Optometry School Application Process

Check your email regularly and make sure communications are not going into your spam box

Optometry School Admission Requirements:
https://myasco.opted.org/searchEngines/admissions_advanced_search_form.aspx

Admissions Test: OAT (Optometry Admission Test)

- **OAT Program Guide: https://oat.ada.org/**
- **Registration Timeline:** Tests are administered year-round. You must first apply for and obtain a PIN at https://www.ada.org/en/oat/pin. After your PIN application is processed, you may submit an OAT application at https://www.ada.org/en/oat/apply-to-take-the-oat. Once your application is approved, you will receive an email with instructions on how to schedule your test through a Prometric test center (www.prometric.com); the test must be scheduled within 6 months.
- **Release Scores:** Prior to signing up for the test, you have the option of releasing your scores to an undergraduate pre-health advisor. If you miss this step, please share a copy of your unofficial report with your preprofessional advisor at GVSU.
- **Fee:** $515 per test; payment by credit card only; non-refundable
  - This fee covers score report requests for optometry schools or other recipients made at the time of application. There is no additional charge for score report requests received at the time of application.
  - Fee also includes an unofficial score report when you leave the test center and a report for your advisor. No additional report will be sent to you; $50 each for additional score reports/schools.
- **Rescheduling fees** are $150 for 1-4 business days prior to the test, $70 for 5-29 business days prior to the test, and $40 for 30+ business days prior to the test. A 45-day testing extension is available for $135.
- **Fee Assistance:** Partial fee waivers (50% reduction) are available and must be filed at the time of application for the exam; see the OAT Program Guide for details.
- **Practice Tests:** Full practice tests and individual modules can be purchased at https://oat.ada.org/
- **Retesting:** 60 days between tests; applicants who have 3 or more OAT attempts must apply for permission to test again.

Subtests	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes
Biology* (40 questions), General Chemistry (30 questions), Organic Chemistry (30 questions)	
Reading Comprehension Test (50 questions)	60 minutes
Scheduled Break (optional)	30 minutes
Physics Test (40 questions)	50 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test (40 questions)	45 minutes
Post Test Survey (optional)	15 minutes
Total Time	**5 hours, 05 minutes**

Scoring: 200-400; adjusted for a mean of 300; no penalty for guessing.

Application Service: OptomCAS – Email support@optomcas.myliaison.com or call 617-612-2888 with questions.
OptomCAS Instructions: https://www.optomcas.org/application-process/how-to-apply

Fee: $185 for one school; $75 for each additional school
  *Fee is non-refundable, OptomCAS only accepts payments via credit card or debit card

Re-applicants: Information such as coursework, official test scores, attached transcripts, etc. can be copied into the new application. Letters of recommendation, essays, payments, and program-specific information cannot be copied into the new application. Make sure to check carried over information for accuracy and send new transcripts if you have additional coursework.

Transcripts: Transcripts must be sent from EACH school you have attended. GVSU transcripts can be sent electronically (see Registrar's Office for info). If sending through mail, a Transcript Request Form (download from OptomCAS) MUST accompany official transcripts by application deadline—can begin submitting in July.

Repeat Grades: Enter ALL attempts at courses, regardless of repeats or grades of W. All grades earned for repeated courses are factored into your OptomCAS GPA.

Personal Statement: The essay for OptomCAS is "Please describe what inspires your decision for becoming an optometrist, including your preparation for training in this profession, your aptitude and motivation, the basis for your interest in optometry, and your future career goals." Your essay should be limited to 4500 characters with spaces. For each school to which you are going to apply, you may tailor your essay on the abovementioned topic.

Related Work & Activities: Enter optometric experience, shadowing, employment, extracurricular activities, volunteer experiences, and honors and awards; each experience has room for a brief description (600 characters with spaces).

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs): Up to 4 letters may be submitted. After the applicant enters the evaluator into OptomCAS, an email evaluation request will be sent to each evaluator with a link to the online evaluation portal where they can submit their letter and complete the Rating of Attributes. Evaluations MUST be submitted electronically. Be sure to check the requirements of each individual program for the types of letters they will accept; more information can be found at this link: https://www.optomcas.org/information-about-schools-colleges/letters-of-recommendations.
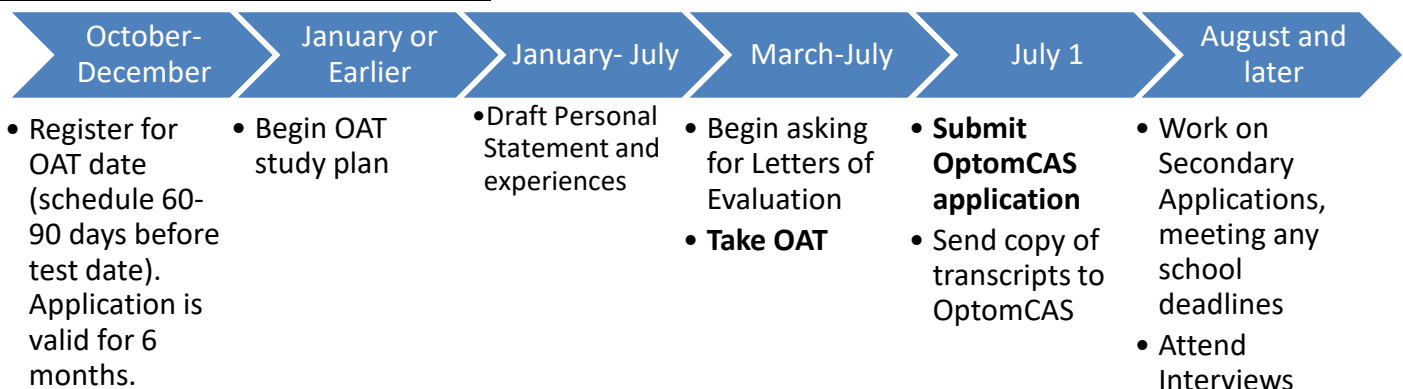
Verification: Takes up to 2 weeks once ALL required materials are received; letters of evaluation and supplemental applications are NOT required for verification.

Supplemental Applications: Fees for schools vary and are submitted directly to the colleges; be sure to follow ALL school deadlines. It is recommended to submit all secondary application within two (2) weeks. Some supplemental apps require you to submit a photo of yourself; therefore, it's a good idea to have a nice/professional photo taken of yourself wearing business professional clothing.

Acceptances: Make sure you are meeting any program deadlines and after accepting an offer withdraw any outstanding applications or decline offers of admission from other schools.

Schools also conduct a criminal background check and undergraduate disciplinary checks prior to final matriculation.

Application Process General Timeline

October-December	January or Earlier	January- July	March-July	July 1	August and later
• Register for OAT date (schedule 60-90 days before test date). Application is valid for 6 months.	• Begin OAT study plan	•Draft Personal Statement and experiences	• Begin asking for Letters of Evaluation • **Take OAT**	• **Submit OptomCAS application** • Send copy of transcripts to OptomCAS	• Work on Secondary Applications, meeting any school deadlines • Attend Interviews

This form serves only as a guideline to the application process, it is up to you as the applicant to make sure you are meeting any deadlines or requirements outlined by the application and testing services, as well as individual school requirements.