



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

For more information visit www.uwinnipeg.ca or contact a student recruitment officer at welcome@uwinnipeg.ca or 204.786.9844. In any case where The University of Winnipeg Course Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.

Pre-Optometry

Doctors of Optometry are health care professionals who diagnose, manage, and treat conditions of the human eye and visual system.

You have the passion, precision, and determination to become an optometrist, and you're looking for a university with a strong reputation, personal attention, and excellent research opportunities to help you gain admission to optometry. Come to The University of Winnipeg for your pre-professional studies and put our small class sizes, community atmosphere, central location, and reputation for excellence to work for you.

Our campus is **located in the heart of downtown Winnipeg**—central to Winnipeg's medical library, optometry clinics, major hospitals, research centres, and labs such as the National Microbiology Laboratory and the National Research Council's Institute for Biodiagnostics; it's a great location for studying, volunteering, research, and entertainment.

As a University of Winnipeg student, you will get to know your professors and other students because of our **small classes and community atmosphere**. Our excellent professors—including five Canada Research Chairs—are supportive and accessible, contributing to the many successes of our students.

With students at the second, third, and fourth-year levels doing research alongside some of our most innovative professors, we offer you **research opportunities** that are not available to undergraduate students at other universities. You can also gain **hands-on experience** in your area of study by working as a marker or lab demonstrator, participating in co-op programs and practicum placements, and getting involved with one of the many active student groups on campus.

YOUR EDUCATION

Years 1-3: Pre-Optometry at The University of Winnipeg

The University of Winnipeg is an excellent place to fulfill the entrance requirements for optometry at the University of Waterloo or other universities across Canada.

Each optometry program has its own entrance requirements. To meet the entrance requirements of the School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo, you will complete three or more years of Bachelor of Science studies, including the "Pre-Professional Requirements" listed on page 2.

It is recommended that you graduate with a **Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts** degree from The University of Winnipeg. The degree you earn will depend on your course selection and interests; while there are required and recommended courses, there is no one degree or program that is required for entry to optometry.

Years 4-7: Professional Studies: Optometry

After you complete your pre-professional studies at The University of Winnipeg, you will apply for admission to optometry at another university or college.

Enrolment in optometry programs is limited, and only highly qualified applicants are chosen. Admission is based on academic achievement, an autobiography, an essay, your score on the Optometry Admission Test (OAT), and sometimes a personal interview.

At least four more years of study are required to complete the optometry program.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Most students who study Pre-Optometry at The University of Winnipeg will apply for admission to the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry, but you may choose to apply elsewhere. **The courses listed below are University of Winnipeg courses which will satisfy The University of Waterloo's new (2008) entrance requirements for Optometry.** The Optometry Admissions Committee also looks for applicants taking a full course load (30 credit hours per term) during their studies.

BIOL-1115(3) Cells and Cellular Processes
BIOL-1116(3) Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity
CHEM-1111(3) Introduction to the Chemical Properties of Matter
PHYS-1101(6) Foundations of Physics I OR PHYS-1301(6) Introduction to Physics
MATH-1102(3) Basic Calculus (Terminal) OR MATH-1101(6) Introduction to Calculus (Note: Introduction to Calculus is required for some University of Winnipeg science degrees)
PSYC-1000(6) Introductory Psychology
Any 3 credit hour English course OR RHET-1105(3) Academic Writing
BIOL-1112(6) Human Anatomy and Physiology
STAT-1501(3) Elementary Biological Statistics I
PHIL-2202(3) Ethics in Medicine and the Law OR PHIL-1202(3) Thinking About Moral Issues
CHEM-2202(3) Organic Chemistry I
BIOL-2902(3) Biology of the Prokaryotes and Viruses

The following courses are recommended, but not required for admission:

MATH-1201(3) Linear Algebra I
KIN-2301(3) Human Anatomy
BIOL-2301(3) Genetics
CHEM-2501(3) Principles of Biochemistry OR CHEM-3502(3) Intermediate Biochemistry I
BIOL-3563(3) Human Embryology
BIOL-3202(3) Histology
BIOL-4931(3) Immunology

NOTE: You must consult with the optometry school where you plan to complete your studies to make sure that you choose an appropriate set of courses and that you will meet the entrance requirements for your optometry program of choice.

YOUR FIRST YEAR

We are committed to helping you have a smooth transition from high school to university. You will attend a First Year Survival Session and other orientation sessions to prepare you for university life and introduce you to the facilities and services you will need on campus. We recommend that you choose one of the various sections of Academic Writing to learn the essential strategies for university writing and research. Our Tutoring Centre (3rd floor of Graham Hall) offers peer tutoring to help you develop your writing skills, and in case you need it, our Learning Centre offers free tutoring in chemistry, math, and physics.

YOUR SUCCESS

The University of Winnipeg has a rich history of academic excellence, and a reputation for providing thorough preparation for professional and graduate programs at other universities. We offer the courses, supports, and challenges you will need to get in to optometry and build a rewarding, successful career as an optometrist.

PREPARING FOR THE OAT

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is a standardized test that is administered twice per year. It tests knowledge in the Natural Sciences, Physics, quantitative reasoning, and reading comprehension. **The OAT is required for admission to all schools and colleges of optometry in Canada and the United States.** You may find it helpful to take a preparatory course offered by a private company, or you may choose to prepare on your own or in a study group.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

"My Bachelor of Science degree allowed me to fulfil the required and recommended courses for the Optometry program at the University of Waterloo, and continues to service me well in my continuing education. Further, the school provided me with great personal satisfaction – I never felt lost in the crowd and was able to meet so many interesting people from different walks of life." - Dr. Roxanne Arnal (B.Sc. '90 Chemistry) now owns an optometry practice in Wainwright, AB.

WHERE CAN I STUDY OPTOMETRY?

There are two universities offering optometry programs in Canada: the University of Waterloo and l'Université de Montréal. You may also consider studying optometry outside Canada. For more information on careers and education programs in optometry, go to the Canadian Association of Optometrists' website at www.opto.ca

IN CASE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...

Courses taken as part of pre-professional studies are applicable to University of Winnipeg degree programs. If you change your mind about your studies, you may wish to consult with an Academic Advisor or an instructor from your area of interest to formulate a new study plan.

REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

In addition to meeting The University of Winnipeg's general admission requirements, you must have **Chemistry 40S** and either **Pre-Calculus Mathematics 40S** or **Applied Mathematics 40S** in order to take the required courses for admission to optometry. Physics 40S and Pre-Calculus Mathematics 40S may be required, depending on the courses you select.

HOW TO APPLY – Domestic Student

Apply online at uwinnipeg.ca or pick up an Application for Admission from your high school counsellor's office or the Admissions Office at The University of Winnipeg. To meet Scholarship deadline submit your application and \$80 application fee by **March 1st**.

HOW TO APPLY – International Student

Apply online at uwinnipeg.ca/index/intl-apply and submit all official documents by mail. To meet Scholarship deadline submit application, fee, and documents by **March 1st**. International application fee is \$100, which includes a one-time courier fee.

NOTE: Admission to The University of Winnipeg does not guarantee admission to optometry. As a pre-professional student, you are responsible to research and apply for admission to your professional school of choice.

CONTACT US

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