

# OPTOMETRY

Building 3, Room 108, Brighton Campus • [www.monroecc.edu/go/careercenter](http://www.monroecc.edu/go/careercenter) • 585.292.2248

**Doctors of Optometry** examine people's eyes to diagnose vision problems and eye diseases, and they test patients' visual acuity, depth and color perception, and ability to focus and coordinate the eyes. They also diagnose conditions due to systemic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, referring patients to other health practitioners as needed. It usually takes at least 8 years to become an optometrist: 4 years of college and 4 years of optometry school. For some specialties, further training is required.

**Degree:** Optometry schools award the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.

**Admission to Optometry Schools:** Admission is competitive. In order to compete for admission, students will need to complete a Bachelor's Degree. Although students come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs, majoring in the natural sciences is typical (Biology, Chemistry, etc). Optometry schools seek students with excellent academic preparation, interpersonal skills, leadership ability, a disposition to help others, and a strong work ethic. First-hand experience within the field is important (ex. become acquainted with an optometrist, conduct informational interviews, etc.) All schools require a personal interview and Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores. See: [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org).

**Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses for Optometry School:** One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; One year of English; One year of humanities; One year of social sciences; One semester algebra and trigonometry, One semester calculus. Check with schools for specific requirements.

**Examples of MCC courses include:**

ENG 101 and/or ENG 200

ENG Literature Course

PSY 101 – Introductory Psychology

MTH 160 – Statistics I

MTH 210 – Calculus I

BIO 155 - General Biology I

BIO 156 - General Biology II

BIO 202 or 209 - Microbiology

CHE 151 – General College Chemistry I

CHE 152 – General College Chemistry II

CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I

CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II

PHY 154 - General Physics I

PHY 155 - General Physics II

or

PHY 161 - University Physics I

PHY 261 - University Physics II

**Also recommended:** Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Genetics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Business, Economics, Sociology, History, Public Speaking, and Computer Science. Optometry Colleges may prefer some of the above courses be completed at a 4-year institution.

**Partial List of Colleges Offering a Degree in Optometry:**

SUNY College of Optometry

The Ohio State University

Pennsylvania College of Optometry

New England College of Optometry

Nova Southeastern University

Illinois College of Optometry

**Additional Information:**

USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Optometrists - [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos073.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos073.htm)

American Optometric Association - [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

Accreditation Council on Optometric Education - [www.aoa.org/x5153.xml](http://www.aoa.org/x5153.xml)

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**Note:** While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career and Transfer Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.