

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT AND TRANSFER GUIDE PRE-OPTOMETRY GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The effective dates for this articulation agreement are September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028. This Articulation Agreement and Transfer Guide establishes a transfer pathway from the Pre-Optometry Associate of Arts degree at Grand Rapids Community College to the Michigan College of Optometry program at Ferris State University.

If a student covered by this Program Agreement is enrolled in an approved course at the time that the Ferris program is revised or updated, Ferris agrees to accept those courses as outlined in the Program Agreement and apply them to the relevant degree program. GRCC Courses listed below are required for the GRCC Program.

Applicants to the Michigan College of Optometry must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours or 135 quarter term hours of college or university education or have earned a baccalaureate degree. Pre-professional college/ university courses must include completion of the following pre-optometry requirements with a grade of C or better.

Catalog 2025-26

Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education to offer the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program. The courses listed below are the ones that best meet the pre-optometry requirements for our program. Similar or more advanced courses may be acceptable. However, their acceptance should be determined in advance.

<u>PRE-OPTOMETRY REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>GRCC EQUIVALENT COURSE(S)</u>
GENERAL BIOLOGY One academic year with laboratory	BI 151 & BI 152 OR BI 151, BI 153 & BI 154
MICROBIOLOGY One course with laboratory	BI 127
INORGANIC CHEMISTRY One academic year with laboratory	CHM 130 & 131 CHM 140 & 141
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY One course with laboratory	CHM 260 & 261 OR CHM 270 & 271
BIOCHEMISTRY One course	CHM 250
GENERAL PHYSICS (non-calculus based) One academic year with laboratory	PH 125 & PH 126 OR PH 245 & PH 246
CALCULUS I One course	MA 133
STATISTICS One course	MA 215 OR PY 281
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY One course	PY 201

Additional courses required for individuals applying without a baccalaureate degree:

ENGLISH/COMPOSITION

One academic year

EN 101

EN 102

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE (Ferris Self and Society Competency)

Six semester hours in addition to the general psychology course above. (Behavioral Sciences include: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Social Science or Sociology.)

✚ *Choose two social awareness courses, in at least two different subject areas*

✚ *One of the social awareness courses must be at the 200-level or higher.*

HUMANITIES (Ferris Culture Competency)

Nine semester hours (Humanities includes: Art, Drama, Foreign Language, History, Literature, Music, Philosophy and Theology, Religion, Theatre, Architecture, Art History, Creative Writing.)

✚ *Choose three cultural enrichment courses, with at least one course at the 200-level or higher.*

✚ *No more than five semester hours in music, studio arts or theater activities courses may apply to this Requirement.*

Transfer Credit Equivalencies lookup tool:

https://banner.ferris.edu:9000/GOLD/FSU_SK_SS_TransEquiv.P_TCEMain

In order to enhance your application, the following courses are suggested but not required:

Business management or accounting (**BA 283 or BA 256**)

Physiology Anatomy (**BI 121, 122**)

Embryology/Developmental Biology

Genetics (**BI 232**)

Speech (**COM 131**)

B.S. IN VISION SCIENCE

Those applying without a bachelor's degree but wishing to seek the B.S. in Vision Science degree offered by MCO as an interim degree, will be required to complete an Advanced English/Writing course (**EN 249 or 279**) and Speech course (**COM 131**) in addition to the other required English, Humanities and Behavioral Science courses.

EARLY ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

The Michigan College of Optometry offers pre-optometry students pre-admission into the MCO doctoral program. Students who have enrolled full-time and for at least one semester beyond their high school graduation can apply to the Early Admissions Program (EAP) if their cumulative GPA is 3.5 or higher. The EAP guarantees a seat in the class in which the student is eligible and prefers to enter. More information on the Early Admissions Program can be found at: <https://www.ferris.edu/optometry/admissions/MCO-Early-Admission-Program.htm>

APPLICATION

The majority of Biology, Chemistry, Math and Physics courses need to be completed prior to the February 1 application deadline so appropriate comparisons can be made between applicants. Advanced Placement (AP)/CLEP credits can be applied towards meeting the admissions requirements for the Michigan College of Optometry.

Applicants to MCO (Michigan College of Optometry) are required to take the OAT (Optometry Admissions Test). The OAT is a specialized test, which helps identify qualified applicants to optometry colleges by measuring general academic ability and scientific knowledge necessary for successful completion of Doctor of Optometry degree. The OAT must be taken prior to the February 1 application deadline. Additional information for application and administration of the test can be found directly at <http://www.opted.org>.

The evaluation of candidates will take into consideration (1) the completion of the required pre-optometry courses, (2) academic performance, specifically, as measured by the grades obtained in chemistry, biology, mathematics, physics and generally, by the grades achieved in all pre-optometry courses, and (3) performance on the OAT. Other factors that are considered include motivation for the study and practice of optometry and demonstration of communication skills that could include optometry practice experience, preparation of a writing sample, participation in an interview and letters of reference. Visit <http://www.ferris.edu/mco> for further information on admissions.

For further information contact:

Michigan College of Optometry
1124 S. State Street, MCO 236
Big Rapids, MI 49037
231-591-3703

askmco@ferris.edu

Admissions Office

800.433.7747

Housing

231.591.3745

Visit the FSU Websites

<http://www.ferris.edu>

<http://www.ferris.edu/mco>

University General Information

1.800.4.FERRIS

Financial Aid

800.433.7747

Business Office

231.591.2125

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: PRE-OPTOMETRY

Original Signed Articulation Agreement

The original signed document is on file with the Office of Extended and International Operations (EIO). To request a copy, please contact the office at **transferguidesarticulations@ferris.edu**.

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original. Together, all counterparts shall be deemed to be a single and same agreement. A signed copy of this Agreement delivered via mail, email, or other electronic transmission shall have the same legal effect as the delivery of an original signed copy.

Indemnification

To the extent permitted by law, **Ferris State University** and **Grand Rapids Community College** agree to indemnify and hold one another harmless from any and all claims initiated by student participants, their parents, survivors, or agents, arising from any negligent acts or omissions on the part of either institution or any of their employees.

Articulation Agreement

Effective Dates: September 1, 2025 – September 1, 2028

This Agreement shall commence as of September 1, 2025, and shall be for an initial term of three years. Minor updates to the agreement may be made during this time. This agreement may be renewed at the end of three years. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing the other party with written notice of the intent to terminate the agreement. The agreement shall terminate not less than one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the termination notice unless otherwise agreed in writing by both parties.

*Please Note: The signed version of the document is kept on file in the GRCC Instructional Support Office. For more information, please contact the Director of Transfer & Articulation Services at 616-234-3183.