



## Pre-Optometry Advising Program

<b>Courses required for the first year:</b> CHEM-131, CHEM-132
<b>Courses recommended for the first year:</b> PSYC-100, MATH-130, MATH-160, either BIOL-130 or BIOL-140
<b>BIOL-130 and BIOL-140 should be completed by the end of the second year</b>
<b>Contact:</b> Dr. Dara Wegman-Geedey ( <a href="mailto:darawegman-geedey@augustana.edu">darawegman-geedey@augustana.edu</a> )

## Pre-Optometry Advising Program

Augustana's optometry program is not a graduation major, so a departmental major must be completed if the student intends to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree. The choice of major is not critical for acceptance by a school of optometry, though nationwide approximately 80 percent of all matriculating students major in the biological sciences.

### Required Supporting Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Learning Perspective/ Suffix	Prerequisites	Usually offered: F, J, SP, SU*	Credits
PSYC-100	Introduction to Psychology	PS	--	F, SP, SU	4
BIOL-130	Molecules to Cells		--	F, SP	4
BIOL-140	Organisms to Ecosystems		--	F, SP	4
CHEM-131	General Chemistry I	PN	--	F	4
CHEM-132	General Chemistry II		CHEM-131	F, SP	4
CHEM-321	Organic Chemistry I		CHEM-132	F	4
BIOL-250	Genetics		BIOL-130 & BIOL-140	F, SP	4
PHYS-151	Principles of Physics I	PN	--	F	4
PHYS-152	Principles of Physics II	PN	--	SP	4
MATH-160	Calculus I	Q	C- or better in MATH-140 or placement into Calculus	F, SP	4
BIOL-343	Microbiology		BIOL-250	F, SP	4
BIOL-351	Human Anatomy		--	F, SP	4
BIOL-362	Human Physiology		BIOL-130 & sophomore status	F, SP	4

One of:					
MATH-130	Stats for Healthcare Professionals	Q		F	4
PSYC-240	Psych Stats	Q	PSYC-100	F, SP, SU	4
SOAN-227	Social Stats	Q		S	4

### Additional Recommended Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Learning Perspective/ Suffix	Prerequisites	Usually offered: F, J, SP, SU*	Credits
CHEM-345	Fundamentals of Biochemistry		CHEM-321	SP	4

### Pre-Optometry Advising Program Overview

Admission to any of the 23 optometry schools in the United States requires completion of at least three years of undergraduate coursework. Some schools give preference to applicants with a bachelor's degree.

Acceptance is dependent upon undergraduate performance, Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores, letters of evaluation, interview results and successful completion of all entrance requirements. While requirements vary among different schools, Augustana's pre-optometry program satisfies the prerequisites of nearly all optometry schools in the country.

Augustana's optometry program is not a graduation major, so a departmental major must be completed if the student intends to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree. The choice of major is not critical for acceptance by a school of optometry, though nationwide approximately 80 percent of all matriculating students major in the biological sciences. Recommended supporting courses include advanced communication courses, a biochemistry course, an ethics course, and additional social science coursework.

Augustana College has an articulation agreement with Illinois College of Optometry (ICO). Students may apply to the program during spring of their first year at Augustana and must then maintain a minimum grade-point average over the next two years and score above the average Optometry Admission Test (OAT) score of the prior year's incoming ICO class.

Our agreement with ICO is a 3:4 program, meaning students can enter ICO following their third year at Augustana. After their first year at ICO, they return for graduation ceremonies from Augustana, then finish the remaining three years of optometry school (seven years total for the BA and OD degrees). The 3:4 program is not restricted to Illinois residents.

Students interested in optometry should confer with the advisor early in the first year of study. Please see the page dedicated to [Coordinated Degree Programs](#) for more information.

\*Fall, J term, Spring, Summer; see [Academic Calendar](#) for specific dates

Updated May 2025