

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BIOLOGY MAJOR PRE-OPTOMETRY EMPHASIS

FRESHMAN

*Biology 141	4	Biology 151 or *152	3
*Math 111/118 ¹	4/5	*Chemistry 261	4
*English 101 ¹	3	Math 115	3
UCC elective	3	Comm Stud 101/107	3
Ped elective	1	UCC elective	3
	15-16		16

SOPHOMORE

Biology 151 or *152	3	Biology 215	3
*Chemistry 262	4	Biology elective	3/4
*Math 230	4	*Chemistry 353	4
*English 201	3	*Math 241	3
Ped elective	1	*Psychology 201	3
	15		16-17

JUNIOR

*Biology 375	3	Biology 334	3
*Biology 376	2	Biology 333	4
*Physics 175/205	4/5	*Physics 176/206	4/5
Chemistry 354	4	UCC elective	3
UCC elective	3		
	16-17		14-15

SENIOR

Biology 382	4	Biology 481	3
Biology electives	3-8	UCC electives	3-6
UCC electives	6	Free electives	3-6
	13-18		9-18

Courses with a (*) are required by the Indiana University School of Optometry.

IU strongly recommends Biology 342 (Comparative Chordate Anatomy) and Chemistry 431 (Biochemistry); recommended courses are Biology 442 (Histology), Biology 492 (Special Problems in Biology), HP 115 (Medical Terminology), and Management 141 (Introduction to Business).

¹ Initial math and English courses determined by placement exam and SAT/ACT scores.

OPTOMETRY

Optometry is an independent primary health care profession encompassing prevention and remediation of disorders of the eye/vision system through examination, diagnosis, treatment, and management of visual efficiency and eye health.

Surveys routinely list optometry among the 20 best occupations based on career satisfaction, status, and income. Most optometrists are in private practice, although opportunities also exist in research, education, sports medicine, and the military.

Educational requirements for optometry include three or four years of undergraduate work and four years of professional study leading to a Doctor of Optometry degree. The specific requirements vary from school to school, but most require a year of general biology, general chemistry, general physics, and English, and at least one course in microbiology, organic chemistry, psychology, statistics, and calculus. The curriculum on the reverse side includes these courses and others leading to a bachelor's degree in biology. Most students entering optometry school have completed the BS/BA degree.

There are 15 schools of optometry in the United States. Admission is competitive, and applicants are rated by grades (mean successful overall GPA = 3.45), letters of recommendation, interviews, and scores on the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). The OAT is a computer-based exam offered all year, and covers biology, general and organic chemistry, physics, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning.

It is your responsibility to know the specific requirements of the schools you are interested in attending. Websites for area schools are listed below.

Indiana University School of Optometry: www.opt.indiana.edu

Illinois College of Optometry: www.ico.edu

Ohio State University College of Optometry:

www.optometry.ohio-state.edu

Southern College of Optometry: www.sco.edu

University of Missouri – Saint Louis School of Optometry:

www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/optometry.html

General information on the OAT, optometry programs, and careers in eye care can be found at www.opted.org. Applications are made through a centralized Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry service - www.optomcas.org

Contact Dr. James Bandoli for further information