESTER	GRADE
ENGLISH: effective Fall 2007		
UNIV 111: Focused Inquiry I		
UNIV 112: Focused Inquiry II Grade of "C" or better required		
ENGL 200: Writing & Rhetoric Workshop II Prerequisite: UNIV 111- 112(or equivalent) & 24 credits; Grade of "C" or better required		
MATH: Optometry requires a minimum of 2 Math courses. Students should check the Math requirements for their major & at various Optometry schools before scheduling Math courses.		
<u>OPTION 1:</u> Math 141: Algebra with Applications Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on placement test AND MATH 151: Pre-calculus Mathematics Prerequisite: MATH 141 or by placement test OR <u>OPTION 2:</u> MATH 200: Calculus w/ Analytic Geometry Prerequisite: MATH 151 or by placement test	----- -----	----- -----
STAT 210: Basic Practice of Statistics Prerequisite: MATH 131,141,151 or by placement test		
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: Most optometry schools require a minimum of 2 Biology courses w/ a lab. Biology courses depend on a student's major choice & should be made in consultation w/ the student's advisor		
BIOL 151: Intro to Biological Science I Prerequisite: Placement into MATH 151 & "C" or better in CHEM 100 or through placement into CHEM 101 AND BIOZ 151: Intro to Biological Sciences I Lab	-----	-----

BIOL 152: Intro to Biological Sciences II Can be taken before BIOL 151 Prerequisite: Placement into MATH 151 & "C" or better in CHEM 100 or through placement into CHEM 101 AND BIOZ 152: Intro to Biological Sciences Lab II	-----	-----
OR		
BIOL 101: Biological Concepts AND BIOZ 101: Biological Concepts Lab	-----	-----
BIOL 201: Human Biology AND BIOZ 201: Human Biology Lab	-----	-----
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED BIOLOGY COURSES		
BIOL 303: Bacteriology Prerequisites: BIOL 218 & CHEM/Z 101 & 102 AND BIOZ 303: Bacteriology Lab		
OR		
BIOL 209: Medical Microbiology Prerequisite: "C" or better in BIOL 101 or equivalent AND BIOZ 209: Medical Microbiology Lab		
CHEMISTRY		
CHEM 101: General Chemistry I Prerequisite: CHEM 100 or by placement Prerequisite/Co-req MATH 151		
CHEZ 101: General Chemistry Lab I		
CHEM 102: General Chemistry II Continuation of CHEM 101		
CHEZ 102: General Chemistry Lab II		
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY		
CHEM 301: Organic Chemistry I Prerequisites: CHEM 101-102 & CHEZ 101-102		
CHEZ 301: Organic Chemistry Lab I		
CHEM 302: Organic Chemistry II Continuation of CHEM 301		
CHEZ 302: Organic Chemistry Lab II		

PHYSICS		
PHYS 201: General Physics Prerequisite: MATH 151 AND PHYS 202: General Physics II Prerequisite: PHYS 201	-----	-----
PSYCHOLOGY		
PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology		
RECOMMENDED COURSES: Additional Science courses are recommended to help with the transition into Optometry school. Students should prioritize taking the required courses for their major and for the concentration.		
BIOL 205: Human Anatomy Prerequisite: "C" or better in BIOL/Z 101 or equivalent		
BIOL 206: Human Physiology Prerequisite: "C" or better in BIOL/Z 101 or equivalent AND BIOZ 206: Human Physiology Lab	-----	-----
BIOL 218: Cell Biology Prerequisites: "C" or better BIOL/Z 151,152(or equivalent) CHEM 101&102		
BIOL 310: Genetics Prerequisites: "C" or better in BIOL 218		
BIOL/FRSC 314: Intro to Molecular Biology Prerequisites: BIOL 151-152 & CHEM 102 or equivalent		
CHEM 403: Biochemistry Prerequisites: CHEM/Z 101-102; CHEM 301-302		
PSYC 401: Physiological Psychology Prerequisite: PSYC 101		
PSYC 317: Experimental Methods Prerequisite: PSYC 101 & PSYC 214		

HEALTH CARE, VOLUNTEERING, SHADOWING OPPORTUNITIES (Some of these may also be paid employment)	HOURS	RESPONSIBILITIES

EXTRA-CURRICULAR, ORGANIZATIONS, PAID EMPLOYMENT (non-medical)	HOURS	RESPONSIBILITIES

- Check with the advisor in your major to make sure you are completing all major requirements in addition to Optometry School coursework. See Pre-Health Science Advisor for information on applying to optometry school.
- Students should gain hands-on experience before applying to optometry school. This can be accomplished by volunteering at local hospitals such as MCV, clinics or community agencies, "shadowing" physicians during hospital rounds or in local doctor's offices, volunteering in hospital-based activities, or participating in the Pre-Optometry club at VCU.

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