

Pre-Optometry Program at Messiah College

Description of the Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field/8/Optometry • Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website: http://www.opted.org/about-optometric-education/professional-o-d-programs
Course Requirements	<p>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)</p> <p>In general, requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Optometry school directly after Messiah College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is required by all schools of Optometry http://www.ada.org/en/oat • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractic Centralized Application Service (ChiroCAS) http://www.chirocolleges.org/prospective_students.html • School-specific deadlines and requirements: http://www.optomcas.org/information-about-schools-colleges/deadlines-and-other-information • APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines!
Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPA and OAT score • Letters of evaluation • Optometry-related experience • Personal statement
Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Doctor of Chiropractic (OD) is conferred after four years of post-graduate study. (There is an optional one year of residency.)
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (www.opted.org) • American Academy of Optometry (www.aaopt.org) • American Optometric Association (www.aoa.org)