



**Marshall B.**  
**KETCHUM UNIVERSITY**  
Southern California College of Optometry

## ***Taking Courses at Community College***

For reasons of convenience or economics, students may opt to complete prerequisite courses at community college, which is a perfectly acceptable choice. The only caution is to make sure the courses are at a level suitable for a pre-med major.

For example, courses offered for allied health care professions (i.e. nursing, dietician...etc.) may be too elementary for a pre-optometry student, therefore any course with the word “survey” or “introduction to” in the title or with a numeric course code less than 100 (090 would be an example) may be unacceptable.

If you have a concern about whether a course meets the prerequisite requirements, you may email a course description to [odadmissions@ketchum.edu](mailto:odadmissions@ketchum.edu) for review and approval.

GPA calculations assess grades received at the community college level the same as grades received from a four-year college or university. There is no penalty or no less credit for completing pre-requisites at community college. Though the grades are weighed the same when calculating GPAs, as a cautionary note, be advised that to be considered a competitive applicant, grades earned at the community college level should be exemplary.

Check our pre-approved coursework online for a list of California Community Colleges:  
<https://optometryadmissions.com/faqs/articulation-agreements/>

### **May I retake courses at community college to improve my GPA?**

Courses may be retaken at the community college level to improve one’s GPA; however, the new grade does not replace the old one but rather the grades are averaged. To have a grade replacement, you must repeat the course at the institution where it was originally completed.

If you are planning to retake courses to improve your GPA, please review the FAQ titled “Raising Your GPA,” which may be found at [www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs](http://www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs)

Rev 8Jun2017 JAM