PRE-OPTOMETRY

Southern College of Optometry in Memphis

Doctors of Optometry are independent primary health care providers who specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures. During an examination the Doctor of Optometry also assesses general health conditions. Diabetes, high blood pressure, and arteriosclerosis are often detected during a vision examination.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES FOR

SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY IN MEMPHIS:

Southern College of Optometry Requirements and Prerequisites	Corresponding FHU Courses	Total Hours
General Biology I & II	BIO111 & 112	8
General Chemistry I & II	CHE121/121L & 122/122L	8
Microbiology	BIO215	4
Organic Chemistry I	CHE321	4
Biochemistry or Molecular Biology	CHE331 or BIO333	4
General Physics I & II	PHS201 & 202	8
Calculus I	MAT122	5
Statistics	MAT235	3
English Composition/Lit	ENG101 & 102 or any lit	6
General Psychology	PSY210	3
Social Science	Sociology, psychology, political science, history, economics, anthropology, geography, religion, or philosophy	6

RECOMMENDED COURSES: Human Anatomy & Physiology (8 hrs) & Cell Biology.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? ___**YES** __X__ **NO**

Acceptance into optometry school without completion of the BS degree is extremely rare. 95% of students accepted in SCO have completed a four year degree.

DATE OF APPLICATION:

Applications are accepted between August 15 and March 1 of each academic year. Since acceptances are on a rolling admissions basis, early application is strongly encouraged. You may apply online.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

Clinical experience is required, but there is no specified number of hours. The more hours you have accumulated, the better. A letter of recommendation from an optometrist is required for admission to SCO.

AVERAGE GPA OF LAST ENTERING CLASS: 3.46

REQUIRED ENTRANCE EXAM:

The OAT (Optometry Admission Test) must be taken by March 1 of the year students apply. There is no penalty in retaking the exam to raise your score. The average OAT score for the 2006 class was 315 (or over) for all sections of the exam.