

FAQ *frequently asked questions about* Tennessee Tech University

■ Pre-Optometry

What is Pre-Optometry?

The Health Careers Pre-Professional Program, which includes pre-optometry, is designed to satisfy minimum requirements for admission to professional schools. All courses are evaluated frequently to ensure that students are well-prepared for the clinical program as well as required aptitude tests for the clinical program as well as required aptitude tests such as the OAT (Optometry Admission Test).

The majority of qualified pre-professional majors from TTU are accepted into professional schools. All pre-professional majors must take certain courses required for admission to professional schools, but they can also pursue any major.

Career Opportunities in Pre-Optometry

Optometrists handle vision problems and check for disease. They refer a patient to an appropriate medical practitioner. They also check depth and color perception and the ability to focus and coordinate eyes. Optometrists may utilize medications for diagnosis. Most optometrists are self-employed, and some are in partnerships or in group practice with other optometrists or other physicians. Some work in retail vision chains.

Salary Trends

The median salary for optometrists is approximately \$100,000.

High School Preparation

All Tennessee Tech freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. The primary criteria for admission are the high school performance as indicated by class rank, grade point average and performance on the ACT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major.

Admission into a pre-health science program requires a high school GPA of 3.00 or higher and a minimum of at least 21 on both the ACT mathematics subscore and ACT composite score. For new students who do not meet these requirements, TTU provides special advising through the General Health Studies program which assists them in building a background for the health career of their choice.

High school courses in biology, chemistry, health and mathematics are recommended.

How to Major in Pre-Optometry at Tennessee Tech

For qualified students interested in pre-optometry, the first step is to see an advisor in the Department of Chemistry (Foster Hall, Room 205). An advisor will work with the student to set up a program of study and plan out course work for the major. To schedule a campus visit, go to our web site at www.tntech.edu/visit.

General Education Curriculum Requirements

Every student intending to earn a BS degree from TTU must complete the statewide General Education requirement, which consists of 41 hours distributed among six categories of coursework – Communications, Humanities, American History, Sciences, Mathematics and Social Studies. For some students, depending on their major programs, choices of General Education courses in certain categories may be restricted. For more specific information about the General Education requirement at Tech, including course lists see <http://www.tntech.edu/gened>.

Pre-Optometry Requirements

The minimum requirement for admission into optometry school is three years of undergraduate coursework. However, some students will have completed a four-year degree program prior to attending a clinical program. One is more competitive in the application pool having already earned a BS degree. The following are options at TTU:

1. Students complete three years of undergraduate work, including specific optometry school requirements, at TTU. They apply, and if admitted, complete a four-year program and receive an O.D. degree from optometry school. No degree is awarded from TTU.

2. Students begin in the pre-optometry curriculum (non-degree) at TTU and later change their major to a degree-granting curriculum to receive a

bachelor's degree from TTU. They then apply for admission to optometry school.

The first two years in clinical school consists of classroom instruction in basic and clinical sciences with case studies. The following two years consist of practical clinical training including patient treatment. A license to practice is required by all states.

About Tennessee Tech

Tennessee Tech University offers around 40 bachelor's degree programs in the College of Agricultural and Human Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business Administration, the College of Education, and the College of Engineering. Students are able to earn graduate-level degrees in some 15 programs that include the Ph.D. in engineering, environmental sciences, and education.

TTU is also proud to host two chairs of excellence in business and three multi-million dollar "Accomplished Centers of Excellence" in engineering. Each center supports the work of faculty members and researchers who have earned national and international reputations in their fields. They also benefit students by providing excellent opportunities for research and upper-level study. The university is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which has given Tennessee Tech three commendations.

Beyond that, there is a commitment at TTU – commitment to see that students, who are the very heart of the university, achieve their goals. As proof of that commitment, TTU consistently posts the highest student graduation rate among Tennessee Board of Regents universities. It also typically ranks highest in student satisfaction, alumni satisfaction, and financial aid awards.

For More Information

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