



Western
University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of Optometry

Program Preview

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021

Faculty Presenter:

Kristy Remick-Waltman, OD, FAAO

Admissions Representative: Raquel Feres

Questions?

Raquel Feres, University Recruiter
rbarbosa@westernu.edu | (909) 469-5410

Thank you for attending our Program Preview! Please look for a survey in your email inbox and be sure to reply. Your feedback is very important to us.

Follow us!



@WesternUCO



@WesternU_OD



@westernu_optometry



Agenda

March 10th, 2021 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

3:00 -3:10 pm

Dean's Welcome

Founding Dean – Elizabeth Hoppe, OD, MPH, DrPHn

3:10 – 4:00 PM

Program Overview & Admissions Details

Faculty – Dr. Kristy Remick-Waltman

University Recruiter – Raquel Feres

4:00-5:00 PM

Student Panel

Current Optometry Students

Competitive Class Statistics and FAQ

Number of Applications Received	432
Number of Interviews Granted	226
Number of Students Enrolled	94
Average Overall GPA	3.14
Average Prerequisite GPA	2.97
Average AA OAT	308
Average TS OAT	299

- Is a bachelor's degree required to apply?**
A bachelor's degree is not required for matriculation; however, it will significantly strengthen your application.
- What can you tell me about the OAT?**
The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) score report is required as part of your application file. The OAT should be taken as soon as possible to ensure your eligibility for the next entering class.
- Is there a minimum OAT score?**
There is no minimum OAT score required at this time. To be competitive, you should aim for scores above 300.
- Can the OAT be retaken for a higher score?**
Yes. The admissions committee will use the highest score from each of the respective sections of the OAT in order to determine your score if you have taken the test on multiple occasions.
- Can international students apply?**
Yes, we can accept applications from international students, but all foreign coursework must be evaluated from an approved service. Please refer to the [foreign coursework webpage](#) for details. A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOFEL) will be required when submitting most foreign coursework.
- If I retake a course, how is my GPA recalculated?**
Any course that is retaken will have the two grades from the course averaged.
- Am I required to submit letters of recommendation?**
Yes. Two (2) letters of recommendation are required, and it is very beneficial to have one of the letters from an optometrist. In an ideal application, a student will have a letter of recommendation from one optometrist, and two science professors from their undergraduate institution.
- Is there an advantage to applying early?**
Definitely, applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. As such, offers for interview and admissions are made continuously through the application cycle. Submitting all required documents early in the application cycle is of considerable advantage.
- How and when will I know if I've been invited for an interview?**
You will receive an email message from the admissions office if you have been selected for an interview. Your interview invitation will also be reflected on your status page.
- I have AP credits for some of the prerequisite courses. Do I still need to take them at my college/university?**



Of all the prerequisite courses, only English and Calculus may be taken on an advanced-placement basis. All other AP courses will need to be taken at a regionally accredited college or university.

- **I am a re-applicant, how can I better my application, or my chances of gaining admission?**

Take a critical review of the information that you provided our admissions office and see if there are any obvious voids. For example, maybe your OAT scores are not competitive, or you have little exposure to the profession. Perhaps you had low grades that lowered your overall and/or prerequisite GPA, or maybe you were not involved in community service, or merely forgot to include it on your application. You would be surprised at how much you can learn about the strengths and weaknesses of your application simply by looking at it from an admissions perspective. Above all else, it is important to realize that we receive applications from hundreds of highly qualified applicants each year and are only able to accept a small percentage of that pool.

Admissions Representative

Heather Albertson – Admissions Counselor (Applicants w/last name A – E)

E-mail: halberson@westernu.edu

Phone: (909) 469-5290

Kelsey Casselle – Admissions Counselor (Applicants w/last name F - L)

E-mail: kcasselle@westernu.edu

Phone: (909) 469-5649

Sarah Campos – Admissions Counselor (Applicants w/last name M - Q)

E-mail: scampos@westernu.edu

Phone: (909) 469-5697

Annica Correa – Admissions Coordinator (Applicants w/last name R - Z)

E-mail: acorrea@westernu.edu

Phone: (909) 469-5231

Prerequisites & Application Requirements

Prerequisite Courses*	Semesters	Quarters
General Biology w/Lab	8	12
Organic Chemistry w/Lab	3	4
General Physics w/Lab	8	12
General Microbiology or Bacteriology w/Lab	3	4
English	6	8
Statistics	3	4
Biochemistry	3	4
General (Inorganic) Chemistry w/Lab	8	12
Calculus	3	4
Human Anatomy	3	4
Human Physiology	3	4
Psychology	3	4

Application Requirements

- Submit online application to OptomCAS (Optometry Centralized Application Services) at optomcas.org
- Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) or GRE
 - Only scores after June 30, 2018 will be considered for the 2021 entering class
 - Official OAT scores must be received before application will be considered.
 - GRE scores may be considered at the discretion of the Admissions Committee if the candidate's prerequisite and science GPAs are at least 3.0. Please explain your application why you are submitting alternate test scores.
 - Contact acorrea@westernu.edu if you wish to submit alternate test scores.
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Not required, but earning a BS or BA will likely strengthen your application
- Minimum of 90 semester or 135 quarter units of undergraduate coursework
- Proof of Legal U.S. Residency