

BS + Doctor of Optometry (OD) Early Assurance Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Drexel's prestigious BS/OD Early Assurance Program offers high-achieving first-year applicants a unique opportunity to begin their journey toward a career in optometry. Combining the BS in Biological Sciences with an assured path to a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree, the 4+4 program is designed for students with strong academic records and a passion for healthcare.

Offered through Drexel's College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Biology and Pennsylvania College of Optometry, this competitive program provides a structured pathway from undergraduate study to professional training in optometry. Students gain a comprehensive foundation in the biological sciences through challenging coursework, hands-on laboratory experiences and personalized academic support, developing scientific knowledge and analytical skills essential for success in optometry and other health professions.

CAREERS

With a Doctor of Optometry degree, graduates can pursue a range of in-demand careers focused on improving vision, advancing eye health and enhancing patient outcomes including:

FAMILY, GERIATRIC OR PEDIATRIC OPTOMETRY
ANTERIOR SEGMENT, GLAUCOMA AND RETINA
VISION THERAPY AND REHABILITATION
COMMUNITY HEALTH OPTOMETRY
PRIMARY EYE CARE
CORNEA AND CONTACT LENSES
LOW VISION REHABILITATION
REFRACTIVE AND OCULAR SURGERY
NEURO-OPHTHALMIC DISEASE
OCULAR DISEASE
BRAIN INJURY VISION REHABILITATION
AND MANY OTHERS

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs for optometrists are projected to grow by 8% between 2024 and 2034, with about 3,800 opening projected each year on average. The American Optometric Association reports the average annual net income for optometrists was \$168,193 in November 2025.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
College of
Arts and Sciences



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Pennsylvania College
of Optometry

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The early assurance BS in Biological Sciences and Doctor of Optometry (OD) program is available exclusively to incoming first-year applicants to Drexel University. The following additional admission requirements apply:

- Common Application or Coalition application with Scoir and essay
- Application fee
- All high school transcripts
- Letter of recommendation
- Official SAT or ACT score report (allow at least two weeks for receipt)
- Pennsylvania College of Optometry supplemental essay (by invitation to qualified applicants)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATION:

3.5 GPA ON A 4.0 SCALE
1300 SAT OR 28 ACT SCORE

THE ELKINS PARK CAMPUS

Upon completion of their undergraduate studies, students will move on to complete their OD degree at Drexel's Elkins Park Campus, located in the heart of suburban Montgomery County. Situated on a scenic 11.5-acre campus just 25 minutes from Drexel's University City location, the campus features three academic, clinical and administrative buildings surrounding a picturesque pond in addition to the Hafter Student Community Center. This location continues a legacy of more than a century, beginning with the Pennsylvania State College of Optometry's founding in 1919.

Today, the Pennsylvania College of Optometry is home to one of the premier OD programs in the nation with arguably the most unique portfolio of sensory health and rehabilitation programs, bridging the nexus between science, policy and patient care.

THE EARLY ASSURANCE BS BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES + OD DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY PROGRAM ALLOWS FOR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE ONE CO-OP EXPERIENCE AS PART OF THEIR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES. IN THE DOCTORAL PHASE OF THEIR PROGRAM, STUDENTS HAVE SEVERAL CLINICAL AND RESIDENCY EXPERIENCES BUILT INTO THE CURRICULUM.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

EARLY DECISION. Must submit and complete Drexel application (including submitting all required materials) by **NOVEMBER 15**. Supplemental BS+OD essay must be submitted by **NOVEMBER 18**.

EARLY ACTION. Must submit and complete Drexel application (including submitting all required materials) by **NOVEMBER 15**. Supplemental BS+OD essay must be submitted by **FEBRUARY 1**.

REGULAR DECISION. Must submit and complete Drexel application (including submitting all required materials) by **JANUARY 15**. Supplemental BS+OD essay must be submitted by **FEBRUARY 1**.



CONTACT US

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