

CERRITOS COLLEGE

PRE-OPTOMETRY CAREER PATHWAY

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The requirements listed for the major are subject to change without notice. It is the student's responsibility to check for the most recent information with a Cerritos College counselor or by consulting ASSIST at www.assist.org. **NOTE:** Courses listed may require prerequisite coursework.

*The following curriculum **does not lead to an Associate in Arts Pre-Chiropractic Degree.** However, students may fulfill requirements for a Natural Sciences Degree by completing a minimum of 18 units of Science and Math 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 Math beyond Intermediate Algebra. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.*

Admission to the School Optometry offering the Doctor of Optometry is very competitive. Having completed the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree is now imperative for California Schools of Optometry. The Bachelor's Degree may be in any Major of the student's choice. In addition to the completion of a Bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores are used in preliminary screening. The OAT which has traditionally been administered in October and February is usually taken in the fall of the junior year. It is now being offered year-round as a computerized test at Prometric Testing Centers. The OAT evaluates the following knowledge: Biology, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Writing, and Reading comprehension. The OAT guide provides information about test preparation, a guide for interpretation of OAT scores, and testing schedule. A copy of this guide can be found by visiting the website: <https://www.ada.org/en/oat>. Finally, 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 you the opportunity to receive a letter of support from an Optometry professional, a vital element of your application.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

An important guide to read is "Optometry, A Career Guide," which provides optometry career information for prospective students. A copy of this guide can be found online at: <https://optometriceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Career-Guide-January-2018.pdf>. Another valuable source of information is the Association of Schools and College of Optometry website: <https://optometriceducation.org/> or the UC Berkeley Optometry Club called Foresight at: <https://sites.google.com/site/ucberkeleyforesightclub/>. Information on UC Berkeley Optometry Club called Foresight at <https://sites.google.com/site/ucberkeleyforesightclub/>. Information on UC Berkeley's pre-professional preparation coursework can be found at <https://optometry.berkeley.edu> and www.Ketchum.edu/optometry for the Marshall B. Ketchum University in Fullerton.

COMMON LOWER DIVISION PREPARATION FOR SCHOOLS OF OPTOMETRY:

			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

CERRITOS COLLEGE

PRE-OPTOMETRY CAREER PATHWAY

COMMON LOWER DIVISION PREPARATION FOR SCHOOLS OF OPTOMETRY: (cont.)

			UNITS
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
ENGL	100	Freshman Composition	4
ENGL	102	Freshman Composition and Literature	4
or	ENGL 103	Critical and Argumentative Writing	(3)
or	ENGL 110	Critical Thinking Through Literature	(3)
MATH	112	Elementary Statistics	3
MATH	170	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I	4
MATH	190	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	4
MICR	200	Principles and Applications of Microbiology	5
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
PHYS	102	General Physics	4
or	PHYS 201	Engineering Physics	(4)
or	PHYS 202	Engineering Physics	(4)
PSYC	101	General Introductory Psychology	3

ADDITIONAL LOWER DIVISION PREPARATION FOR SPECIFIC SCHOOLS OF OPTOMETRY:

Marshall B. Ketchum University – Fullerton www.ketchum.edu

To be considered for admission to Marshall B. Ketchum University SCCO's renowned Doctor of Optometry (OD) Program, you must meet the following academic requirements:

1. Possess a Bachelor's Degree or minimum units, and
2. Complete the following prerequisite coursework – Calculus, General Biology or Zoology (one-year sequence) General Microbiology or Bacteriology, Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, General Physics (one-year sequence), General Chemistry, (one-year sequence), Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Psychology, English Composition or Literature, and Statistics.

Competitive applicants are advised to have a GPA of 3.0 and above. However, more emphasis is placed on a student's OAT scores. The OAT must be taken no more than 2 years prior to the date of your application submission. You are not penalized for taking the OAT multiple times. If you take the OAT more than once, they will look at your best "set" of scores, which are scores from one single test date. For example, if you have taken the OAT several times, they do not use your Physics section score from one test date and combine it with your Biology section score from another test date. They consider ONLY your best score set. A competitive applicant has OAT section scores for "Academic Average," "Total Science" and "Reading Comprehension" of at least 311. In addition, experience with an Optometrist is highly recommended in your preparation for Optometry school. If the applicant meets the academic and personal criteria of the preliminary screening, they will be invited for a personal interview on campus.

CERRITOS COLLEGE

PRE-OPTOMETRY

CAREER PATHWAY

University of California – Berkeley <http://optometry.berkeley.edu>

To be considered for admission to the University of California, Berkeley Doctor of Optometry (OD) Program, you must meet the following academic requirements:

1. Possess a Bachelors's Degree, and
2. Complete the following prerequisite coursework – General Chemistry (two semesters or three quarters), Organic Chemistry; (one semester or one quarter), Biochemistry (one semester or one quarter), General Biology (two semesters or three quarters), General Physics (two semesters or three quarters), Anatomy (one semester or one quarter), Human Physiology (one semester one quarter), Microbiology (one semester or one quarter), Immunology (one semester or one quarter), Calculus (one semester or one quarter), Statistics (one semester or one quarter), Reading and Composition (two semesters or three quarters), and Psychology (one semester or one quarter).

Competitive applicants are advised to have a GPA of 3.0 and above. Additionally, the following standardized tests are accepted: The Optometry Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Graduate Record Examination, Medical College Admission Test, or the Pharmacy College Admission Test. Applicants are required to submit three professional letters of recommendation, suggested sources include: an optometrist, professor, or employer. Applicants are also required to provide responses to three essay topics with a maximum of 3000-4500 words, depending on the topic. The admissions committee considers work experience and shadowing opportunities in their holistic approach to the application review. Successful applicants are then invited to engage in Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI's) to ascertain one's ability to communicate, react quickly, and problem solve in a complex environment.

University of California, Berkeley OD Applicant Profile can be found at:

<http://optometry.berkeley.edu/about-us/our-students/our-applicants/>. In 2018-2019, there were 237 applicants, of which 63 students were admitted with the highest G.P.A. of a 3.9, and the lowest G.P.A. of a 2.7. The range of OAT scores was 300 to 390.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

An Optometrist or Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) are primary health care providers who are specifically trained, and state licensed to examine, diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. They may practice in the areas of binocular disorders, contact lenses, low vision, ocular disease, geriatric, pediatrics, or refractive surgery. They prescribe treatment such as corrective lenses, contact lenses, laser procedures or vision therapy. They may practice as independent practitioners, in a group practice, a health clinic or hospital. Job opportunities for the employment of Optometrists are expected to grow faster than the average in California and average nationally for all occupations through 2019. Retirement of older practitioners is expected to create job opportunities. The age structure of the population is a factor affecting demand. People over 45 visit an Optometrist more frequently. Other factors include rising incomes and greater recognition of the importance of vision care. Employment of Optometrists would grow more rapidly were it not for anticipated productivity gains that will allow each Optometrist to see more patients. These expected gains stem from greater use of Optometry assistants and other support personnel, who will reduce the amount of time Optometrists need with each patient. Also, new surgical procedures using lasers are available that can correct some vision problems, and although Optometrists still will be needed to provide preoperative and postoperative care for laser surgery patients, patients who successfully undergo this surgery may not require Optometrists to prescribe glasses or contacts for several years. According to ONetOnline.org, the median net annual income in 2018 for Optometrists in California was \$111,790.