By this time, you should have reached out to individuals regarding letters of recommendation.

Late June: OptomCAS goes LIVE; Start Early…this takes a while. The application closes for the current cycle in late May of the following year.

Complete Secondary Applications ASAP if sent by programs!

Start Interviewing at Optometry Schools.

---

Fall prior to App. Year | Application Year: Winter - Spring - (Fall may be in either final year at UCSB or First Gap Year)

Factors to Consider Before Applying

1. **Competitive GPAs**: Cumulative GPA and science/BCPM GPA both at or above 3.5? If not, may consider post-bacc. programs.

2. **Competitive OAT Score**: Composite score at or above the national average of accepted students (AA:324, TS: 317)? If not, retake?

3. **Extracurricular Involvement**
   - **Shadowing**: Able to shadow a variety of professionals in various settings?
   - **Clinical Experience**: Work or volunteer experience, ideally with direct patient contact?
   - **Volunteering (Non-Medical)**: Any service or volunteer work in the local community or your hometown?
   - **Research**: Did you participate in undergraduate research?
   - **Other** (Student org. involvement, non-medical work, athletics, study/travel abroad, etc.)

4. **Personal Statement**: Draft or Final Draft completed?

5. **Letters of Recommendation**: Requested and tentative date of application has been communicated to writers?

*Remember, quality is always better than quantity, and long-term involvement is usually more meaningful than short stints.*