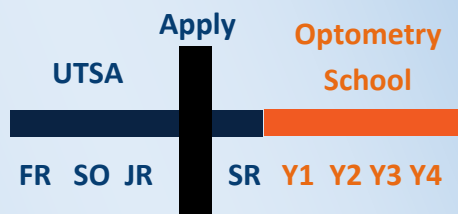


Applying to Doctor of Optometry (OD) Degree Programs

Application Information

UTSA **does not** offer advanced degrees in optometry. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their optometry education.

A common timeline for students attending optometry school is shown below:



This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Optometry schools generally use centralized application services for students applying to their programs.

Most Texas schools and out-of-state schools use OptomCAS, which can be accessed at www.optomcas.org.

University of Houston Optometry Application Information

- Deadline for OptomCAS application for fall entry: March 30th. (Subject to change each cycle.)
- Three recommendation letters are required to be submitted to OptomCAS. Two must be academic letters from faculty members.
- After completion of OptomCAS application, applicants must complete a supplemental application, found here: www.opt.uh.edu. Deadline to submit supplemental application: March 30th. (Subject to change each cycle.)
- Students must complete all pre-requisite courses and a Bachelor's degree prior to matriculation into the Optometry program.
- All pre-requisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.
- Psychology, Calculus, Statistics and Organic Chemistry must have been taken within ten years of application.

Application information (continued)...

- All other pre-requisites must have been taken within five years of application.
- Students applying to optometry must meet functional guidelines for application, including observation abilities, communication abilities, sensory/motor coordination, intellectual abilities and social and behavioral attributes. More information is available on University of Houston website.

Optometry Pre-requisites

Requirements vary, please refer to the admission website for your school of interest for specific prerequisite information. You may also contact the University Health Professions Office to discuss which UTSA courses fulfill optometry prerequisites.

Health Professions Advising

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing optometry pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA's Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine pre-requisites and requirements related to optometry admissions.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:

- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss coursework, holistic admissions, OAT preparation, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:

- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Testing and Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment

Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)

The OAT is one of the measures used by Optometry Schools to determine a student's eligibility for admission.

Some general information about the OAT:

- Four Sections:
 1. Natural Sciences:

Biology (40 questions): Cell, molecular, developmental, systems, genetics, evolution, ecology, behavior

General Chemistry (30 questions): Stoichiometry, Solid/Liquid/Gas, Acids/Bases, Thermodynamics, Kinetics, Atomic Structure

Organic Chemistry (30 questions): Mechanisms, Stereochemistry, Acid-Base Chemistry, Aromatics, Bonding
 1. Reading Comprehension (50 questions)
 2. Physics (40 questions): Units, Vectors, Dynamics, Optics, Statics, Energy and Momentum
 3. Quantitative Reasoning (40 questions): Basic Math, Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Geometry
- Total test time: 4 hours, 50 minutes
- Scores range from 200-400 with a mean of 300.

More information about the OAT can be found on the Examinee Guide: http://www.ada.org/~media/OAT/Files/oat_examinee_guide.pdf?la=en

Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement

Admission to optometry schools is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in optometry-related activities, including community service, working or shadowing in an optometry setting, and involvement on-campus. As optometrists are leaders in the medical field, students are encouraged to develop leadership and teamwork skills

Ways to get involved:

- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: <http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html>.
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and optometry-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: <https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/>.
- Students are encouraged to shadow optometrists to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-optometry students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA's Health Professions Day, to meet with representatives from various optometry schools.

Optometry Fast Facts

- There are two optometry schools in Texas. Information about their programs can be found on www.texashotjobs.org.
- Information about out-of-state programs can be found on the Association of Schools and College of Optometry at www.opted.org.
- Optometry Jobs Outlook:
 - Projected 10 year growth: 24%
 - Average annual salary: \$113,000
 - Total jobs: 34,000
- More information about job outlook and responsibilities for pharmacists can be found on www.explorehealthcareers.org.
- *Optometrists* are health care professionals who provide primary vision care and is not a medical doctor. *Optometrists* provide vision tests, eye exams and dispense corrective lenses. *Ophthalmologists* have M.D. degrees and are licensed to practice medicine and surgery. *Ophthalmologists* might also fit corrective lenses, give vision tests and treat eye diseases. *Ophthalmologists* often also complete research on eye diseases and vision disorders.