

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – PRE-PROFESSIONAL OPTOMETRY
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
DONALD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

UPDATED: May 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the Academic Calendar of your goal institution for admission requirements to their program

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM OPTOMETRY PROGRAM AT RDP?

Pre-Professional Programs at RDP are starting points to help students understand, and work towards, future admission into programs such as the Doctor of Optometry.

There is one university in Canada that offers a Doctor of Optometry program, and that is the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo). Information in this guide will be tailored towards UWaterloo, however students should know this program is extremely competitive. Students may want to consider different institutions in the United States (which will have varied entrance requirements). Due to the competitiveness of Optometry programs and the length of study required for admission, it is not uncommon for students to complete a four-year baccalaureate degree prior to admission. As such, the RDP Pre-Professional Program recommends students pursue an undergraduate baccalaureate degree in an area of their interest, while taking courses to work towards being eligible to apply to their Optometry school of choice.

It is highly recommended that students speak with practicing Optometrists about their personal educational training and experiences as well as research Optometry schools of interest to learn about their admission requirements.

HOW DO I BECOME ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY AT UWATERLOO?

Please read the [UWaterloo Doctor of Optometry admission requirements](#). It is your responsibility to understand these admission requirements as this guide will

provide basic information to help you start your studies. There are countless ways to work towards admission, and each student's pathway will be unique.

Academically, students must have completed three or more years of a Bachelor of Science degree, with a full-time course load (five courses per term (Fall/Winter) for six terms) as well as completing specific pre-requisite coursework and maintaining at least an average of 75%. There are many additional academic and non-academic requirements, including completion of the Optometry Admissions Test. Please refer to the [UWaterloo Doctor of Optometry website](#) for more information.

HOW SHOULD I GET STARTED?

To start, we recommend identifying an Optometry school you want to eventually attend. As entrance requirements for Optometry Schools can be diverse outside of UWaterloo, it is recommended to have a School (or Schools) in mind. If you have a School(s) in mind, we can better recommend courses.

For students who are not sure of a degree, this guide will present a recommended set of first year courses based on the first year of a General Science Degree and tailored to meet UWaterloo Doctor of Optometry pre-requisite course requirements. Ultimately, we want to encourage students to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree.

Prior to starting pursuing studies in Optometry, Students should ask themselves these questions:

1. Where would I like to study Optometry?
2. What are the entrance requirements?
3. How long may it take before I am eligible to apply?

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- Summer Term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The traditional path you will see is 5 courses per term, 10 total (5 in the Fall, 5 in the Winter).
- It is recommended to take a full course load (5 courses in Fall and 5 courses in Winter). Depending on your institution, there may be flexibility.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE LESS THAN 10 COURSES A YEAR?

- You may need an extra term or year to complete your program.
- Your admission may be impacted if your goal institution has course load requirements.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Once admitted to RDP you can complete an [RPL application form](#), provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES FOR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY AT UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Note: it is very likely you will not finish all these courses during your time at RDP. Remember, these need to be completed prior to applying to UWaterloo's Doctor of Optometry program (and you'll need at least three full years of academic study before you can apply). As such, take these at a pace that works best for you and for the undergraduate degree you are pursuing.

REQUIRED COURSES	# OF CREDITS	RECOMMENDED RDP COURSES
Introductory English	3	ENGL 219
Introductory Ethics	3	PHIL 201/PHIL 300
Introductory Psychology	3	PSYC 260
Introductory Biology with Labs	6	BIOL 217 & BIOL 218
Introductory Microbiology	3	BIOL 360
Introductory Chemistry with Lab	3	CHEM 211
Introductory Organic Chemistry	3	CHEM 351
Introductory Biochemistry	3	BIOC 393
Calculus	3	MATH 202 (or 203)
Statistics	3	STAT 251
Introductory Physics with Labs	6	PHYS 205 & PHYS 226
Physiology (human or mammalian)	6	Recommend completing this upon transfer to a university. RDP does not have an equivalent course for UWaterloo. Or completing UAlberta PHYSL 210 Online (see Important Note 2 below)

YEAR 1 COURSE SEQUENCE AND CHECKLIST

REQUIREMENT		PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	DONE
YEAR 1 - TERM 1				
CHEM 211 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry I	CHEM 30 & MATH 30-1		
BIOL 217 (3 Credits)	Introduction to Cell Biology	BIOL 30 & CHEM 30	Can be taken either term	
MATH 202 or MATH 203 (3 Credits)	Introductory Calculus I or Calculus I	MATH 202 Prereq: MATH 30-1 MATH 203 Prereq: MATH 31	Can be taken either term	
ENGL 219 (3 Credits)	Essay Writing and Critical Reading	ELA 30-1	Can be taken either term	
PSYC 260 (3 Credits)			Can be taken either term	
YEAR 1 - TERM 2				
CHEM 351 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry II	CHEM 211 or CHEM 102	See Important Note 1 below	
BIOL 218 (3 Credits)	Evolution & Biological Diversity	BIOL 30	Can be taken either term	
STAT 251 (3 Credits)	Introductory Statistics	Math 30-1 or Math 30-2	Can be taken either term	
PHIL Ethics Course			PHIL 201/PHIL 300 recommended	
Arts or Science Elective (3 Credits)				

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Depending on your undergraduate degree, you may be required to complete CHEM 212 as well. Completing CHEM 351 and CHEM 212 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling in their second year, however taking these courses concurrently in Winter term can also create a heavier schedule. CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 are also available in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first-year course load can take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then take the other course in the Spring term of Year 1, or complete in Year 2.

Are you planning to transfer to UCalgary to complete your undergraduate degree? To maximize transferability of CHEM 351 to the University of Calgary, it is recommended students also complete CHEM 352 prior to transfer. U of C's Organic Chemistry courses are called CHEM 351 and CHEM 353. In order to receive appropriate transfer credit for U of C's CHEM 351/353, students must complete and transfer both RDP's CHEM 351 and CHEM 352.

- If you are planning to transfer elsewhere to complete your undergraduate degree, you can take the Physiology requirement at your goal university. Alternatively, UAlberta offers a course called PHYSL 210 that can be completed online, and [clicking here will give you registration information](#) for the course. Most students will have the appropriate pre-requisites after the Winter term of Year 1. As such, they can take the course in Spring/Summer of their Year 1 or Fall/Winter at start of Year 2.

COURSE SEQUENCE – YEAR 2

As you start planning for year 2, we recommend that students have an undergraduate degree and transfer University in mind. The degree you are pursuing can be anything! Students will transfer after year 2 to a University. Students who would like to stay at Red Deer Polytechnic can complete an undergraduate degree in [Biological Sciences!](#)

YEAR 2	
FALL TERM	WINTER TERM
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree or PHYS 205	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree or PHYS 226
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	BIOC 393
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	BIOL 360
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree

COURSE CATEGORIZATION/ELECTIVE LIST

Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#).

TRANSFER INFORMATION

Admission Requirements	Once you have selected a primary Optometry school to work towards, it is imperative you familiarize yourself with their admission requirements. UWaterloo admission requirements can be found here . There are many academic and non-academic requirements that students will need to be aware of and prepare for.
Minimum Transferable Grade	A minimum grade of C- is recommended to maximize transferability to most universities (“D” grades may transfer to some universities, depending on the circumstance). <i>Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting at least a C- in a course you are enrolled in.</i>
Spring Term	If you are planning to take a Spring term course, please connect with the Student Connect Centre . For UWaterloo: Due to admission requirements for Optometry, Spring courses are generally not recommended.
Application Deadline	Please refer to your chosen Optometry school for deadlines. UWaterloo can be found here .

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca ➤ www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC ➤ 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca

**University of Waterloo School of Optometry and
Vision Science**

- [UWaterloo Website](#)
- opt-admissions@uwaterloo.ca