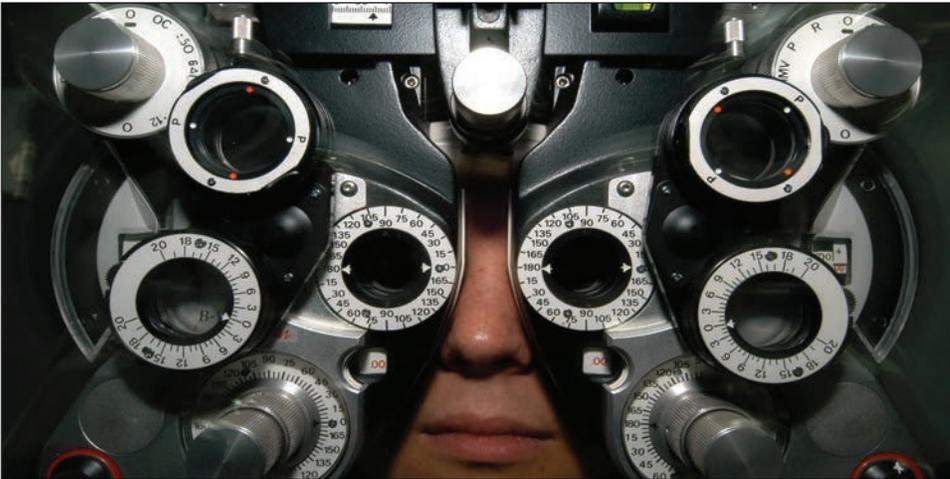


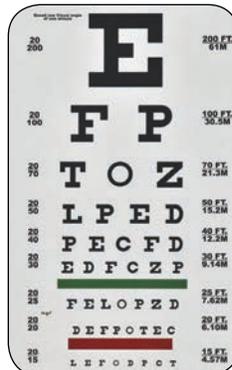
COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HEALTH SCIENCE



PRE-OPTOMETRY HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Optometrists examine the eyes and other parts of the body related to vision. They also diagnose, treat and manage diseases, injuries and other disorders of the eyes. They prescribe eyeglasses or contact lenses as needed. Most optometrists work in stand-alone offices of optometry. A small number of optometrists work in doctors' offices, retail stores, outpatient clinics and hospitals. Most work full time, and some work evenings and weekends to accommodate patients' needs.



Responsibilities of an optometrist

- Performs vision tests to check for nearsightedness or farsightedness
- Prescribes eyeglasses, contact lenses and medications
- Checks for eye diseases, such as glaucoma
- Provides pre- and postoperative care to patients undergoing eye surgery
- Provides other treatments, such as vision therapy or low vision rehabilitation
- Promotes eye health by counseling patients, including explaining how to clean and wear contact lenses

Advantages that UNK has to offer health science students

- Smaller class size
- Low student-to-faculty ratio
- Laboratory experiences
- Opportunities for student research
- Strong science preparation
- Academic advising
- Mentoring
- Contact with local professionals
- Extensive health careers course
- Health science seminar course
- Application process assistance
- Shadowing programs
- Health Science Club
- Health Careers Fair

Student profile

Rachel Gilliland has wanted to be an optometrist since the first time she dissected an eyeball back in eighth grade.

"It is amazing how such a huge function of our lives - vision - is controlled by two very small organs. The more I learned about the career, the more I fell in love with it."



**RACHEL
GILLILAND**

A benefit of studying pre-optometry is that a student can major in anything. "You have your certain core classes that you have to take, but that does not necessarily define your major. I have taken several biology and chemistry classes, but I was able to major in psychology. This way I had the opportunity to learn about other subjects that interest me while working toward my goal of becoming an optometrist."

Gilliland says UNK has become her home away from home. "The size of UNK meant that I would be able to get more one-on-one time with my professors and advisers, and I now have a personal connection with a lot of them."

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Successful healthcare students display good moral character, value healthcare, communicate well, lead with confidence, adapt to change and show compassion.

HEALTH CAREER BENEFITS

- Chance to help people in need
- Advancement opportunities
- Variety of jobs in different settings
- Secure and meaningful employment

HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM Pre-Optometry

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE FOR KEY PREREQUISITE COURSES

Consult with your academic adviser.

Semester 1	Semester 2
CHEM 160 MATH See adviser for placement	CHEM 161 BIOL See adviser for suggestion
Semester 3	Semester 4
CHEM 360 BIOL 225 (recommended)	CHEM 361 BIOL 226 (recommended)
Semester 5	Semester 6
Complete final major courses	Complete final major courses
Semester 7	Semester 8
Complete final major courses	Complete final major courses

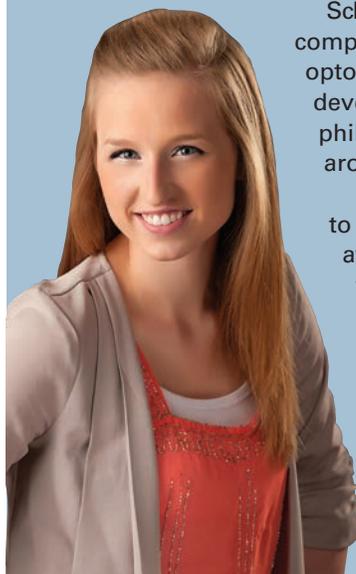
ALUMNI PROFILE – Rachel Schnoor

“When I entered graduate school, I realized how well UNK professors prepared me. The education I received from them is easily equal to, if not beyond, the same level of education of my classmates from larger and more prestigious schools,” said Rachel Schnoor, an optometry student at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore.

Schnoor, a 2014 UNK graduate, chose the comprehensive biology major to prepare for optometry school. “However, along the way I developed a love for the sciences and a basic philosophy that allows me to analyze the world around me in a unique way.”

Native to Minden, Neb., Schnoor was attracted to the UNK campus because of the smaller-town atmosphere and the student-to-faculty ratio. “It was easy to communicate with professors and administrative staff.”

During her experience at UNK, Schnoor became very comfortable in communicating with and asking for help from faculty and administration, which she says, helped her succeed. “I received the position of faculty representative at my current school, which has been a great asset.”



Health Science Club Members in Health Science Club would love to have you join!

- Be sure to check your LoperMail for the weekly edition of the Health Science Weekly newsletter that will include information on upcoming activities.
- Interested students can also **Like** UNK Health Sciences on Facebook to learn more about the organization.



Did you know?

More than 700 students are enrolled in Health Science programs at UNK.

That means, one of 10 Loper students are interested in health-related careers.

UNK has an excellent record helping health science students gain acceptance into professional schools or clinical programs.

For more than a decade, the overall acceptance rate of UNK students into various health programs has been approximately 70 percent.

Job shadowing leads to employment according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Not only will you benefit from the on-the-job training and gain insight into a particular career, industry, or company, but you will also be mentored.

Learn more at
www.unk.edu/healthsciences

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