

# Doctor of Optometry



**Can I apply to the School of Optometry and Vision Science directly if I am in my last year of high school studies?**

Unfortunately, no. The Doctor of Optometry is a second-entry program meaning students require a number of university courses prior to applying to the Optometry program. For the Waterloo Optometry program, you will need to complete a minimum of 3 years of university science with all the prerequisite courses completed before entering Optometry.

If you're a current high school student and are considering the Doctor of Optometry program, you need to complete a compulsory set of university-level prerequisite courses. These courses provide you with the broad base of knowledge that you need in order to begin studies in the Optometry program. The Optometry Admissions Committee does not look at high school grades. The Committee does look at all your university grades. Your university average must be at least 75.0%.

**In order to enrol in these prerequisite courses, you will need to apply to a university undergraduate Bachelor of Science program (for example, biology, biochemistry, biomedical science, or pre-optometry). Unfortunately, community college applicants are not admissible to the Optometry program.**

**Which science program you choose for your prerequisites does not affect your standing with the Optometry Admissions Committee. Rather, you should choose a science program that you would enjoy and that you can excel at. Consider a program that you would like to continue to complete if you are not admitted into the Optometry program.**

**Consulting with the university you're planning to attend is important. Contact the university you are interested in and ask about their admission requirements for the science program. There will be certain high school courses you need in order to enter the science program.**

## Our School

As Canada's only English-language optometry program, we have trained close to 3,500 optometrists who practice in communities all across the country. We deliver a four-year degree program, accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education ([accredit@theacoe.org](mailto:accredit@theacoe.org)), leading to a professional Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree. Our students receive extensive clinical training in one of the country's largest eye and vision care centres, which gives them practical experience while providing optometric services to our community. In support of optometry's growing scope of practice, we offer opportunities for optometrists across Canada to further develop their skills through residencies and continuing education.