Optometry Schools

There are no colleges of optometry in North Carolina. The following link will take you to a website that summarizes the requirements for all the various optometry schools across the country: Optometry School College Prerequisites. [1]

However, the state of North Carolina has contracts with four of the 16 colleges: Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham; Univ. of Houston in Texas; Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia; and Southern College of Optometry in Memphis. The courses required for entry into these schools differ somewhat depending upon the school. All require:

- English 101, 102
- Math 231
- Biol 101, 101L
- Chem 101, 101L, 102, 102L, 241, 241L, 261
- Phys 114, 155
- Psyc 101
- Stat 151 or Psyc 215
- Micro 251 or 255

Additional requirements by school are: (R = Required; X = Recommended)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Alabama</th>
<th>Houston</th>
<th>Pennsylvania</th>
<th>Southern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biol 474, 474L</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 202 or 205</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol/Chem 430</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>--</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 262, 262L</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng. Lit.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 232</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psyc Plus</td>
<td>R</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc. Sci. (2 sem)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**College Major**

There is no specific major that is required, or that is 'best' to pursue. Optometry schools are looking for well-educated and well-rounded individuals.

**Testing Requirements**

Most optometry schools require the [Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)](http://www.ada.org/en/oat) [2]. The usual time to take it is in the spring semester (usually February) of the Junior year. Students should prepare for this test.

**Application**

Applications are submitted through [OptomCAS](http://www.optomcas.org/information-about-schools-colleges/school-college-prerequisites/) [3]. The time to start is in the summer before your last year in college, with the application opening in July.

**Extracurricular Activities**

Extracurriculars are a very important part of the applicant's materials. Some volunteer experience with an optometrist is a must, and a letter of recommendation from an optometrist is usually required.

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**Source URL:** [https://careers.unc.edu/students/pre-professional-pre-graduate-advising/pre-health/optometry-schools](https://careers.unc.edu/students/pre-professional-pre-graduate-advising/pre-health/optometry-schools)

**Links:**