## Description of the Profession

- U.S. Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook*  
- Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website:  
  [http://www.opted.org/about-optometric-education/professional-o-d-programs](http://www.opted.org/about-optometric-education/professional-o-d-programs)

## Course Requirements

Admission requirements vary by institution so you should research programs of interest. A program-specific guide can be accessed at: [http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/ASCO_SchoolsPrerequisites_May2013.pdf](http://www.opted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/ASCO_SchoolsPrerequisites_May2013.pdf)

In general, requirements include:
- 1 year general biology
- 1 year general chemistry
- 1 year organic chemistry
- 1 year general physics
- 1 year English
- Courses in social sciences or humanities

## Application Timeline

Optometry school directly after Messiah College:
- Required courses must be completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants who complete the required courses sooner)
- Apply during summer between junior and senior year.

## Standardized Test

- The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is required by all schools of Optometry  
- The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning.
- The OAT is administered at Prometric Test Centers several times each year.

## Application Service

- Chiropractic Centralized Application Service (ChiroCAS)  
  [http://www.chirocolleges.org/prospective_students.html](http://www.chirocolleges.org/prospective_students.html)
- School-specific deadlines and requirements:  
- APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines!

## Admissions Criteria

- GPA and OAT score
- Letters of evaluation
- Optometry-related experience
- Personal statement

## Degree

- The Doctor of Chiropractic (OD) is conferred after four years of post-graduate study. (There is an optional one year of residency.)

## Additional Resources

- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (www.opted.org)
- American Academy of Optometry (www.aaopt.org)
- American Optometric Association (www.aoa.org)

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