

**Lower division requirements for the graduate program in Optometry:**

Pacific University requirements	<u>Minimum</u> # of Credits	PCC Courses that meet requirements	# of PCC Quarter Credits
<b>Biological Sciences:</b> Human Anatomy and Physiology & Microbiology	12 semester 18 quarter	<b>BI 231, 232, &amp; 233</b> Anatomy & Physiology- 12cr.  <b>and</b> <b>BI 234</b> Microbiology- 5cr. <i>Pacific is not as concerned with the number of credits in the Biological Science area as they are with the required coursework.</i>	17
<b>Chemistry:</b> One year of General Chemistry <b>and</b>  A standard one-year course with labs in organic chemistry <i>or</i> 1 semester of organic chemistry and 1 semester of biochemistry	12 semester 18 quarter	<b>CH 221, 222, &amp; 223</b> General Chemistry- 15cr.  <b>and</b> Take either: <b>CH 241</b> Organic Chemistry-5cr. <b>and CH 211</b> Intro. to Biochemistry- 4 cr.  <b>or</b>  * <b>CH 241, 242, &amp; 243</b> Organic Chemistry-15cr.	24-30
<b>Calculus</b> – 1 course	3 semester 4 quarter	<b>MTH 251</b> Calculus I	4
<b>Statistics</b> – 1 course	3 semester 4 quarter	<b>MTH 243</b> Statistics I	4
One year course in <b>Physics</b> , need not be Calculus based	8 semester 12 quarter	<b>PHY 201, 202, &amp; 203</b> General Physics- 12cr.  <b>or</b> <b>PHY 211, 212, &amp; 213</b> General Physics- 15cr.	12 or 15
<b>General Psychology</b> – 1 course	3 semester 4 quarter	<b>PSY 201(A)</b> General Psychology	4
<b>English:</b> Must include 2 courses in Writing Composition (Expository, Technical, and Scientific Writing courses are strongly recommended)	6 semester 12 quarter	<b>WR 121</b> English Composition- 4cr.  <b>and</b> <b>WR 122</b> English Composition- 4cr.  <b>and</b> additional <b>ENG</b> or <b>WR</b> course (WR 227 is strongly recommended)	12 or more

**Additional Requirements or Recommendations**

\*By completing the 241-243 series, students will be better prepared for optometry school and the OAT exam.  
It is also highly recommended that students take courses in biochemistry.

It is highly recommended that you contact Pacific University for additional requirements.

**Contact: Andrea Lybarger - Assistant Director of Graduate and Professional Admissions**

**Phone: (503) 352-7217 [andrealybarger@pacificu.edu](mailto:andrealybarger@pacificu.edu)**

**This is a Graduate Degree. Students do not major in Pre-Optometry but may qualify to major in Visual Science at Pacific University.**

## PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

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<http://www.pacificu.edu/admissions/grad/optometry/>

Contact Andrea Lybarger at 503-352-7217 for more information

If a course does not exactly meet the criteria listed, be sure to enclose a photocopy of the catalog course description with this planning guide.

- If your credits are on the quarter system, convert them to semester credits. The formula is: quarter credits divided by 1.5 equals semester credits.
- If accepted, you must complete both the required courses and the required number of semester hours before beginning the program.
- All courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher. Courses are to be taken on a graded basis; pass/fail courses are not acceptable for prerequisite courses.
- Courses taken to fulfill the science prerequisites must be those designed for science majors or pre-professional students (Pre-Optometry, Pre-Med, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Dentistry) and must each include a laboratory.
- A single course may not be used to satisfy more than one prerequisite area.

The courses listed on this guide are the minimum pre-optometry requirements. Students who enter in the fall without a bachelor's degree must complete the Bachelor's Degree option prerequisites for the Visual Science major.

### Admissions Criteria

Enrollment is limited and admission is selective. The Optometry Admissions Committee highly encourages early application. In making admission decisions, the Optometry Admissions Committee considers many factors:

- Strength and breadth of academic record.
- Optometry Admission Test scores. The Admissions Committee strongly encourages applicants to take the October OAT and apply by the preferred application deadline in early January. Regular application deadline is in March. Well qualified applicants who apply early are more likely to gain admission to Pacific University College of Optometry. The February OAT scores are also accepted for the following year's application period.
- Essay responses.
- Applicants are required to have **a minimum of 30 hours of observation with an optometrist prior to application**. We encourage the observation be completed within a diversity of optometry settings.
- Strength of letters of evaluation.
- Content of application forms and the care with which they have been prepared.
- Extracurricular and community activities.

Based on the criteria listed above, selected applicants are invited for the on-campus personal interview. The interview is required and is a contributing factor in the admission decision. It allows the selection committee to assess essential skills and traits which may not be reflected in the application.

In the interview, consideration is given to knowledge of the profession, motivation toward a career in optometry, ability to think clearly and logically, poise, self-confidence, warmth and verbal expression of ideas.

*PCC endeavors to create accurate transfer guides for students; however, requirements may change without notice. Students are responsible for working with PCC advisors and their transfer institution to ensure that their academic plan will meet requirements and timelines.*