

Prerequisites

Biological Sciences w/labs*	8 hours
General Chemistries w/labs*	8 hours
General Physics w/labs* **	8 hours
Calculus***	3 hours
Organic Chemistry w/lab	4 hours
Biochemistry	3 hours
Microbiology w/lab*	4 hours
Statistics	3 hours
Psychology	3 hours
Jr/Sr-Level Biology Courses****	8 hours

* Courses should be equivalent to those required for biological science degree majors.

** Courses should have an optics section dedicated to the study of wave theory & the propagation of light. Calculus-based physics is not required; trigonometry- or algebra-based physics is acceptable.

*** Students are recommended (but not required) to take one or more courses in algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus and/or analytical geometry.

**** Eight hours of advanced biology courses are required. **A minimum of three of these eight hours must come from junior/senior-level physiology or anatomy (freshman/sophomore-level A&P courses will not satisfy these requirements).** Acceptance of other biology courses to satisfy prerequisites is at the discretion of UHCO's admissions committee. Students are recommended to receive prior approval from the program manager for admissions. Courses such as molecular biology, cell biology, genetics, neuroscience, immunology, virology and endocrinology are acceptable. Courses such as plant physiology, botany, ecology, biodiversity or biotechnology are not acceptable.

All prerequisite coursework must have been completed within five (5) years of the date of your application to UHCO.

A bachelor's degree is required prior to matriculation for admission to the professional program at the University of Houston College of Optometry.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation must be requested via OptomCAS & sent directly to OptomCAS. OptomCAS requires three letters of recommendation but will accept a maximum of four letters. In addition, UHCO requires that two of the three letters be academic letters of recommendation - that is, two letters should be from faculty who have directly taught the applicant. UHCO recommends that the third letter be from an optometrist with whom the applicant has trained/shadowed.

Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)

The OAT is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability & comprehension of scientific information. The OAT is sponsored by the Association of Schools & Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for applicants seeking admission to an optometry program. All schools & colleges of optometry in the United States - and the University of Waterloo, Canada - require the OAT. The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (biology, general chemistry & organic chemistry); Reading Comprehension; Physics & Quantitative Reasoning. At least one year of college education - which should include courses in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics - is required prior to taking the OAT. Most students, however, elect to complete two or more years of college prior to taking the exam. The OAT is computerized, and examinees are allowed to take the OAT multiple times but must wait a minimum of 90 days between test dates. However, only scores from the four most recent attempts and the total number of attempts will be reported. Examinees may submit applications for the OAT and/or request additional copies of score reports online. For additional OAT information:

www.opted.org

Optometric Admissions Testing Program

211 E. Chicago Ave. - Suite 600

Chicago, IL 60611-2678

800-232-2159

Supplemental Application

OptomCAS does not provide all of the information required by UHCO. Therefore, applicants are required to complete a supplemental application, available on the UHCO website (<http://www.opt.uh.edu>). Applicants should have an OptomCAS ID prior to accessing the supplemental application. A \$50.00 non-refundable application fee for the UHCO supplemental application is required. **Students must complete the OptomCAS application & the UHCO supplemental application by March 30 prior to the fall semester in which they expect to enter. All applications & supporting credentials must be received in the UHCO Office of Optometry Relations office by March 30.** Please note that 4-6 weeks may pass between submission to OptomCAS & UHCO's receiving OptomCAS applications.

Interview

An interview is required for admission to UHCO. Applicants who are deemed to be competitive will be invited for an interview until the class is filled. Not all applicants are interviewed. The interview is not an adversarial process but is designed for UHCO administrators & faculty to get to know the applicant and for the applicant to get to know more about UHCO.

Knowledge of the Optometric Profession

Not every applicant to optometry school is able to gain pre-application experience by working daily for a practice, and that's okay. Those who don't work for a practice are strongly encouraged to shadow O.D.s in the profession. Having knowledge of the day-to-day activities & workflow of an optometric practice is quite crucial to being the strongest applicant you can be. Whether you shadow a few hours per week at a small private practice or you shadow a few hours for a month at a large group or corporate-based practice, these hours spent with practicing O.D.s will let you get hands-on experiences in exam rooms, in patient interviews, in teaching & scheduling and much more. There is no minimum amount of shadowing/work hours required in order to apply to UHCO, but the more quality experience you bring to your application, the better.