

## Pre-Professional Health Advising

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Optometrists are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. They examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures. Optometrists prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, contact lenses, and perform certain surgical

OPTOMETRY  
SCHOOL  
TIMELINE

FRESHMAN YEAR

Meet with the pre-health adviser

Register your pre-optometry interest at [www.uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth](http://www.uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth)

Explore careers in optometry

Consider alternative career plans

Get involved on campus/ look into shadowing opportunities

SOPHOMORE  
YEAR

Pursue shadowing, volunteer, and other related activities

Review optometry school catalogs and websites

JUNIOR YEAR

Pursue shadowing, volunteer, and other related activities

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process to optometry school is rigorous; there are many components, and it often takes students much longer than anticipated to complete the application.

Most optometry schools use rolling admission, so submitting applications sooner rather than later is advantageous. Although each school has different application deadlines, admissions applications tend to be available in July and must be submit-

ted through the online application system, Optometry Central Application Service (OptomCAS) by March 31st.

The only Optometry School in Ohio is at Ohio State University. OSU, as most optometry schools, requires the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and application submission through OptomCAS. As part of the application, students will be required to submit recommendation letters. Therefore, it

is important that students develop professional relationships with natural science faculty and optometrists.

Once applications are completed, students will receive secondary applications, and finally interested schools will send invitations for interviews.

EXPERIENCE & INVOLVMENT

In addition to strong academic credentials, optometry schools want to see committed well-rounded applicants. Students should shadow optometrists, participate in community service, and develop leadership skills.

Participating in student organizations on campus is a great way to get involved in community service and develop leadership skills .

OSU s School of Optometry requires at least one letter of reference from a current optometrist and shadowing experiences in two different types of practices. Therefore it is important to start early.

It is also recommended that you document the number of hours you log and journal your experiences so later when you are filling out your applications and writing your essays you will easily be able to recall those experiences.

It is important to note that there is no magic formula for admission to optometry school. Students need to be successful in the classroom while also selectively participating in activities that will add to their veterinary school applications. Think about how the people you meet through these experiences could help you as you apply to optometry school.