



# SMU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS

## Suggested Pre-Optometry Plan

*Note: Some science courses may be completed in summer terms.*



*Individual program requirements may change at any time, and this plan may not reflect the most current information. It is the student's responsibility to review, understand, follow, and remain [up-to-date](#) with the policies, guidelines, and requirements (including prerequisite coursework) of each individual optometry program and the application service.*

This plan could vary depending on the major chosen. Consult your academic advisor and check individual degree plans for suggested sequencing of courses. [Grades of C \(not C-\) or better](#) are required to meet specific science (and math) prerequisites for admission to optometry school. [Consult with your advisor before advancing to the next level course.](#) Science prerequisites include courses coded as biology, chemistry, physics, and math (including statistics). *Subjects in italics will appear as content on the OAT (Optometry Admission Test), while additional courses are recommended for better preparation. See additional notes.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Fall

CHEM	1303	<i>General Chemistry I</i>
CHEM	1113	<i>General Chemistry I Lab</i>
BIOL	1301	<i>Introductory Biology I</i>
BIOL	1101	<i>Biology I Lab</i>
WRTR	1312	Introduction to Academic Writing
MATH	1337	Calculus

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Spring

CHEM	1304	<i>General Chemistry II</i>
CHEM	1114	<i>General Chemistry II Lab</i>
BIOL	1302	<i>Introductory Biology II</i>
BIOL	1102	<i>Biology II Lab</i>
WRTR	1313	Writing and Critical Reasoning
STAT	2331	Statistics

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Fall

CHEM	3371	<i>Organic Chemistry I</i>
CHEM	3117	<i>Organic Chem. I Lab</i>
BIOL	3304	<i>Genetics</i>
PHYS	1307	<i>General Physics I</i>
PHYS	1105	<i>Physics I Lab</i>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Spring

CHEM	3372	<i>Organic Chemistry II</i>
CHEM	3118	<i>Organic Chem. II Lab</i>
BIOL	3350	<i>Cell Biology</i>
PHYS	1308	<i>General Physics II</i>
PHYS	1106	<i>Physics II Lab</i>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Fall

BIOL	4310	<i>Biochemistry</i>
BIOL	4306	<i>Human Anatomy with Physiology</i>
BIOL	3106	Physiology Lab
BIOL	4376	Microbiology
BIOL	3176	Microbiology Lab

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Spring

BIOL	4364	<i>Integrated Human Physiology with Endocrinology</i>
BIOL	4164	<i>Functional Anatomy &amp; Histology Lab</i>

Students can choose any major; however, *most successful applicants to optometry school have taken considerably more than the minimum number of biology courses* listed above. Additional recommended courses include Virology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, and Neuroscience. Courses in behavioral science (psychology/sociology) are also recommended (and required) by some programs. Completing upper-level science courses before taking the OAT is recommended for additional preparation; however, some students begin studying for the OAT (and take the exam) after completing science courses in Year 2 of the Suggested Plan.

Pre-calculus (MATH 1304) may be required prior to calculus (MATH 1337). Statistics can be moved to a later semester (before the OAT) to complete CALC. Pre-optometry students may incorporate study abroad in their college plan, usually before the spring of Year 3 or during the summer. Plan ahead by meeting with your academic advisor.

Students may complete PHYS 1303/1105 & PHYS 1304/1106 instead of PHYS 1307/1105 & PHYS 1308/1106. *Note: MATH 1338 is a prerequisite (or co-requisite) for PHYS 1304. **Physics can be moved to a later semester to better accommodate a student's schedule but is required content for the OAT. Biochemistry can be taken in the 4<sup>th</sup> year.***

Upper-level Anatomy & Physiology courses (up to 8-credit hours) are required by some optometry programs and strongly recommended by others. **It is the student's responsibility to understand the specific requirements for individual programs.**

Pre-optometry students should plan to take the OAT and apply no later than June of Year 3 (or the year of application). The OAT is offered multiple times during the year. **A 90-day waiting period is required before retesting.** Meet with the Pre-Health Director for more information and visit [ASCO \(Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry\)](#), [OAT \(Optometry Admission Test\)](#), and [Optometry Admission Guide](#) to begin preparing for application to optometry school.

[OptomCAS](#) (optometry application service) opens mid-late June. Early applications are strongly recommended.