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**MINNESOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
MANKATO

## PRE-OPTOMETRY *College of Science, Engineering & Technology*

### WHAT DEGREES AND PROGRAMS DO WE OFFER?

During your first year at Minnesota State Mankato, you should check the specific requirements of the college or school of optometry you plan to attend, to be sure that you know exactly what is required for admission. A third year or a bachelor's degree will be needed to be admitted to most optometric programs.

### NATURE OF THE PROFESSION

Half of the people in the United States wear glasses or contact lenses. Optometrists (doctors of optometry) provide most of the vision care these people need. They examine people's eyes to diagnose vision problems and detect signs of disease and other abnormal conditions. They also test to ensure that the patient has proper depth and color perception and the ability to focus and coordinate the eyes. When necessary, they prescribe lenses and treatment. Most optometrists supply the prescribed eyeglasses and fit and adjust contact lenses.

### PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Optometrists work in places — usually their own offices — that are clean, welllighted and comfortable. The work requires careful attention to detail. Because optometrists, like other health practitioners, generally are self-employed, they have considerable flexibility in setting their hours of work and often continue to practice after the normal retirement age. Many independent practitioners work well over 40 hours a week, including time on Saturday and in the evening.

### EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL

Median annual earnings of salaried optometrists were \$128,000 in 2019. Salaried optometrists tend to earn more initially than do optometrists who set up their own independent practice. In the long run, those in private practice usually earn more.

### STUDENT EXPERIENCES

#### Unique program components

Students are encouraged to enroll in internships and independent research projects; opportunities are available to present research in the Undergraduate Research Conference.

#### Clubs and Organizations

- Pre-Optometry Club
- Pre-Med Club
- Biology Club
- Chemistry Club

#### Scholarships

Various scholarships are available to pre-optometry students through departments based on majors, as well as based in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

### BACKGROUND PREPARATION

High school students planning a career in optometry are encouraged to complete courses in mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.

### COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following outline of courses satisfy admission to most schools of optometry. Students should consult the website(s) for the schools to which they plan to apply, for specific pre-requisite requirements. In some cases, completion of a Bachelors Degree is recommended. Admission is competitive, and a strong GPA will be required.

Biology: BIOL 220, 270, 330

Chemistry: CHEM 201, 202, 322, 323, 360

Communications: ENG 101, 271W

Mathematics: MATH 112 and 113 **or** 115, 121

Physics: PHYS 211, 212

Psychology: PSYC 101

Statistics: STAT 154

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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### Website

<https://cset.mnsu.edu/csetadvising-center/pre-professional/>

You are encouraged to visit the campus.

To arrange for a visit, please call:

Office of Admissions: 507-389-1822

Toll-free: 800-722-0544

## GO PRO LEARNING COMMUNITY

If you are entering college planning to continue advanced education by attending medical school, veterinary school, physical therapy school, or other professional programs, your path could be complex and challenging. The Pre-Professional Sciences learning community is here to help! The learning community will offer you support in your course work by having group study session throughout the week with others in your classes. You will also have the opportunity to have your questions answered through your interaction with faculty from these departments. The learning community is here to help guide you in the process of pursuing these demanding programs.

### WHAT YOU'LL TAKE:

As a part of the learning community, you'll be enrolled in the following courses:

#### Fall Semester

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)  
FYEX 100: First Year Seminar (1 credit)  
BIOL 105: General Biology I (4 credits)

#### Spring Semester

PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychological Science (4 credits)  
CMST 102: Public Speaking (3 credits)  
BIOL 106: General Biology II (4 credits)

By enrolling in 15 credits or more per semester, you are more likely to complete your Bachelor's degree in 4 years.

### WHERE YOU'LL LIVE:

Students will be assigned to renovated double rooms (Crawford A, B, D, McElroy E, F, H or Preska I). Renovated rooms have in-room air-conditioning and share a community bathroom with the floor. Learning Community students are housed with other students in the same learning community.

For additional information about course requirements, please visit <http://www.mnsu.edu/supersite/academics/bulletins/>

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