

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A GRADUATE EDUCATION IN OPTOMETRY



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Greetings!

Welcome to the Professional Program Prerequisite Project resource for Optometry. We are a team of five students in the Bachelor of Health Science program who set out to research and compile application requirements for all health-related graduate programs across Canada.

As undergraduate students who are pre-med and pre-dent ourselves, we know how overwhelming and frustrating it can be to research application requirements for so many graduate programs, especially when the vast amount of information changes from year to year. Therefore, we did the hard work of doing the research for you, so you don't have to! You can treat this resource as your one-stop shop and launchpad for your graduate school application process.

This is the resource we wish we had when we were applying to graduate schools!

One thing we think you're going to find very valuable from this resource is the information about which Queen's Health Sciences and Arts and Sciences courses satisfy the prerequisite requirement for these schools. This is a unique and exclusive perk for our Queen's students.

In this document, you will find up-to-date, accurate information for the various Canadian graduate programs, last updated (January 3rd, 2024). To navigate through the document, you can simply Ctrl + F or Command + F for keywords to find what you're looking for.

We are still in the development stages of the project, and we welcome collaboration from Queen's students to help make this project the best it can be. If you have any proposed edits or any changes you'd like to make, please fill out our contact form. We hope you find this resource helpful. Happy applying!

Sincerely,

The 4P Team



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4P
Professional Program
Prerequisite Project



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Degree Type	Doctor of Optometry (OD)
Admissions Rate	Total Applicants: 300 + Total Seats: 91
Program Information	4-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree
Tuition	Annual Cost: \$18,000 - 27,000 Total Cost: \$81,000
Degree/Academic Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Credit Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 90 Credit Units of a BSc Completion Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 7th
Full-Course Load Requirement (Undergrad)	YES; 5 courses per term for 6 terms
GPA	Minimum: 75% Competitive: 90% Average: 87% to 98%
GPA Calculations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all university courses taken by applicants Minimum overall average must be 75%
Spring/Summer Term Courses Included in GPA Calculations	YES: Excluding spring/summer courses prior to admission year
Subject Prerequisites	Required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> English: 3CU Introductory Ethics: 3CU Intro Psychology: 3CU Intro Biology (Lab Required): 6CU Intro Microbiology: 3CU Physiology: 6CU Intro Chemistry (Lab Required): 3CU Intro Biochemistry: 3CU Intro Organic Chemistry: 3CU Calculus: 3CU Statistics: 3CU Intro Physics: 6CU + Lab <p>Click here for more information on subject prerequisites</p>
Queen's Course Equivalents	Required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ENGL 100 IDIS 373 PSYC 100 BIOL 102/103 <i>with lab</i> MICR 270/271 PHGY 170/215/216 CHEM 112/113/114 <i>with lab</i> BCHM 218/270

	9. CHEM 281/282 10. MATH 121 11. HSCI 190; STAM 200 12. PHYS 106 <i>with lab</i> Please contact U of W to confirm course meets prerequisite requirements.
Online Courses Accepted	Unknown
OAT	Required Minimum Score: 300 Average Accepted Score: 387 <u>Specifics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must meet minimum score to progress to next step • OAT is based upon first-year university science and organic chemistry • Scores assessed from best test results
Other Required Tests	<u>CASPer</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Score: Varies annually based on applicant pool • Snapshot required
Application Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Confidential Assessment Forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 8 hours of job shadowing with optometrist expected • 1 CAF from optometrist • Character CAF from individual who knows applicant well (i.e., employer, supervisor, professor, coach, minister etc.) Academic Awards Non-Academic Awards Work Experience (Minimum 8 hours of job shadowing expected) Volunteer Experience
Application Deadline	September 30 th
Contact Information	Email: opt-admissions@uwaterloo.ca
Additional Information	Admission Requirements FAQ Contact Us
NOTES	Students should contact their academic advisor to ensure BHSc program meets all admission requirements. BSc program may better meet admission requirements.

GLOSSARY

CASPer:

An online, open-response computerized situational judgment test composed of 12 sections. Each section contains a video-based or written scenario and three open-ended questions. Test takers have five minutes to respond to all three questions and 60-90 minutes to complete the entire test (optional 10-minute break). The test assesses skills like collaboration, communication, empathy, equity, ethics, motivation, problem solving, professionalism, resilience, and self-awareness.

Confidential Assessment Form (CAF):

Every referee must fill out a Confidential Assessment Form (CAF) that asks them to respond to the following questions:

- Would this applicant make a good physician?
- Rate the applicant on each of the following attributes:
 - i. Communication skills
 - ii. Problem-solving skills
 - iii. Professionalism (e.g., commitment to ethical practice, standards of behaviour and accountability to others)
 - iv. Empathy (e.g., demonstrating consideration of others' perspectives)
- Identify and comment on 1 area of improvement for the applicant.
- Share any other information you feel may be relevant to a medical school's admission committee.

Credit Hours

Measured in credit units.

Credit Units (CU)

A credit unit is given to a student upon completion of a course of study. At Queen's, a one semester course yields 3 CU, while a two semester, or full-year course yields 6 CU.

Cumulative GPA (cGPA)

An average of averages, combining all semester GPAs into a single, overall GPA.

Resource: [Cumulative GPA Calculator](#)

Full Course Load

A full course load is defined as 5 courses or the equivalent of 15 CU taken for one semester, and 10 courses, or 30 CU, taken for one full year of study.

OAT: Optometry Admission Test (Overview)

A standardized, multiple-choice test that takes approximately 280 minutes to complete, including breaks and optional surveys. The test is comprised of 4 distinct sections:

- Survey of Natural Sciences (90 minutes)
- Reading Comprehension Test (50 minutes)
- Physics Test (50 minutes)
- Quantitative Reasoning Test (45 minutes)

Scores from each section are scaled against other test takers. Scale scores range from 200 to 400 and are reported in increments of 10.

Modified Personal Interview

A series of semi-structured and open-ended brief interviews with a one-on-one interaction with a single interviewer. The questions are asked in a similar style to a panel interview, but the format more closely aligns with a multiple mini-interview. The interviewer is free to ask unprompted questions. Each “interview station” focuses on one of the following categories:

- Getting to know the applicant and their achievements
- Assessing an applicant’s ability to evaluate an ethical dilemma
- Applicants engage in self-reflection about past experiences

Multiple Mini Interview

A series of short interview stations in which the candidate is asked a question or given scenario before entering a room. The candidate has a limited time to both prepare their answer and deliver the answer to the interviewer. The number of stations vary.

Candidates are assessed on non-cognitive qualities such as cultural sensitivity, maturity, teamwork, empathy, reliability, and communication skills.

Panel Interview

Typical interview style with multiple interviewers and multiple questions.

Weighted GPA (wGPA)

A weighted GPA is calculated after adding extra points for any honors or Advanced Placement courses. For example: a letter grade of “A” in courses such as these would receive 5 points rather than 4, while a letter grade of “B” would receive 4 points rather than 3. In this calculation the overall GPA can exceed 4.0.