University of Indianapolis – Shaheen College of Arts & Sciences
2025-2026 Curriculum Guide for the Pre-Optometry Program (POPT)
Professional Studies Concentration

The Pre-Optometry Program
As a student interested in a career as an optometrist, you must complete a number of courses required for admission to the optometry graduate program. These courses also will help you prepare for the OAT (Optometry Admission Test), a test that you will take as part of the optometry admissions process. (These prerequisites are listed on the reverse side of this sheet.)

The courses required for admission to optometry school do not comprise an undergraduate major; therefore, you must also select a major in at least one academic discipline. You may select any major offered at the University of Indianapolis, but you should consider one that will allow you to complete both major courses and optometry prerequisites simultaneously. Your faculty advisor and Academic Advisor in CASA can assist you in making your choice of a major.

Advising
You will be assigned a faculty member in your major area who will serve as your faculty advisor. S/he will advise you regarding major and general education core requirements. Dr. Joe Burnell (Chemistry), Dr. Doug Stemke (Biology), or Dr. Dean Wiseman (Biology) are the pre-professional advisors who will assist you in fulfilling optometry prerequisites. Each semester you should consult with one of these preprofessional advisors, as well as with your faculty advisor, to ensure that you are making satisfactory progress in all phases of your program.

Criteria for Admission to Optometry School
Admission to medical school is highly competitive. An applicant must have at least a B+ average, must achieve a competitive score on the OAT, and must have the recommendation of undergraduate faculty members responsible for the pre-optometry program. Your success in achieving a high grade point average, scoring well on the OAT, and receiving high recommendations from faculty members will be determined by your total college experience.

Application for Optometry School
Application for optometry school must be made in the fall prior to the year you wish to be accepted. The OAT should be taken preceding application. Application for the OAT (http://www.ada.org/en/oat) is made on-line through the ASCO (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry - https://optometriceducation.org/). Applications to ASCO member medical schools are made on-line through the OptomCAS application service (http://www.optomcas.org/). Application to non-ASCO member medical schools or schools not participating in OptomCAS are made directly to the institution involved.

Courses Required for the Pre-Optometry Program
The curriculum represented is based on the material on which candidates are tested on the OAT and on minimum requirements for the Indiana University School of Optometry. This is the program to which the largest number of University of Indianapolis students apply. These courses should be representative of the admissions requirements for most programs, but students interested in applying to other schools should contact those schools directly to determine requirements specific to those programs.

Freshman Year
Semester I
- **CHEM** 150 General Chemistry I (3) **and CHEM 151** General Chemistry Lab I (1)

Semester II
- **BIOL** 165 Introduction to Cell Biology (4)
- **CHEM** 160 General Chemistry II (3) **and CHEM 161** General Chemistry Lab II (1)
- **MATH** 190 Calculus I (4)

Sophomore Year
- **CHEM**   **250**   Organic Chemistry I (3) **and CHEM 251** Organic Chemistry Lab I (2)
- **BIOL**   **225**   Introduction to Genetics (4)
- **MATH**   **220**   Elementary Statistics (4)
- **MATH**   **245**   Statistics for the Sciences (4) **or MATH 220** Elementary Statistics (4)
- **PSY**   **120**   Introduction to Psychology (3)

Junior Year
- **BIOL**   **220**   General Microbiology (4)
- **CHEM**   **320**   Biochemistry I (3)
- **PHYS**   **150**   General Physics I (4) **and**
- **PHYS**   **160**   General Physics II (4) **or**
- **PHYS**   **153**   General Physics I, Calculus Based (4) **and**
- **PHYS**   **163**   General Physics II, Calculus Based (4)
- **BIOL**   **305**   Human Functional Anatomy (4)
- **BIOL**   **330**   Biomedical Physiology (4)
- **LANG**   **XXX**   Modern Language (2x4) *

Courses Recommended for the Pre-Optometry Program
- **BADM**   **110**   Introduction to Business (3 credits)
- **BADM**   **120**   Introduction to Business Finance (3 credits)
- **MGT**   **281**   Management (3 credits)
- **BIOL**   **200**   Medical Terminology (2)
- **BIOL**   **460**   ST: Histology (4)

Other requirements are covered by completion of the courses of the University of Indianapolis Core Curriculum.
*May be satisfied by examination.

REMEMBER: If you have any questions about the Pre-Optometry Program, contact Dr. Joe Burnell: 317-788-3284, Lilly Hall, Room 332E; Dr. Douglas Stemke: 317-788-2169, Lilly Hall, Room 211; or Dr. Dean Wiseman: 317-788-3282, Lilly Hall, Room 110E. Courses and requirements sometimes change so keep in contact with your advisor.