OPTOMETRY
ALLIED HEALTH GUIDE

“What allied health encompasses a broad group of health professionals who use scientific principles and evidence-based practice for the diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of acute and chronic diseases, promote disease prevention and wellness for optimum health, and apply administration and management skills to support health care systems in a variety of settings.” Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP, 2021)

Explore Allied Health Professions

WHAT IS OPTOMETRY?
Optometrists (or doctors of optometry, DO) are the primary healthcare professionals for overall eye health. They conduct eye exams and vision tests in order to diagnose and treat illnesses related to the eyes. They also prescribe eyeglasses and contacts for vision impairments and can administer vision therapy in certain cases. Optometry is frequently confused with ophthalmology (medical/surgical eye professionals) or optician (specialists that prepares and fills prescriptions related to vision). Optometrists typically undergo four years of education following their bachelor’s degree and can work with populations of all ages.

ADVANCED DEGREES
- Doctor of Optometry (DO)
- PhD in Vision Science

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
- American Optometric Association (AOA)
- Optician.Edu Career Guide
- Allied Health Professional Associations for Students

ONEHOP ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALUMNI GROUP
Join the OneHop Allied Health professions Alumni Group where current students interested in allied health can connect with alumni allied health professionals:
- Join OneHop using your jhu.edu email address
- Complete your profile
- Search “Allied Health” in Groups to join the conversation!

UNIVERSITY PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK*
- Biology I & II with Lab
- Chemistry I & II with Lab
- Physics I & II with Lab
- Organic Chemistry I & II with Lab
- Calculus
- English/Writing
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Sociology/Anthropology
- Microbiology
- Biochemistry
- Anatomy
- Physiology

*This list covers the most frequently required prerequisites. Please see individual program websites for exact requirement information.

ADVANCED DEGREE REQUIREMENTS*
- Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) scores
- Letters of Recommendation (Academic, Professional, Optometrist)
- Document observation hours in 2 or more settings

*This is a list of the most frequently required admissions requirements. Please see individual program websites for exact requirement information.

GET CURIOUS
TALK TO PEOPLE
SHOW YOUR WORK
TAKE ACTION

POTENTIAL WORKPLACE SETTINGS TO EXPLORE
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Military + veteran services
- Industrial settings
- Acute care facilities
- Community settings
- Private Practice

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS ADVANCING HEALTH PROFESSIONS (ASAHP, 2021)