

Optometry FAQ's

Q. What are the licensure requirements for optometrists?

A. Graduation from an accredited optometry college and passing scores on Parts, I, II, and III of the National Boards (contact NBEO at #301-652-5192).

Q. Fees?

A. License Application \$25.00
Duplicate copy of Optometrist License \$5.00

Q. May I apply through Reciprocity?

Or

I would like to apply by Reciprocity. How can that be done for a PA license?

A. We **do not** have automatic Reciprocity with any other State. However, you can apply for Licensure by Reciprocity by visiting our website, www.dos.state.pa.us/opt and completing the application titled 'Application for a License by Reciprocity to Practice Optometry.' Follow the instructions on the application. There is a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Also, I refer you to sections **§23.21 Reciprocal application, §23.22 Prior testing; experience; reciprocal agreements; §23.23 Financial statements and §23.24 Clinical examination** in the Optometry Rules and Regulations for more information.

Q. What do the “G”, “T”, “P”, and “L” designations on licenses indicate?

A. “G” means authorized to treat glaucoma (in addition to using therapeutic drugs)
“T” means licensed at the therapeutics level of prescription drugs
“P” means licensed at the diagnostics level of drugs, and “L” means cannot utilize drugs.

Q. Must a branch office application be submitted for each additional practice location that an optometrist works in?

A. Yes. An optometrist may have either their home or business address on their optometry license. Any additional office requires a branch office license.

Q. How long can an optometry license be placed on inactive status?

A. Indefinitely. To reactivate, the licensee must have 30 hours of continuing education taken in the two years immediately preceding the reactivation, and liability insurance.

Q. Must an optometrist release an eyeglass prescription or a contact lens prescription to a patient?

A. Yes. Please refer to the “FEDERAL FAIRNESS TO CONTACT LENS CONSUMERS ACT – 2004” section of the website.

Q. What programs are acceptable for continuing education and how many hours are required?

A. They must have PA Board approval / 30 hours are required. Please refer to the “Continuing Education Information” section of the website. **7.5 hour limit** for online and correspondence courses.

Q. What are the required amounts of professional liability insurance?

A. Optometrists licensed at the glaucoma level must carry \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 per annual aggregate. All other licensees must be insured for \$200,000 per occurrence and \$600,000 per annual aggregate.

Q. How does an optometrist who is qualified to prescribe controlled substances obtain a DEA number?

A. Contact DEA directly at #888-393-8231.

Q. How does an optometrist get a Letter of Good Standing sent to another state?

A. To have a Letter of Good Standing sent to another State Board, please submit a written request indicating the name and address of the other State Board which should receive the document along with your name, address, PA license number and a check or money order for \$15.00 (payable to the Commonwealth of PA) to the Board office at the following address:

PA State Board of Optometry
P O Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649.

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