

Pre-Optometry Planning Guide

Prerequisite courses vary from school to school. It's very important that you check the websites of schools you want to apply to in order to make sure you're taking the courses they require. The courses in this table are a summary of the most common requirements.

Prerequisite Courses	Options at UW–Madison	OAT
Calculus	Three options: Math 211, Math 221, OR Math 171 and 217	No
General Chemistry	Two options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry 103 (lecture + lab) and Chemistry 104 (lecture + lab) Chemistry 109 (lecture + lab) 	Yes
Introductory Biology	Three options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoology 101 (lecture), Zoology 102 (lab), and an additional bioscience with lab Biology 151 (lecture + lab) and Biology 152 (lecture + lab) Biocore (4 semesters of lecture + lab) 	Yes
Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 343 (lecture), Chemistry 345 (lecture), and Chemistry 344 (lab)	Yes
Biochemistry*	Two options: Biochemistry 501 (lecture) OR Biochemistry 507-508 (lectures)	No
Microbiology	Two options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microbiology 101 (lecture) and Microbiology 102 (lab) Microbiology 303 (lecture) and Microbiology 304 (lab) 	No
Anatomy*	Two possible required courses: Anatomy 328 (lecture) and Anatomy 329 (lab)	No
Physiology*	Two options: Physiology 335 (lecture + lab) OR Physiology 435 (lecture + lab)	No
Physics	Four options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics 103-104 (lecture + lab) (not based on calculus) Physics 207-208 (lecture + lab) (based on calculus) Physics 201-202 (lecture + lab) (for engineering students) EMA 201 and Physics 202 (lecture + lab) (for BME students) 	No
Statistics	Four options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics 371 (lecture) Statistics 301 (lecture) Biostatistics 541 (lecture) Statistics in your major (e.g., Psychology 210) 	No
English, Literature, Communication	Many options on campus	Helpful
Psychology	Two options: Psychology 202 OR Psychology 281 (honors)	No
I/A Social Science	Many options on campus	No

* Schools vary in their requirements for these courses. Most require one semester of Organic Chemistry, but a full year is needed for the OAT. A majority of programs require or strongly recommend Biochemistry, Anatomy, and Physiology.

Resources

Learning resources available on UW campus

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| • Greater University Tutoring Services (GUTS) | http://guts.wisc.edu |
| • Peer Learning Association (PLA) | https://win.wisc.edu/organization/pla |
| • Chemistry Learning Center (CLC) | https://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc |
| • Physics Learning Center (PLC) | https://www.physics.wisc.edu/plc |
| • Math Lab | https://www.math.wisc.edu/undergraduate/mathlab |
| • Statistics Lab | https://www.stat.wisc.edu/courses/Tutorial_Schedule |
| • Writing Center | http://www.writing.wisc.edu |

Professional Organizations

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| • American Optometric Association | www.aoa.org |
| • Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry | www.opted.org |