

Pre-Optometry at UNT

Prospective Student Handout

The Office of Health Professions provides advising and guidance for any current student who expresses an interest in applying and attending an Optometry school after graduation. Though we do not offer a formal program, major, or concentration in Pre-Optometry Studies, we will serve any student who wishes to become an Optometrist. Therefore, no UNT student has to 'qualify' for our advising services; as long as you are a current student, we will gladly help you create a plan to achieve your professional goals.

The Office of Health Professions provides the following services:

- Personalized Advising
- Career Exploration
- Application Guidance and Planning
- Review of Entrance Requirements and Prerequisite Coursework
- Professional Timeline
- Interview Preparation and Personal Statement Review

Frequently Asked Questions about Pre-Optometry at UNT

What prerequisites do I need for Optometry schools?

All prerequisites are located on each Optometry school's website. If you plan to transfer to UNT, please see a list of all Texas Optometry prerequisites in our Pre-Optometry Packet (courses are presented as UNT course numbers): <https://cos.unt.edu/sites/cos.unt.edu/files/cos/COS%202017-8-18%20Pre-Optometry%20Packet.pdf>

When do I apply for Optometry school?

Students will apply for Optometry programs one year before enrollment. Many students use the year in between to complete their Bachelor's degree. Be sure to check all deadlines on Optometry schools' websites.

Is a Bachelor's degree required for admission to an Optometry school?

Yes, a degree is required for Texas Optometry schools (with the exception of University of Incarnate Word).

What should I major in?

Many Pre-Optometry students choose to major in Biology (Bachelor of Science or Bachelors of Arts) because most of the optometry prerequisites will apply towards this degree.

Frequently Asked Questions about Pre-Optometry at UNT cont.

What will make me a competitive candidate for Optometry school admission?

Though not all is required, the following information can help you become a competitive candidate:

- **GPA:** 3.6-4.0 is considered a competitive GPA for Texas Optometry schools
- **Entrance Exam:** Pre-Optometry students are required to take the OAT. Please visit the OAT website for more information: <http://www.ada.org/en/oat>
- **Community Service:** Pre-Optometry students should find volunteer opportunities that are consistent and relevant to their passion for serving others
- **Shadowing:** Students should shadow an *optometrist* regularly

When should I take the OAT?

Ideally, pre-optometry students should take the OAT around May or June of the year they are applying.

Does UNT offer any Pre-Health clubs on campus?

Yes. Please visit our website for a list of Pre-Health organizations on campus:

<https://cos.unt.edu/advising/health-professions/pre-optometry-university-north-texas>

What is HPAC?

HPAC stands for 'Health Professions Advisory Committee'. Both of the Optometry Texas schools prefer a committee letter of recommendation from a student's undergraduate institution, and the HPAC provides such opportunity for UNT pre-Optometry students.

Qualifications for HPAC: 15 hours of UNT course credit and a 3.2 cumulative GPA (subject to change)

Does UNT offer an Optometry program?

No, the UNT Denton campus does not offer an Optometry program.

I am not sure if I would like to attend UNT. How can I learn more about transferring?

- 1) Feel free to schedule a prospective appointment with an advisor in the major of your interest. During your meeting, be sure to express your interest in Pre-Optometry and have a Pre-Optometry packet available (this can help evaluate how the Pre-Optometry courses will apply towards your major):
<https://cos.unt.edu/advising/health-professions/pre-optometry-university-north-texas>
- 2) Once you have been accepted to UNT, you will attend a new student orientation. At orientation, please attend our Pre-Health seminar to learn more about the journey to a Health Professional school.
- 3) After orientation, feel free to schedule an appointment with a Pre-Health Counselor in the Office of Health Professions: 940-369-8606.
- 4) Have questions about Pre-Health at UNT? Feel free to e-mail us or give us a call at 940-369-8606.