

Doctor of Optometry

The Oculis Doctor (O.D.)



What is a Doctor of Optometry?



Doctors of Optometry (O.D.s/optometrists) are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.

- Doctors of Optometry prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical procedures.
- Optometrists counsel their patients regarding surgical and non-surgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations, and lifestyle.
- An optometrist has completed pre-professional undergraduate education in a college or university and four years of professional education at a college of optometry, leading to the doctor of optometry (O.D.) degree. Some optometrists complete an optional residency in a specific area of practice.
- Optometrists are eye health care professionals state-licensed to diagnose and treat diseases and disorders of the eye and visual system.

Why Optometry?



- **Optometry is high in demand.** Employment in optometry is projected to grow by 33 percent through 2020. Optometry also ranks at #12 on CNNMoney's list of America's 100 top jobs.
- **Flexible work schedule.** The average optometrist works 37.3 hours a week. You have the opportunity to enjoy an enviable work-life balance.
- **Enjoy a rewarding career.** Optometry offers an average net income of \$129,385 across the profession.
- **Personal gratification.** Thanks to your care, a child is no longer apprehensive to participate in class because he can't see the chalkboard. A hockey player is scoring more goals and helping his team succeed. And a grandfather is able to read a book to his grandchildren and create lasting memories.

The Life of an Optometrist



- Optometrists spend an average of 37 hours per week in the office.
- The majority age group (24%) of patients seen by optometrists is 35 to 54 years.
- On average, optometrists treat 60 patients per week. The average for owner optometrists is 57, including seven walk-ins/emergencies and 16 new patients. The average for non-owner optometrists is 63, including 20 new patients and nine walk-ins/emergencies.
- Optometrists provide pre-op evaluation and care for an average of 17 refractive surgery patients per year. They provide post-op care to an average of 23 patients.
- More than three-fourths of optometrists co-manage, on average, six cataract patients per month.

Meet Charles F. Prentice



- Charles F. Prentice is considered to be the founding father of optometry
- He studied optics in England before coming to New York to start his own practice
- After being threatened with legal action for charging for an eye exam, Prentice wrote a treatise on why states should recognize the profession of optometry
- Prentice also helped organize a group of opticians, known today as the American Optometric Association (AOA) in 1919
- He produced many writings and scientific discoveries, including essay “Ophthalmic Lenses”
- Working with Columbia University, Prentice developed a two-year optometry course, so students wouldn’t have to travel to Europe to study the profession

Prerequisites From Popular Schools



School	Biology w/ lab	Gen Chem w/ lab	Orgo w/ lab	Biochem	Physics w/lab	Microbio	Math	English	Others?
<u>UC Berkeley SoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>Nova Southeastern U CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem	calc	1 yr	1 sem Anat/Phys
<u>Illinois CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	REC	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>New England CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem	2 sems (1 calc)	1 yr	psyc
<u>PA CoO at Salus U</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>Southern CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 sem	1 sem	1 yr	1 sem w/lab	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc
<u>SUNY CoO</u>	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	REC	1 yr	REC	calc + stats	1 yr	psyc

yr = year; sem = semester; REC = Recommended

Sample curriculum

Illinois College of Optometry



- **1st Year**
Basic science classroom and laboratory curriculum
Clinical observations in the Primary Eyecare Service of the Illinois Eye Institute
Private Practice Clerkship
Patient Advocate Program
- **2nd Year**
Clinical science classroom and laboratory curriculum
Clinical training: observations, evaluations, dispensing and screenings
Patient Advocate Program
Early patient care experiences in Primary Eyecare
- **3rd Year**
Diagnosis and treatment of advanced ocular systemic diseases
Weekly patient care in the Primary Eyecare Service of the Illinois Eye Institute
Early patient care experiences in Advanced Ophthalmic Care, Cornea/Contact Lens, and Pediatrics/Binocular Vision
- **4th Year**
Three externship rotations with at least one VA Hospital setting
Mandatory areas of focus: Advanced Ophthalmic Care, Cornea/Contact Lens, Low Vision Rehabilitation, and Pediatrics/Binocular Vision, and Primary Eyecare

The Optometry Admission Test



What is the Optometry Admission Test (OAT)?

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information.

What subjects does the OAT cover?

The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics and Quantitative Reasoning.

Women in Optometry



Inspiration is Everywhere

- By Josephine Owoeye, OD, MPH



Where the Arts and Sciences Meet

- By Sareya Khatkur, OD



Ditch Career Burnout

- By Jenn Chinn, OD



Putting the Care Back in Eye Care

- By Jessica Yannelli, OD



What I Wish I Had Known When I Bought My Practice

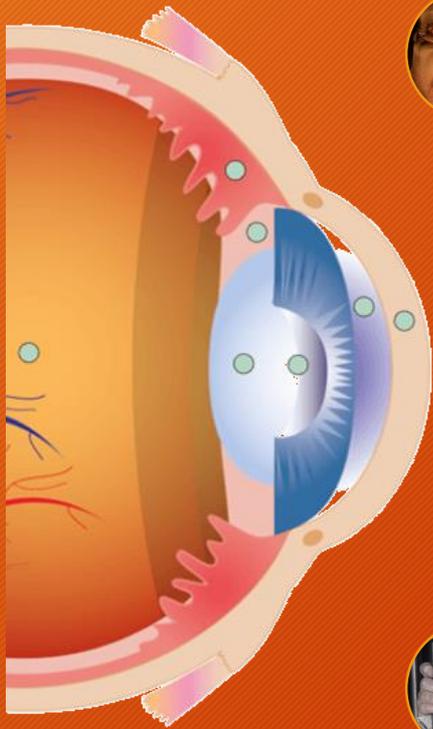
- By Natalie Bissoon, OD



Reaching Out to Boys and Girls- Literally

- By Carla Anderson, OD

Unconventional Careers in Optometry



Creating Special Effects in Hollywood



Forensic Optometry



Optometry in NASA Space Medicine



Taking Optometry to a New Frontier



Eye Care Behind Bars

For More Information



- American Academy of Optometry: aaopt.org
- American Optometric Association: aoa.org
- Assoc. of Regulatory Boards of Optometry: arbo.org
- Assoc. of Schools and Colleges of Optometry: opted.org
- National Board of Examiners in Optometry: optometry.org
- Optometry Admission Testing Program: ada.org/oat/
- Optometry Centralized Application Service: optomcas.org/
- Women in Optometry: reviewofoptometry.com/wo/
- World Council of Optometry: worldcouncilofoptometry.info/