What is Ferris State University (FSU) Michigan College of Optometry’s (MCO) mission statement?

“The Michigan College of Optometry prepares doctoral and post-doctoral students for successful careers as optometric healthcare leaders serving patients and society with integrity and professionalism. The program serves the health care needs of the public through its research, scholarly activity, evidence based clinical education and patient-centered care.”

Where can I find additional information about FSU MCO?
- FSU MCO Website: [http://www.ferris.edu/mco/](http://www.ferris.edu/mco/)

What were the admission statistics for 2019?
- Number of Applicants: 225
- Number Interviewed: 74
- Number of MI Resident admits: 30
- % Admitted with a Bachelor’s Degree: 65%
- Number of Students in the Entering Class: 38

What classes do I need?

The following GVSU courses are prerequisites to FSU’s MCO (for students who are applying with a baccalaureate degree); all prerequisite courses must be completed with a C or better grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 120</td>
<td>General Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 121</td>
<td>General Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 212/213</td>
<td>Introductory Microbiology w/lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 115</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 116</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 241</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 242</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 461</td>
<td>Biochemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTH 201</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 220</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 221</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STA 215</td>
<td>Introductory Applied Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggested courses (in order of importance):
- BMS 290/391: Human Physiology w/lab; BIO 355 or 375/376: Human Genetics or Genetics/Genetics Lab; CMB 405: Cell and Molecular Biology; BMS 208: Human Anatomy; BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver); BIO 422: Embryology; Business Management or Accounting courses; COM 201: Speech;
  - Though course credit obtained from a four-year university is preferred, the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) accepts AP, CLEP, and IB Credits for the satisfaction of prerequisites similar to the policy of Ferris State University. All AP, CLEP, and/or IB courses must appear on your official college transcript or letter from your registrar. MCO, under certain circumstances, may request that a candidate replace an AP, CLEP, and/or IB course with one taken at a four-year university.
  
*Applicants to the MCO must complete a minimum of 3 years (90 semester hours) of university education or have earned a baccalaureate degree (applicants earning a baccalaureate degree are preferred)

What OAT score and GPA do I need for admission to FSU MCO?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OAT Profile of 2019 Admissions</th>
<th>GPA Profile of 2019 Admissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Composite</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overall GPA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean: 339</td>
<td>Mean: 3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range: 310-390</td>
<td>Range: 3.33 – 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean by category</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen Chem: 349</td>
<td>Survey of Sciences: 338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology: 334</td>
<td>Physics: 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative: 340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When calculating GPA, OptomCAS will only calculate the most recent attempt if a course has been repeated.
What else do I need to do to be a competitive applicant to FSU MCO?

Besides GPA and OAT scores, FSU MCO evaluates a number of other factors and attributes, including:
- Athletics
- Volunteering
- Debate/Forensics
- Student Government
- Work History
- Shadowing
- Pre-Optometry Club
- Campus Religious Groups
- Tutoring
- Service Organizations
- Fraternities/Sororities
- Leadership Positions
- Hobbies

All applicants need to be aware that the Admissions Committee views one’s knowledge of the profession of optometry to be of vital importance. This is best achieved by visiting one or more optometrists on several occasions (and across multiple modes of practice) to observe patient care on a first-hand basis. Volunteering or working in an optometrist's office is a certain way to gain understanding of and appreciation for the profession.

What do I need to know about applying to FSU MCO?

Like most optometry schools, FSU MCO uses OptomCAS as their application server: [http://www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org). MCO has rolling admissions so APPLY EARLY; applications are accepted between July 1 and February 1.

Arrange your schedule so that you can spend a half day with us. As part of the interview process, you will receive a tour of MCO provided by a MCO Student Ambassador, have a 45 minute interview with three members of the Admissions Committee, and have an informational session with the MCO Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs. Don't over prepare. Be prepared to explain exactly why optometry is your profession of choice, and be ready to explain any low grades, or low section scores of your OAT score, if applicable. Most importantly try to relax, smile, and be yourself!

Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation electronically using the OptomCAS system: 1) from a college professor; 2) from an optometrist; and 3) from a person of choice who is NOT a professor, optometrist or relative (suggestions would be high school teacher, counselor, athletic coach, work supervisor, clergy, etc.). Committee letters ARE accepted.

Tuition and Fees for 2019 are $34,744 (in-state).

What is it like to be a FSU Optometry student?

Top Ten Reasons Students Like MCO

1. Small Class Sizes
2. Friendly, Knowledgeable Professors
3. Small, Safe Community
4. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities (Hiking, Skiing, Hunting, Fishing, Tubing, etc.)
5. Patient Care Experience as Second Year Students
6. Reasonable Cost of Living
7. Excellent Doctor to Student Ratio
8. Numerous Quality Golf Courses
9. Close Proximity to Grand Rapids
10. Excellent Student Recreation Center

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact FSU MCO:
Office of Academic & Student Affairs
Michigan College of Optometry
1124 S. State Street, MCO 236
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2738
(231) 591-3703
E-mail askmco@ferris.edu
Connect on social media!

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