



WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY (OD)

2026 APPLICATION PROCESS AND CHECKLIST

This checklist is provided to assist you in submitting all the required materials. The following items must be submitted on or before May 1, 2026. Qualified candidates will be invited to interview.

Online Application & Application Fee

The OptomCAS application must be electronically submitted on or before May 1, 2026. OptomCAS charges \$187 USD for the first program you apply to and \$80 USD for each additional program.

Foreign Coursework Evaluation

Official transcripts for all coursework completed outside the United States or Canada must be submitted to World Education Services or Josef Silney & Associates for a U.S. course-by-course evaluation. The evaluation service should then send/release the official evaluation to WesternU or OptomCAS.

Official Transcripts for U.S. Coursework

Official transcripts for any courses completed at U.S. or Canadian institution must be submitted through OptomCAS.

Official TOEFL or E3PT Scores

All applicants whose native language is not English must submit official ETS TOEFL or English3 (E3PT) score results.

Standardized Test Requirement

The Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) is the preferred required Standardized Test. The OAT must be completed on or before May 1, 2026. DAT, PCAT, and MCAT can be considered on a case-by-case basis by the committee.

Letters of Recommendations

We require two letters of recommendation. It is suggested that one letter be from an optometrist/clinical supervisor, and one from a faculty member, pre-health advisor, or employee who is familiar with the applicant's work. Letters of recommendations cannot be from a family member or immediate relative. The request for a letter of recommendation will be sent via OptomCAS.

Minimum of 90 semester or 135 quarter units of undergraduate coursework

All units must be at a regionally accredited institution and must be completed by June 30th prior to matriculation.

Successful Completion of All Required Prerequisites

List of required courses are on the WesternU OD Admissions Webpage. All prerequisites must be completed at a regionally accredited institution, must be completed with a grade of "C" or better (a grade of "C-" or lower is not acceptable), one course cannot be used to satisfy more than one prerequisite, and all coursework must be completed by June 30th prior to matriculation.

Proof of Legal U.S. Residency – if required

International applicants, or any other applicants who are not U.S. citizens and who are living in the U.S., must provide proof of legal U.S. residency prior to matriculation.



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_____ Although not required, having earned a BS or BA will likely strengthen your application

BS or BA may be in any subject

_____ ASCO Functional Guidelines

Candidates must meet the functional guidelines established by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

The Admissions Office will email you to acknowledge that your application was received. When all required documents are received, your application will be processed. You will then receive an email message from the Admissions Office informing you of the status of your application.

Western University of Health Sciences
Enrollment Management
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