



# Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry

The Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree is based on the NSU Tahlequah campus. The program is four years of intensive doctoral-level training that prepares students to become effective members of a comprehensive health care team. The Optometric Physician has been trained to diagnose and treat a wide variety of eye and vision problems at the primary care level. In addition, the optometrist learns to identify and assist in managing a wide variety of non-ocular systemic and psychological conditions. By working effectively with members of many other health care disciplines, Optometric Physicians play a significant role in providing for the comprehensive needs of the patients they serve.

One of only 23 optometric training schools in the nation, the Oklahoma College of Optometry at Northeastern State University prides itself on developing world-class optometrists with practical experience both in and out of the classroom, as well as post-graduate clinical residency certification and continuing optometric education.

## **NSU Pride Points:**

- » Provides students with a large number of patient interactions; the network of 11 NSUOCO clinics sees between 50,000 and 60,000 patients each year
- » The principal clinic is hospital-based and provides for regular interactions with other health care disciplines
- » Offers a wide scope of practice that includes training on certain anterior segment laser procedures (YAG and SLT laser training), as well as optometric surgical procedures
- » Immerses students in a supportive educational environment and emphasizes applied practice management throughout the classroom and clinical curriculum
- » Prepares graduates for success in a diversifying world by teaching in a multicultural setting, including a strong partnership with the Cherokee Nation
- » Maintains the highest level of student and faculty participation in organized optometry and public service
- » Produces students who regularly score in the top level on all National Board benchmarks
- » Cultivates graduates who consistently achieve licensure and frequently rise into leadership roles

## **Application Procedure**

Applications for admission will be accepted through Feb. 1 prior to the fall semester in which the applicant wishes to enter. The program begins in August. Applications should be filed as early as possible. More information about the centralized application can be found at [www.optomcas.org](http://www.optomcas.org). Once the application is complete, it will be forwarded to NSUOCO.

## **Student Organizations:**

- » American Optometric Student Association
- » AOA-PAC
- » Beta Sigma Kappa
- » College of Optometrists in Vision Department (COVD)
- » Fellowship of Christian Optometrists
- » National Optometric Student Association
- » Ocular Nutrition Club
- » Optometric Student Association
- » Practice Management Club
- » Sports Vision Club
- » Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity
- » Surgery Club
- » Women in Optometry

**Currently admitting:**  
28 students per year

To find out more about an undergraduate degree in the Gregg Wadley College of Science & Health Professions

visit: [www.nsuok.edu/prehealth](http://www.nsuok.edu/prehealth) or email: [prehealth@nsuok.edu](mailto:prehealth@nsuok.edu)

To schedule a campus visit, or find out more about admissions to Northeastern State University contact:

[nsuopt@nsuok.edu](mailto:nsuopt@nsuok.edu)  
918.444.4036



1001 N. Grand Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74464-7017

[optometry.nsuok.edu](http://optometry.nsuok.edu)



## College of Optometry Prerequisites

This four-year program does not require a specific undergraduate degree but students must complete the prerequisites and have at least 90 credit hours. Strong preference is given to students who will have completed a bachelor's degree prior to entrance to the program. The applicant must submit transcripts showing a cumulative grade-point average of all course work attempted of at least 2.7, based on a 4.0 scale. Students admitted to the NSUOCO who have not yet completed a bachelor's degree must meet the general education requirements of NSU before graduating from the Doctor of Optometry program. Admissions into the program is competitive as only 28 students are selected for each class.

Course	Minimum Semester Credit Hours:	Minimum Quarter Credit Hours:
<b>Calculus</b> Business calculus is not accepted. Most Calculus courses will be 4-5 credit hours..	4	6
<b>Statistics</b> Students will need to take Science/Health or Psychology Statistics.	3	4.5
<b>General Biology or Zoology (with lab)</b> Course must be for science majors.	4	6
<b>Microbiology</b> No lab required.	3	4.5
<b>General Chemistry I&amp;II (with lab)</b> Inorganic Chemistry is accepted. Courses must be for science majors.	8	12
<b>Organic Chemistry (with lab)</b> Will not accept Survey of Organic Chem. or Organic Chem. for non-science majors. Course must be in 3000 level.	4	6
<b>Biochemistry</b> Organic II will not waive the Biochemistry requirement.	3	4.5
<b>Physics I&amp;II (with lab)</b> Calculus or Trigonometry based sequence accepted but needs to be for science majors.	8	12
<b>General Psychology</b> Upper division Psychology courses also counted.	3	4.5
<b>English I and II (grammar/composition)</b> Must have a progression of two English courses for academic writing. Public speaking or a theatre class will not count.	6	9

Contact [nsuopt@nsuok.edu](mailto:nsuopt@nsuok.edu) for specific questions about prerequisite classes. Please include course descriptions in the email message.

AP credits will be accepted as long as it is listed on official college transcript and accepted by undergraduate institution.

Oklahoma residents can view the transfer guide through Higher Education:  
[www.okhighered.org/transfer-students/course-transfer.shtml](http://www.okhighered.org/transfer-students/course-transfer.shtml)

Other areas of study strongly recommended include: Human Anatomy and Physiology, Public Speaking, Experimental Psychology, Computer Science (especially data and word processing), Analytic Geometry and Basic Bookkeeping or Accounting. Students admitted to NSUOCO who have not yet completed a bachelor's degree must meet the general education requirements of Northeastern State University. The student must complete these requirements by the end of their second year. The student is responsible for knowing and meeting the general education requirements in existence at the time of the student's first enrollment at NSU. Students should refer to the NSU Undergraduate Catalog for a list of degree requirements for the bachelor of science degree. More information can be found at: [offices.nsuok.edu/advisingcenter/GeneralEducation.aspx](http://offices.nsuok.edu/advisingcenter/GeneralEducation.aspx).