Freshman Year:
• Visit Career Development Services to explore your career options
• Volunteer with professionals in your fields of interest
• Become an associate member of AED and participate in the volunteer activities

Sophomore Year:
• Decide on your major
• Continue involvement with AED and work on becoming a national member
• Continue getting shadowing experience
• Make sure you are on track with your class requirements for optometry school
• Get involved with volunteer activities in the community and on campus
• Sign up for mock interviews in April
• Take practice OATs offered each semester

Junior Year:
• Participate in the PPAC process, which begins in January
• Stay involved with AED
• Take advantage of mock interviews in April
• Continue shadowing optometrists in Auburn or your home town
• Prepare for the OAT, either through a test review program or on your own
• Take multiple practice OATs during spring semester of junior year
• Take the OAT by the end of June after your junior year
• Apply to your schools of interest the summer after your junior year

Senior Year:
• Complete all secondary applications
• Grades still matter so keep studying
• Interview
• Graduate

Tips from Students:
• Keep a log of all your volunteer work. Include date, number of hours, contact information, and what you learned.
• No one can tell you to change majors. If you have a 3.0 GPA or lower or did not make above a 24 on your ACT, you may want to consider the number of classes and the amount of time needed to raise your GPA to a competitive level.
• Don’t take the real OAT until your practice scores are within the 300-340 range. Be prepared for your real OAT score to be a little lower than what you have been averaging on practice tests.
• Don’t get discouraged with school or with the application process. It can be tough at times, but there are many resources in the COSAM Dean’s office to help you.