Optometry Admission Test (OAT) Information

What is the OAT?

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. The OAT is sponsored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for applicants seeking admission to an optometry program. All schools and colleges of optometry in the United States, and the University of Waterloo, Canada, require the OAT.

What subjects does the OAT cover?

The OAT consists of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics, and Quantitative Reasoning.

When should I take the OAT?

At least one year of college education, which should include courses in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics, is required prior to taking the OAT. Most students, however, elect to complete two or more years of college prior to taking the exam.

When is the OAT examination administered?

The OAT exam is computerized and can be taken throughout the year. You are allowed to take the OAT an unlimited number of times, but you must wait at least 90 days between testing dates. However, scores from only the four most recent attempts as well as your total number of attempts will be reported.

Where can I get more information about the OAT?

- Go to www.optomcas.org to submit your application for the OAT examination and to request additional copies of score reports online.
- Request a free OAT candidate guide information booklet and a test application form by contacting The Optometric Admission Testing Program 211 East Chicago Avenue, 6th Floor Chicago, IL 60611-2678 (800) 232-2159
- The printed edition of the OAT Candidate Guide contains samples of the four tests used in the Optometry Admission Testing Program.

OAT Registration

Register online for the OAT at www.ada.org/oat/index.html.