



## Optometry

**What is an Optometrist?** Optometrists are eye health care professionals state-licensed to diagnose and treat diseases and disorders of the eye and visual system. They prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical procedures. Optometrists provide patient care in private offices, group practices, health maintenance organizations, and hospital outpatient clinics.

How much does an Optometrist make? According to [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Optometrist's median annual salary in 2024 was \$134,830.

**What is the difference between Optometry and Ophthalmology?** While these professions are very similar, and often work in conjunction with each other, below is the biggest difference between them:

- an Optometrist receives a *Doctor of Optometry* (O.D.) and is the patient's primary healthcare professional
- an Ophthalmologist received a *Doctor of Medicine* (M.D.) and is trained to perform eye surgery

**How do I apply?** To apply for optometry school:

- Complete all prerequisites.
- Register for and score competitively on the Optometry Admission Test (OAT). The OAT should be completed no later than the **fall** preceding entry into the program.
- Obtain relevant volunteer experience with an Optometrist.

### FAQs from the Programs in Texas:

	University of Houston	University of the Incarnate Word
Admission Requirements	Bachelor's degree	90 completed semester hours
	OAT	Minimum cumulative GPA = 3.0
	Criminal Background Check	Minimum OAT score = 300
Letters of Recommendation	3 (2 professors and 1 O.D.)	2 (1 professor and 1 O.D.)
Application Service used	OptomCAS	OptomCAS
Shadowing experience Req		Yes-40 hour min; work experience can count
Will accept AP credit		Yes
Will accept online course work		Yes
Will accept community college course work		Yes
Degrees offered		O.D.; M.S.; Ph.D.
Application opens	July 1	June 27
Application deadline	February 28	May 29
Supplemental App req	Yes	Yes

## Prerequisites for Optometry Programs in Texas

Course	University of Houston (bachelor's degree required to matriculate)*	University of the Incarnate Word (90 completed hours required)*
BIOL I and lab (BIOL 111)	Required	Required
BIOL II and lab (BIOL 112)	Required	Recommended
CALCULUS (one course)	Required	Required
PHYS I and lab (PHYS 201 or 206/216 or 226)	Required	Required
PHYS II and lab (PHYS 202 or 207/217 or 227)	Required	Required
STAT (PSYC 203 or STAT 301, 302, 303, or 312)	Required	Required
PSYC (PSYC 107)	Required	Required
CHEM I and lab (CHEM 119, 101/111)	Required	Required
CHEM II and lab (CHEM 120, 102/112)	Required	Required
OCHEM and lab (CHEM 257, 227/237)	Required	Required
BIOCHEM (BICH 409, 410, 440)	Required	Required (or Molecular Biology)
MICROBIOLOGY (BIOL 351 or VTPB 405 or VTPB 425/426)	Required	Required (or bacteriology)
ENGL	Recommended	2 Semesters
Advanced BIOL (8 hours - Anat/Phys or Pharm or Histology)	Required (1) At least 3 hours must come from A&P	Recommended
ANAT/PHYS I (BIOL 319)	Required	Required (1)
ANAT/PHYS II (BIOL 320)	Recommended	Strongly Recommended

**NOTE: All prerequisites and information are subject to change at any time without notice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to remain up-to-date on all requirements.**

### UHCO Specifics:

**\*All pre-requisite coursework must have been completed within 5 years of the date of application to UHCO.**

**1. Courses such as plant physiology, botany, ecology, biodiversity or biotechnology are NOT acceptable.**

### UIW Specifics:

**\*Must have 'C' or better in pre-reqs**

**1. May substitute with Biology II, Cell Biology or Genetics**

**Additional courses if applying to UIW without a bachelor degree:**

6 hours of Humanities (Theol, Phil, Hist, Literature, Art)

6 hours of Behavioral & Social Sciences (Soci, Psys, Pols, Hist, Anth, Geog, Econ, Comm)

### **Professional School Advising**

209 John J. Koldus Building  
1233 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-1233

Tel. 979.847.8938  
opsa@tam.u.edu  
opsa.tamu.edu