

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Optometry

Every professional degree program has specific admissions requirements including prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed. The courses listed below are **common prerequisites** for this pre-professional pathway. They are **subject to change**. It is the student's responsibility to check the specific school for prerequisite details.

The following courses **do not lead to an associate degree specific to Optometry**; however, the courses overlap with major requirements for the **Associate of Arts in Natural Sciences**, which requires a minimum of 18 units of science and mathematics courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in Mathematics. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to **Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)** programs is very competitive. Competitive applicants will have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which may be in any major. In addition to a bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores are used in preliminary screening. The OAT evaluates knowledge in biology, chemistry, physics, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning.

Volunteer experience with an optometrist is highly recommended in preparation for optometry school. This experience is helpful to you as a prospective optometry professional as it allows you to gain valuable insight into your decision whether optometry is the career path for you. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to receive a letter of support from an optometry professional, which is a vital element of your application.

Common Lower Division Preparation for Schools of Optometry

Prefix	Number	Title	Units
A&P	150	Introduction to Human Anatomy	4
or A&P	200	Human Anatomy	(5)
A&P	151	Introduction to Human Physiology	4
or A&P	201	Human Physiology	(5)
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
ENGL	C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	(4.5)
ENGL	C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	4

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Prefix	Number	Title	Units
or ENGL	C1002	Introduction to Literature	(3)
MATH	170	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I	4
MICR	200	Principles and Applications of Microbiology	5
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
or PHYS	201	Engineering Physics	(4)
PHYS	102	General Physics	4
or PHYS	202	Engineering Physics	(4)
PSYC	C1000	Introduction to Psychology	3
STAT	C1000	Introduction to Statistics	4
or STAT	C1000E	Introduction to Statistics	(4.5)

Doctor of Optometry programs also commonly require biochemistry, which is not offered at Cerritos College.

California Optometry Schools

- Marshal B. Ketchum University, Southern California College of Optometry
 - [Admissions info](https://www.ketchum.edu/optometry-admissions) (https://www.ketchum.edu/optometry-admissions)
- University of California, Berkeley
 - [Admissions info](https://optometry.berkeley.edu/admissions) (https://optometry.berkeley.edu/admissions)
 - [Applicant profile data](https://optometry.berkeley.edu/about-us/our-students/our-applicants) (https://optometry.berkeley.edu/about-us/our-students/our-applicants)
- Western University of Health Sciences
 - [Admissions info](https://www.westernu.edu/optometry/programs/doctor-of-optometry) (https://www.westernu.edu/optometry/programs/doctor-of-optometry)
 - [Competitive candidate profile](https://www.westernu.edu/optometry/programs/doctor-of-optometry/competitive) (https://www.westernu.edu/optometry/programs/doctor-of-optometry/competitive)

Additional Resources

- [Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry](https://optometriceducation.org) (https://optometriceducation.org)
- [Explore Health Careers](https://explorehealthcareers.org) (https://explorehealthcareers.org)
- [CSULB Health Professions Advising Office](https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao) (https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao)