

Pre-Optometry



University of Wyoming

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Preprofessional coursework does not constitute a major. Preprofessional coursework is completed in addition to that of a declared major in order to enhance the likelihood of acceptance to a professional school and success in a professional degree program.
- Be aware that, for some degrees, it may take more than four years to graduate with a bachelor's degree while incorporating preprofessional coursework.
- Students starting in MATH 1400, 1405, or 1450 can complete this plan in four years, with modest modifications. Students starting below MATH 1400 should plan on at least an additional year prior to applying to optometry schools.
- It takes more than a year to apply to optometry school. In order to go directly from an undergraduate degree program to professional school, students must develop a competitive resume and largely complete their prerequisite coursework by the end of the junior year.
- The prerequisite coursework listed below is for general guidance *only*. Specific programs may have additional requirements. Students should carefully research a variety of realistic potential programs to make sure they are meeting both the academic and non-academic expectations and requirements of the program.
- Begin working with the Preprofessional Health Advising Office *as soon as possible* to determine a realistic path to professional school. Contact information and an appointment link can be found at uwyo.edu/preprof. For students not in Laramie, phone appointments are welcome.

Freshman Fall Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
USP First-Year Seminar	3		C	FY
CHEM 1020 General Chemistry I *	4			PN
LIFE 1010 General Biology **	4			PN
MATH 2200 Calculus I ***	4			Q
Credit hours subtotal:	15			

- Contact your preprofessional advisor and arrange your initial meeting with him or her.
- Get involved: volunteer and seek out leadership opportunities.

Winter Break

- Job shadow and/or volunteer in your home community.
- Explore and apply for summer enrichment opportunities.

Freshman Spring Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
CHEM 1030 General Chemistry II	4			
ENGL 1010 College Composition and Rhetoric	3		C	C1
MICR 2021 General Microbiology	4			
STAT 2050 Fundamentals of Statistics	4			Can substitute STAT 2070 (Intro Statistics for the Social Sciences).
Credit hours subtotal:	15			

- Meet with your preprofessional advisor.
- Continue involvement: volunteer and seek out leadership opportunities.

Summer Break

- Engage in activities that make you a stronger candidate, such as job shadowing, working in a health care setting, research, and community service.
- If you are working, consider positions that develop your leadership skills and your abilities to work with a wide variety of people in your community.

Sophomore Fall Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
CHEM 2420* Organic Chemistry I	4			May be able to substitute CHEM 2300 (Intro Organic Chem) for CHEM2420 <u>and</u> CHEM 2440. Consult with major <u>and</u> preprofessional advisors <u>before</u> making that decision.
PSYC 1000 General Psychology	3			H
ZOO 2040 Human Anatomy	3			Cross listed with KIN 2040; must take concurrently with KIN/ZOO 2041.
ZOO 2041 Human Anatomy Lab	1			Cross listed with KIN 2041; must take concurrently with KIN/ZOO 2040.
Major Course	3			
Credit hours subtotal:	14			

- Continue involvement through community service, career exploration, and leadership opportunities.

Winter Break

- Job shadow and/or volunteer in your home community.
- Explore and apply for summer enrichment opportunities.

Sophomore Spring Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
USP Communication 2	3		C	C2
CHEM 2440* Organic Chemistry II	4			*May be able to substitute CHEM 2300 (Intro Organic Chem) for CHEM2420 <u>and</u> CHEM 2440. Consult with major <u>and</u> preprofessional advisors <u>before</u> making that decision.
ZOO 3115 Human Systems Physiology	4			
Major Course	3			
Credit hours subtotal:	14			

- Meet with your preprofessional advisor.
- Continue involvement through community service, career exploration, and leadership opportunities.
- Explore or begin research opportunities.

Summer Break

- Engage in activities that make you a stronger candidate, such as job shadowing, working in a health care setting, research, and community service.
- If you are working, consider positions that develop your leadership skills and your abilities to work with a wide variety of people in your community.

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Junior Fall Semester

	Hrs	Min Grade	Notes
USP US & Wyoming Constitutions	3	V	
MOLB 3610 Principles of Biochemistry	4		
PHYS 1110 General Physics I	4		
Major Courses	6		
Credit hours subtotal:		17	

- Engage in self-assessment to determine if it is realistic to apply to a optometry school next spring/summer. Only apply when you are a solid candidate!
- Continue involvement in community service, career exploration, research, and leadership opportunities.

Winter Break

- Job shadow and/or volunteer in your home community.
- Explore and apply for summer enrichment opportunities.
- Prepare for the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and explore potential optometry schools to which to apply.

Junior Spring Semester

	Hrs	Min Grade	Notes
USP Human Culture	3	H	
PHYS 1120 General Physics II	4		
Additional Science	3		
Major Courses	3		
Credit hours subtotal:		13	

- If applying to optometry school, continued OAT preparation and other steps towards application. Keep academic course load light to accommodate OAT preparation.
- Continue involvement in community service, career exploration, research, and leadership opportunities.

Summer Break

- Take the OAT late spring/early summer.
- Begin filling out the Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS) application as soon as available (June)
- If a Wyoming resident, apply for WICHE residency certification.
- Begin secondary applications.

Senior Fall Semester

	Hrs	Min Grade	Notes
USP Communication 3	3	C C3	
Additional courses required by college, major(s), minor(s), USP, and/or Honors	x		
Remaining prerequisite courses for potential programs	x		
Credit hours subtotal:		Variable	

- Continue with secondary applications.
- Interviews.
- Continue involvement in community service, career exploration, research, and leadership opportunities.

Winter Break

- If accepted to optometry school, begin arranging for financial aid and housing and making relocation plans.
- If not accepted or if waitlisted, engage in self-evaluation to determine why and if reapplying. Meet with your preprofessional advisor during this process.
- If reapplying to optometry school, determine a realistic timeline to do so. This may mean spending a year or more to improve your application before reapplying.

Senior Spring Semester

	Hrs	Min Grade	Notes
Additional courses required by college, major(s), minor(s), USP, and/or Honors	x		
Remaining prerequisite courses for potential programs	x		
Credit hours subtotal:		Variable	
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:		Variable depending upon selected major	

- Continue with interviews.
- Follow up with schools where you interviewed, but have not received a final decision.
- Continue involvement in community service, career exploration, research, and leadership opportunities.

Post Graduation

- If accepted to optometry school, complete all paperwork necessary for admission and financial aid. Relocate to where you will be studying.
- If not admitted to optometry school, follow parallel plans outside of optometry or take steps necessary to become a viable reapplicant.

Notes

* Requires MATH ACT ≥ 23 , MATH SAT ≥ 600 , or Math Placement Exam ≥ 3 , or concurrent enrollment in MATH 1400, 1405 or 1450. (University standard)

** Requires MATH ACT ≥ 21 , MATH SAT ≥ 600 , Math Placement Exam ≥ 2 , or $\geq C$ in MATH 0921. (University standard)

*** Requires MATH ACT ≥ 27 , MATH SAT ≥ 600 , Math Placement Exam ≥ 5 , or $\geq C$ in MATH 1405 or 1450. (University standard)

• A minimum grade of C is required for the USP First-Year Seminar, USP Communication 1, USP Communication 2, and USP Communication 3 requirements. Other minimum grade requirements will be determined by the academic major a student pursues.