Applicant Planning
Southern California College of Optometry

Marshall B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY
Southern California College of Optometry

SCCO Uses Rolling Admissions

- As applications are received and reviewed, qualified applicants are invited to interview on campus.
- Applicants who interview successfully are offered seats in the class, gradually filling the roster.
- Tip: applying early helps to increase opportunity for admission.

Complete Your Application Online through OptomCAS

- www.optomcas.org
- SCCO's application cycle runs from July 1 through April 1.
- You do not need to take the OAT before applying.
- You need a copy of your college transcripts to complete the application.
- Please mail your official college transcripts to OptomCAS, not to SCCO.

Take the OAT

- The best time to take the OAT for rolling admissions is before December 1 of any cycle.
- The last day to take the OAT and still be eligible for review is April 1.
- There is a 90-day mandatory wait time should you need to retake the OAT.
- SCCO must receive your official OAT scores to be considered for an interview invitation.

Pay the Supplemental Application Fee

- OptomCAS hosts SCCO's supplemental application essay questions; therefore, once your application is submitted through OptomCAS, the supplemental application is also complete. For an advance copy of the essay questions, visit the FAQ section of the blog at www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs.
- OptomCAS takes about 3-4 weeks to complete the verification process; SCCO will then receive your application from OptomCAS and prompt you via email to pay the $75 supplemental application fee and initiate the review process.

Connect with Us

- Visit the SCCO Admissions Blog: www.optometryadmissions.com for helpful articles covering all topics related to admissions, including OAT preparation, Alumni Shadowing Program, FAQs, class profiles and more.
- Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/SCCOadmissions. Chat with current SCCO students about their experiences applying to and attending MBKU, hosted by SCCO's Assistant Dean of Admissions, Dr. Jane Ann Munroe.
- Detailed information about our program may be found on the University's website: ketchum.edu/optometry.
- If you have questions, contact via email: ODadmissions@ketchum.edu
  Jane Ann Munroe, OD, Assistant Dean of Admissions | Eryn Kraning, Director of Admissions

Prerequisites

New for the 2017-18 admissions cycle are several changes to the prerequisite requirements. Please refer to the updated list below.

Prerequisite requirements for admission to SCCO are based on standards set by the California Optometry Law, the accrediting bodies and the judgment of the Admissions Policy Committee.

To be considered as a candidate for admission to the professional OD program, a four-year baccalaureate degree is recommended. However, applicants who complete a minimum of 90 semester or 135 quarter units of undergraduate study will qualify for admission. To be eligible to apply, the applicant must be on track to complete the required units through the summer term that precedes fall matriculation.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses for the prerequisites will be accepted as long as the appropriate number of credit hours was received. These courses must appear on your official college transcript or in a letter from the registrar.

The following courses must be completed at a regionally accredited institution, in the United States or Canada, with a grade of "C-" or better prior to enrollment. These courses represent the minimum requirements for all applicants:

Course	Semester Units	Quarter Units
Calculus (analytic geometry/calculus also acceptable)	3	4
General Biology or Zoology (one year sequence), no lab required	6	9
General Microbiology or Bacteriology, including lab	3	4
Human Anatomy, no lab required	3	4
Human Physiology, no lab required	3	4
General Physics (one year sequence), including lab	8	12
General Chemistry (one year sequence), including lab	8	12
Organic Chemistry, no lab required	3	4
Biochemistry, no lab required	3	4
Psychology	3	4
English Composition or Literature (writing intensive courses are also acceptable)	6	8
Statistics	3	4

SCCO admissions officers have preapproved prerequisite coursework for over 130 institutions nationwide. Please review these courses prior to submitting your questions: ketchum.edu/optometry/applications#articulation-agreements.

Competitive Applicant Profile

Depending on the number of applicants and the strength of those applicants within the pool, each season's competitiveness varies; therefore, as a general guideline, here is what SCCO looks for in a competitive applicant:

- **GPA:** Applicants are advised to have an overall GPA of at least 3.0.

- **OAT Scores:** A competitive applicant is advised to have OAT section scores of at least 300.

- **Demonstrated Passion for Optometry:** There are no shadowing requirements, however in order to make an informed decision about the profession you are entering, observing optometrists is vital. Visit our blog for tips on shadowing.

- **Community Service with Emphasis on Leadership Experience:** Good doctors have a heart for service, not only to their patients, but to their communities as well. Applicants can demonstrate these qualities by the way they spend their discretionary time.

- **Possess Good Time-Management and Stress-Management Skills:** Successful students know how to prioritize, are organized, and have learned to be good time-managers.

- **Communicate Effectively:** Clear and concise communication is a skill required to be a successful, compassionate, culturally-sensitive health care provider.