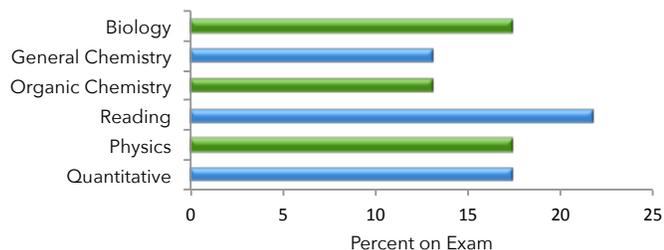


OAT

OVERVIEW Adding administrative and break time, the OAT requires about 5 hours. There are a total of four timed sections consisting of 230 multiple-choice questions. The OAT builds questions from a set of competencies, which are concepts that students need to know and skills they need to perform. It is each student's responsibility to ensure they have met the competencies before taking the exam. *Compiled from the ASCO: Optometry Admission Test (OAT) 2015 Program guide*



Computer Based Test

Registration Fee: \$450
Fee Reduction Program

Administered year round.

SCORE DISTRIBUTION

Eight standard scores are reported: biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, total science (comprising biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics), and an academic average (comprising all sections). On the OAT, the standard score ranges from 200 to 400, with 400 being the highest. The score report will tell you—and your potential Optometry schools—not only your scaled score, but also your percentile ranking.

Survey of the Natural Sciences	Reading Comprehension	Physics	Quantitative Reasoning
Knowledge of university-level sciences and subdivided into three areas: Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry.	Ability to read, comprehend, and analyze thoroughly basic scientific information in three extended passages.	Knowledge of general physics concepts such as units and vectors, linear kinematics, statics, dynamics, energy and momentum, simple harmonic motion, waves, fluid statics, thermal energy and thermodynamics, electrostatics, D. C. circuits, magnetism, modern physics, and optics.	Proficiency in mathematics and problem-solving skills on the following topics: algebra, geometry, numeric calculations, probability and statistics, and trigonometry.
Preparatory Courses: MATH 140+, BIOL 171/L & BIOL 172/L, CHEM 161/L & CHEM 162/L, CHEM 272/L & CHEM 273/L	Preparatory Courses: English, English literature, and courses in Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences that require reading and analysis.	Preparatory Courses: MATH 140+, PHYS 151/L & PHYS152/L	Preparatory Courses: MATH 140+ & MATH 215 or 241

OAT



TIPS FOR STUDYING

- ✓ Learn as much as you can about the exam. All multiple choice questions are worth the same amount—one raw point—so there is no penalty for guessing. Look on the ASCO website for an overview.
- ✓ Study material covered on the exams by reviewing courses you have taken, studying guidebooks, or taking preparatory courses offered by private companies (e.g., Kaplan and Princeton Review for the OAT). OAT tutorial, preparation material, and sample tests are found on the ASCO website.
- ✓ Take practice exams under realistic, timed conditions. The ASCO website offers a Sample Test in computer-based format.
- ✓ Review the results of your practice exam to identify areas in which you need improvement and spend more time reviewing material in these areas. Identify tactical errors you may have made and begin to develop strategies for answering each type of question.
- ✓ Start preparing for the exams well in advance. A year is none too soon - but pace yourself! You must find a balance between preparing thoroughly, but not burning yourself out by studying too much.
- ✓ Do your best the first time you take the exam. If you need to improve your scores, you must wait 90 days between testing attempts and you must submit a new application plus fee for each retest.
- ✓ Take time just before the exam to relax, get a good night's sleep, and eat a good nutritious breakfast. Scope out the exam location prior to your test day.

BREAKDOWN

Test Section	Number of Questions	Time
Optional Tutorial	—	15 minutes
Survey of the Natural Sciences	40 Biology 30 General Chemistry 30 Organic Chemistry	90 minutes
Reading Comprehension	50	60 minutes
Optional Break	—	15 minutes
Physics	40	50 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning	40	45 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	—	15 minutes
Total Content Time	230	4 hours, 50 minutes

STATISTICS

Statistics in 2015 show that the average OAT scaled score was approximately 300. The average median OAT score for students accepted in Optometry school was 320. Click here for the [2016](#) statistics.

REGISTRATION

To register for the OAT, a [PIN](#), a unique personal identifier for applicants involved in the with the OAT program. The application is found on the [ASCO website](#) and you should receive an email that contains instructions for how to schedule your testing appointment after your application has been processed. If you do not receive an email, contact the Prometric Call Center.

SCORE AVAILABILITY

An unofficial score report at the test center is given immediately after completing the exam. Official scores become available 3-4 weeks after the test.

RESOURCES

- ▶ [The Official Program Guide to the OAT®](#)
- ▶ [Official OAT Sample Test](#)
- ▶ [OAT Frequently Asked Questions](#)



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