Lyon College provides outstanding preparation for students planning to enter optometry school and other schools in health-related fields. For over a decade, Lyon students who apply to professional health-related schools have had an acceptance rate more than twice the national average. This is because Lyon’s strong liberal arts education provides them with a springboard for success.

As a result of the interest Lyon students continue to show in optometry school after graduation, Lyon has appointed a Pre-health Professions Advisory Committee. This committee encourages all students interested in optometry school or a related professional field to begin planning their curriculum as early as possible and to let a member of the Pre-health Professions Advisory Committee know of their interest.
Pre-optometry at Lyon

Admission to optometry school depends on several factors, including performance during undergraduate studies, performance on the Optometry College Admission Test (OAT), and an interview with one or more representatives of the institution's admissions committee. Some institutions highly recommend "shadowing" or related experience. Your pre-optometry advisor can help you determine the admission expectations of different institutions and chart a strategy for application.

Pre-optometry concentration requirements

- BIO 110/112 Principles of Biology I & II 8 credits
- BIO 350 Microbiology 4 credits
- CHM 110/112 General Chemistry I & II 8 credits
- CHM 210 Organic Chemistry I 4 credits
- CHM 356 Biochemistry 4 credits
- ENG 101/102 English Composition I & II 6 credits
- MTH 210 Calculus I 4 credits
- PHY 210/211 & 220/221 General Physics I & II 8 credits
- OR PHY 240/241 & 250/251 Fundamentals of Physics I & II 8 credits
- PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology 4 credits
- PSY 235 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences 3 credits
- Social science (sociology, psychology excluding PSY 101, political science, history, economics, anthropology, geography, religion, or philosophy) 6 credits

Total 59 credits

The above requirements are for the Southern College of Optometry. Requirements for other schools may vary.

The OAT: Students applying to optometry school must take the Optometry College Admission Test (OAT). The OAT is given year-round at test centers across the country. Students may take this more than once.

Interview: Most optometry schools require an interview with one or more members of the admission committee. The Pre-health Professions Advisory Committee and Career Center assists with preparation and practice for the interview.

Volunteer/observation: Many programs require students have a minimum of 20 volunteer/observation hours with a certified occupational therapist.

Special Features: Lyon has identified local optometrists who allow Lyon students the opportunity to shadow them. This is terrific preparation for optometry school.