

OAT and Application Tutorial



CrackOAT.com



OAT



- A standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information
- All schools and colleges of optometry in the United States require the OAT
- Fee: \$465
- It is recommended to take the test after your second year of undergraduate studies.

What is tested on the OAT?



- Biology
- General chemistry
- Organic chemistry
- Reading comprehension
- Physics
- Quantitative reasoning
- Specific Requirements

When can I take the OAT?



- Anytime!
- The OAT exam is computerized and examinees are allowed to take the OAT an unlimited number of times but must wait at least 90 days between testing dates
- Only scores from the four most recent attempts and the total number of attempts will be reported

Prometric Test Center



- The exam is computerized and is taken in a Prometric Testing Center (you can go on their website to find the one closest to you).
- You will not be allowed to bring anything into the testing room with you, but lockers are provided to store your belongings during the exam.

Prometric Test Center



- An optional computerized tutorial is available before you begin the exam!
 - Question marking function
- You will be provided with two small white boards and markers to work on calculations.
- A basic on-screen calculator is provided for the quantitative reasoning questions ONLY.
 - General chemistry and physics calculations must be done without a calculator. Keep this in mind when you are studying!

Test Schedule



Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test	50 minutes
Optional Break	15 minutes
Physics Test	50 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test	45 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	15 minutes

TOTAL TIME: 4 hours and 40 minutes

15 Minute Break



- The test is LONG. So make sure to take advantage of the 15 minute break.
- There will be lockers outside the test room where you can keep food and a drink and you will be able to use the washroom at this time.
- Computer screen can be hard on your eyes so be sure to take a break!
- Also, you can bring a snack.

How is the test scored?



- OAT scores are based on the number of correct responses; therefore there is no penalty for guessing. Answer every question!
- Scores used in the testing program range from 200 to 400, and there are no passing or failing scores. These are standardized scores which allows for tests written by applicants at different times to be compared.
- A score report will be printed immediately after you finish writing the exam and official score reports will be sent to your designated schools.

What score do I need to get in?



- **US Schools:**
 - average OAT scores of the entering class range from 300 to 349 depending on the school

Test Preparation Materials



- **CrackOAT.com**
 - Video Crash Courses (100+ Hours)
 - OAT Flashcards
 - OAT Study Guides & Cheat Sheets
 - OAT Practice Test Simulator
 - ✦ Largest arsenal of OAT Tests, Questions, Answers
 - ✦ Sharpens your test taking skills
 - ✦ Assesses your performances
 - ✦ Estimates your scores
 - ✦ Identifies your weaknesses
 - ✦ Learn from Explanations

Test Preparation



- You can use CrackOAT.com as it provides you the computerized testing option so you can rehearse the exam by signing up at CrackOAT.com
- You may become familiar with the computer testing experience through Prometric's *Test Drive*. In 30 minutes, you will experience an overview of the testing experience you will encounter on the actual testing day. During the overview, you may participate in:
 - The scheduling and registration process
 - The complete check-in process
 - Introduction to test center staff and surroundings
 - A live 15-minute sample test (generic test not a sample OAT™) demonstrating the testing process
 - Full preparation for the real test
 - Cost: \$30
- [Test Drive Website](#)

Confidential Assessment Forms



- One from a professor
- One from an optometrist
- The CAFs must be sent directly from your references to the school.
- Be sure to give your references enough time to fill out the forms and write your letter (and allow enough time for them to be mailed to the school before the deadline).

Interview Day



- If the admissions committee is impressed with your application, they will invite you for an interview at the school.
- The interview is closed file; your interviewers will not have access to your application and will not know anything about you.
- Don't be too nervous! The interview day is exciting and everyone is very welcoming and friendly.
- The day consists of your interview, a tour of the school and a discussion with current students.

Applying to US Schools



- There are 20 schools of optometry in the United States.
- There is a centralized application system called [OptomCAS](#) through which you will apply to your schools of choice.
- US schools have rolling admissions; meaning that they interview and accept people throughout the year.
- The application deadline is not until March, but it is highly recommended to apply early while there are still seats available.

Letters of Reference and Prerequisite Courses



- Note that schools in the states may have different requirements for your reference letters. Pay close attention to what each school asks. Some schools require that you have:
 - a reference letter from an optometrist
 - TWO reference letters from professors
- It is also important to be aware that US schools may have different prerequisite courses that are required. Make sure to plan ahead and make sure that you take the required courses for the schools you are interested in.

Interviews at US Schools



- Although it can be expensive, if you are invited to interview at a school in the US, they require you to visit their campus. They do not conduct phone interviews.
- Be sure to keep this in mind when deciding which schools to apply to (flights and hotels can be expensive and the more schools you apply to the more expensive the application process will be).
- Different schools have different interview formats (some are open file, some are closed file; some are one-on-one, and some are in front of a panel).

Pre-Optometry Forums



- Very good source of information and feedback from other pre-optometry students in the process of applying
- Very useful for US interview preparation
- A good way to communicate with other students who are going through the same things you are
- [The Student Doctor Network](#)

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