

2025-26 ACADEMIC MAP

BS Biology - Pre- Optometry

TOTAL HRS: 120



Academic map is a guide to help students stay on track to degree completion. Consult undergraduate catalog and academic advisor for other requirements.

* minimum grade required

FALL SEMESTER							SPRING SEMESTER					
	PREFIX	COURSE	CREDIT	AREA	GR*	SEM/GR	PREFIX	COURSE	CREDIT	AREA	GR*	SEM/GR
YEAR 1-Freshman	BIO 100	General Biology I	4	Major	C		BIO 101	General Biology II	4	Major	C	
	CHE 101	Gen Chem I Lecture	3	Gen Ed	C		CHE 102	Gen Chem II Lecture	3	Gen Ed	C	
	CHE 103	Gen Chem I Lab	1	Gen Ed	C		CHE 104	Gen Chem II Lab	1	Gen Ed	C	
	ENG 101	Composition I	3	Gen Ed			ENG 102	Composition II	3	Gen Ed		
	MAT 104	College Algebra	3	Gen Ed	C		MAT 105	Trigonometry	3	Spec Dgr	C	
	FYS 100/300¹	First Year Seminar	1	Univ Req				Personal Development	1	Gen Ed		
		15						15				
YEAR 2-Sophomore	BIO Core	Cell, Ecology, or Genetics	4	Major	C		BIO Core	Cell, Ecology, or Genetics	4	Major	C	
	CHE 319	Organic Chem I Lab	1	Minor	C		CHE 320	Organic Chem II Lab	1	Minor	C	
	CHE 321	Organic Chem I Lecture	3	Minor	C		CHE 322	Organic Chem II Lecture	3	Minor	C	
	MAT 251	Calculus	3	Spec Dgr	C			Fine Arts	3	Gen Ed		
	ENG 203/206	Literature	3	Gen Ed			COM 101/202	Communication Studies	3	Gen Ed		
		General Elective	1	Elective				Personal Development	1	Gen Ed		
		15						15				
YEAR 3-Junior	BIO Core	Cell, Ecology, or Genetics	4	Major	C		BIO 217	Microbiology	4	Major	C	
	PHY 221	Phys for Life Sci I Lecture	3	Major	C		PHY 222	Phys for Life Sci II Lecture	3	Major	C	
	PHY 233	Phys for Life Sci I Lab	1	Major	C		PHY 234	Phys for Life Sci II Lab	1	Major	C	
	CHE 440	Biochemistry	4	Minor	C		BIO 200-400 level	Biology Elective	4	Major	C	
		Perspectives on Society	3	Gen Ed			MAT 300	Statistics	3	Spec Dgr	C	
			15						15			
						OAT exam should be taken.						
YEAR 4-Senior	BIO 400 level	Approved Elective	4	Major	C		BIO 400 level	Approved Elective	4	Major	C	
	BIO 400 level	Approved Elective	3	Major	C		BIO 400 level	Approved Elective	4	Major	C	
	BIO 200-400 level	Biology Elective	4	Major	C			Humanities & Fine Arts	3	Gen Ed		
	HIS 100/200 level	History	3	Gen Ed				Perspectives on Society	3	Gen Ed		
	BIO 490	Capstone Experience	1	Major	C			Recommended Elective	1	Elective		
			15						15			

- ¹All incoming students required to enroll in FYS 100 (freshmen) or FYS 300 (transfers).

- Additional notes on back of page

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Additional Notes:

- CHE 101 General Chemistry I requires math ACT subscore of 20 or higher **OR** MAT 104 with a grade of C or better **OR** CHE 100 Introduction to Chemistry with a grade of C or better.
- MAT 104 College Algebra requires a math ACT sub-score of 20 or higher. 19 or below will place a student in co-requisite remediation.
- MAT 105 Trigonometry: Pre-requisite MAT 104 College Algebra **OR** ACT Math sub-score of 23.
- MAT 251 Calculus I: Pre-requisite MAT 104 College Algebra and MAT 105 Trigonometry **OR** ACT Math sub-score of 24 or higher.
- The curriculum described here leads to a BS degree with a major in biology (pre-medical science concentration) and also incorporates all the pre-requisites for admission to Southern College of Optometry (SCO) in Memphis, TN. There are 20 schools of optometry in the US. Admission requirements for other optometry schools are similar to those at SCO, but check the exact requirements for schools you plan to apply to as there are some differences. Although admission to SCO only requires 90 credit hours, they give strong preference to applicants who have completed a baccalaureate degree. In recent years, less than 5% of applicants who were admitted had not completed a degree. Although you may choose any DSU major, pre-optometry students major in biology because all of the required and most of the recommended elective pre-optometry courses can be applied directly to the biology degree. If you wish to pursue a different major, please consult the pre-optometry advisor.
- The optometry program at SCO begins each August. The application period begins July 15 of the previous year. Admission decisions are done on a rolling basis beginning in mid-September. Although the application deadline is March 1, you must apply as early as possible. Most slots are filled well in advance of this deadline. Start your application process in July of the year before you graduate.
- A baccalaureate degree from Delta State requires a minimum of 120 credit hours. Of that 120 hours, at least 60 must be taken at a senior college, at least 24 must be taken at DSU, and at least 36 must be 300- or 400-level courses. Courses taken at 2-year schools cannot be counted at the 300- or 400-level. 24 of the last 30 hours must be taken at DSU.
- Enrollment in upper-level BIO courses (BIO 200 and above) requires that you have "Full Admission" status. You have full admission status if you have completed BIO 100, 101, and CHE 101, 102, 103, and 104 with no grades below C. Consult the Catalog or the Division of Mathematics and Sciences website, or see your advisor for more information.
- Applicants to optometry schools must submit an official score on the Optometry Admissions Exam (OAT). The OAT is given only in computerized format. For information on test dates, test sites, application procedure, etc., consult the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry website at <http://opted.org>.
- Credit for physical education, military science, dogmatic religion, vocational courses, and science courses designed for non-science majors may not be counted toward the pre-requisites for professional school.
- SCO does not state a minimum number of required observation hours, but they recommend at least 40 hours or more of observation time, which should include 2 or more different optometry practices.
- Degree requirements are revised frequently. This list is a summary based on the current DSU Catalog. Consult the Catalog for complete details on all requirements for graduation. You should follow the requirements stated in the issue of the Catalog that was current for the semester you first enrolled at DSU. You may elect to follow a more recent Catalog if you wish.
- IMPORTANT: Application to health professional schools is very competitive. Completion of the minimum requirements will not ensure admission. Admission decisions are based on policies established by the professional school's faculty and admission committee. Successful applicants typically have GPAs and other qualifications well in excess of stated minimums. Talk to your advisor for more information on what is realistically needed to have a good chance of getting into your desired professional school.