Pre-Optometry

The Pre-Optometry minor outlines a set of courses, activities, and competencies that commonly serve as prerequisites for admission to doctoral programs in optometry (OD). Declaring the Pre-Optometry minor guides you to classes that you need to meet these prerequisites. With ample preparation, you can become a competitive applicant to optometry programs regardless of your choice of baccalaureate degree major, including starting with an Undeclared status.

1st Semester Course Recommendations

General Education

When selecting General Education (GenEd) courses to take in your first semester, we want you to know that there are many courses that meet not only the GenEd requirements but also the requirements for the Pre-Optometry minor. We encourage you to try to take courses that count for both GenEd and Pre-Optometry. If you can’t enroll in some of these courses during your first semester, it is ok to wait and take them in a later semester.

- **Cluster One – Writing:** WRTC 103*
- **Cluster Two – Literature**: any ENG or HUM 200 (strongly advised to complete WRTC 103 first)
- **Cluster Three – Quantitative Reasoning:** Statistics* (MATH 220 or 229) and Calculus* (MATH 205, 231, 233, or 235) (see the Mathematics section below)
- **Cluster Three – Physical Principles:** CHEM 131* & 131L*; PHYS 140* & 140L*
- **Cluster Three – Natural Systems:** BIO 140* & 140L*
- **Cluster Five – Sociocultural Domain:** PSYC 101*

* required for the pre-optometry minor

Have you earned AP, IB, or CIE scores that translate to college credit? If so, be aware that AP, IB, or CIE credited courses on a college transcript do not include grades. Due to the absence of a performance measure, some optometry schools do not accept these credited-courses to fulfill their prerequisites; this restriction occurs most frequently for courses listed in Cluster 3. If you have AP, IB, or CIE credit, you can opt to (a) take additional coursework in the same discipline or (b) decline the AP, IB, or CIE earned course-credit and enroll in that same course for graded credit with the understanding that your preparation during AP, IB, and CIE coursework increases the likelihood of strong academic performance.

Mathematics

If your major does not require specific math courses, enroll in Calculus or Statistics based on your ALEKS Math Placement scores and course availability. Since success in sciences, especially General Chemistry, is associated with strong skills in math, we advise you to prioritize math in your first semester.

Statistics Course Selection – ALEKS Scores

You may complete MATH 220 or 229 to fulfill a statistics prerequisite for optometry school. If your major requires a specific statistics course, you should follow your major worksheet.
ALEKS Score | Statistics Course Options for Pre-Optometry Students
---|---
≥ 66 | MATH 229
≥ 46 | MATH 220
Below 46 | Prepare for success by enrolling in MATH 105 before enrolling in a statistics course

**Calculus Course Selection – ALEKS Scores**

You may complete MATH 205, 231, 233, or 235 to fulfill a calculus prerequisite for optometry school. If your major requires a specific calculus, you should follow your **major** worksheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALEKS Score</th>
<th>Calculus Course Options for Pre-Optometry Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 81</td>
<td>MATH 235</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 66</td>
<td>MATH 205 or 231 or MATH 233</td>
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<tr>
<td>56 – 65</td>
<td>MATH 205 + 199 or MATH 231 + 199 or MATH 233 + 199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 56</td>
<td>Prepare for success by enrolling in MATH 155 before enrolling in a calculus course</td>
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