



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Oklahoma College of Optometry

The Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree is based on the Northeastern State University, 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 physiological 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 24 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 over 40,000 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 as we have rolling admissions. More information about the centralized application can be found at www.optomcas.org. Once the application is complete, it will be forwarded to NSUOCO.

This four-year program does not require a specific undergraduate degree, but students must complete the prerequisites and have at least 90 earned 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. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a "C" or higher. Students admitted to the NSUOCO who have not yet completed a bachelor's degree must meet the general education requirements of NSU before completing their second year of study at NSUOCO. Admissions into the program is competitive as only 28 students are selected for each class.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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

Contact: 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

Other areas of study strongly recommended include: Immunology, 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/advising/default.aspx.

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

*Human Anatomy and Physiology requirements will not go into effect until the 2026-2027 application cycle. Until then, it is strongly recommended.

Oklahoma College of Optometry

To schedule a campus visit, or find out more about admissions to NSUOCO, contact our Optometry Program Representative at:

nsuinfo@nsuok.edu

918.444.4036

optometry.nsuok.edu/FutureStudents

Scan the QR code to request more info on our programs:
<https://optometry.nsuok.edu/>



Optometry Program Representative
918.444.4036
Optometric Student & Alumni Services
Director 918.444.4006 nsuopt@nsuok.edu

For more information on coursework, visit with your advisor.



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