Optometry – O.D.

“Doctors of optometry are independent primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures as well as diagnose related systemic conditions.” (American Optometric Association)

Optometrists can specialize in contact lenses, vision therapy, sports vision, ocular disease, geriatrics, pediatrics, low vision (working with visually impaired patients), occupational vision, education and research.

Programs

- There are 19 accredited optometry programs and 4 pre-accredited programs in the US and Canada
- A list of accredited schools can be found online
- The only program in Florida is at Nova Southeastern University
- Contact information for the program at Nova Southeastern University is: (800) 356-0026 Ext. 2-1267, optadmit@nova.edu

Admission Requirements

- The program at Nova Southeastern University requires at least a 2.8 undergraduate GPA
- The OAT is required and the average score for matriculates to NSU is about 1000
- The required courses for the Nova Southeastern University program are:
  - Calculus - 1 semester
  - Physics with lab - 2 semesters
  - General Biology with lab - 2 semesters
  - General or inorganic chemistry with lab - 2 semesters
  - Organic chemistry with lab - semester
  - Microbiology – 1 semester
  - Biochemistry - 1 semester
  - Anatomy and Physiology – 1 semester
  - English - 2 semesters
  - Social/Behavioral Science/Humanities – 5 courses
  - Also recommended are courses in Statistics, Computer Literacy, and Psychology

- Letters of Evaluation
- An application submitted via the Optometry Centralized Application Service

Timeline

- The OPTOMCAS application becomes available in July each year
- Most schools also require a supplemental application
• The OAT must be completed before the application is considered
• Interviews generally take place in the spring after the application is complete

Resources
• Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
• Optometry Centralized Application Service
• American Academy of Optometry