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Applicants to professional optometry schools must complete at least 90 credit hours. Most schools now require or prefer a B.S. degree. Pre-optometry requirements can vary with different schools. Therefore it is important to identify and complete those courses required and recommended by the schools to which you intend to apply. Information on schools, prerequisite requirements and applying to programs can be obtained from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website at www.opted.org. It is also recommended for students to get some experience or exposure to the optometric health care field.

Students should plan to sit for the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) during their junior year or early senior year at the latest. It is recommended that students obtain an OAT practice manual during their freshman year. Average OAT score for students admitted in 2005 was 330. Information on the OAT can be obtained at www.ada.org/oat/index.html.

Average GPA of admitted students in 2008 was 3.05-3.70, depending on the school. You may elect to apply for WICHE financial support for optometry schools in participating states (Oregon and California). Information on WICHE is available at www.wiche.edu.

Specific Optometry Pre-requisite coursework common among most programs includes the following courses offered at CSU-Pueblo:

Biology Courses	Course Name	Cr.	Semester
BIOL 181/181L	College Biology I/Lab	4	
BIOL 182/182L	College Biology II/Lab	4	
BIOL 223/223L OR BIOL 321/321L	Human Anatomy and Physiology I/Lab Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy/Lab	4 5	
BIOL 224/224L OR BIOL 414/414L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II/Lab Vertebrate Physiology/Lab	4	
BIOL 301/301L	General Microbiology/Lab	5	
BIOL/CHEM 311 OR BIOL/CHEM 411	Survey of Biochemistry Biochemistry I	3	
	Total	24-25	
Chemistry Courses			Semester
CHEM 121/121L	General Chemistry I/Lab	5	
CHEM 122/122L	General Chemistry II/Lab	5	
CHEM 301/301L	Organic Chemistry I/Lab	5	
CHEM 302/302L	Organic Chemistry II/Lab	5	
	Total	20	
Other Courses			Semester
ENG 101	English Composition I	3	
ENG 102	English Composition II	3	
PHYS 201/201L	Principles of Physics I/Lab	4	
PHYS 202/202L	Principles of Physics II/Lab	4	
MATH 126 and 224	Calculus I & II	10	
MATH 156	Introduction to Statistics	3	
PSYCH 100	General Psychology	3	
	Total	30	
	Overall Total	74-75	

Students completing the B.S. in Biology should consult the catalog or the department advising sheet for degree requirements.