Occupational Licensing Study
50 State Comparison

State Board of Optometry

Optometrist - Diagnostic
Optometrist - Therapeutic
Optometrist - Therapeutic & Glaucoma

Presented by the Pennsylvania Department of State
2020
Optometrist – Diagnostics

Optometrist with a focus in diagnostics.

Diagnostic refers to any means or method compatible with optometric education and professional competence. The term shall encompass the use of pharmaceutical agents for diagnostic purposes classified as miotics, mydriatics, cycloplegics, topical anesthetics and dyes when applied topically to the eye, which pharmaceutical agents shall be approved by the Secretary of Health.
**Optometrist – Therapeutics**

Optometrist with authorization to prescribe and administer pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes.

**Optometrist – Therapeutics & Glaucoma**

An optometrist who is licensed to treat eye diseases and write prescriptions as needed, in addition to ascertaining the need for visual corrections such as glasses, contact lenses and refractive surgery.
Optometrist – Diagnostic

Degree Requirement

States with 1 required examination
° States with 2 required examinations
° States with 3 required examinations
° States with 4 required examinations
° States that do not offer this type of license

Examination Requirement

Degrees:
° Doctorate of Optometry

States that do not offer this type of license
Optometrist – Diagnostic

Good Moral Character Requirement

States that do not offer this type of license

*5 States do not offer this type of license & NY has no CE requirement

Continuing Education Requirement

CE Reporting Cycles

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

0 CE hours (New York only)
10 - 19 CE hours/2 yrs
20 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
30 - 39 CE hours/2 yrs
40 - 49 CE hours/2 yrs
50 CE hours/2 yrs

States that do not offer this type of license
Optometrist – Diagnostic

Initial Licensing Fee

- HIGHEST: $1,250.00 (Alaska)
- MEDIAN: $300.00
- LOWEST: $25.00 Pennsylvania

Renewal Fees

- HIGHEST: $760.00 Connecticut
- MEDIAN: $319.00
- LOWEST: $82.00 New York

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

*5 States do not offer this type of license
States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

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**Credentials**

- Alaska

**States that do not license**

- Delaware
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- Ohio
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- West Virginia

**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.**
THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Optometrist – Therapeutic

Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement

Degrees:
- Doctor of Optometry

States with 1 required examination
- States with 2 required examinations
- States with 3 required examinations
- States with 4 required examinations

2020
Good Moral Character Requirement

- Pennsylvania (PA)
- Median: 40 hours

Continuing Education Requirement

- 30 States have a 1-year reporting cycle
- 17 States have a 2-year reporting cycle
- 3 States have a 3-year reporting cycle

To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.
Initial Licensing Fee

- **U.S. Avg.:** $360.52
- **Lowest:** $25.00 (Pennsylvania)
- **Median:** $300.00
- **Highest:** $1,250.00 (Alaska)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprint fees.*

Renewal Fees

- **U.S. Avg.:** $384.86
- **Lowest:** $93.00 (Utah)
- **Median:** $348.00
- **Highest:** $800.00 (West Virginia)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.
## Optometrist – Therapeutic

### States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

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Optometrist - Therapeutic and Glaucoma

Degree Requirement

Degrees:
- Doctor of Optometry
- States that do not offer this type of license

Examination Requirement

- States with 1 required examination
- States with 2 required examinations
- States with 3 required examinations
- States with 4 required examinations
- States that do not offer this type of license
The State Board of Optometry

Optometrist - Therapeutic and Glaucoma

Good Moral Character Requirement

States that do not offer this type of license

Good Moral Character Requirement for Licensure:
- Yes
- No
- States that do not offer this type of license

Continuing Education Requirement

* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

**States that do not offer this type of license**

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HOURS

- 30 hours
- 38.25 hours
- 40 hours
- U.S. avg.

CE Reporting Cycles

- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years

*8 States do not offer this type of license

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2020 10
**Optometrist – Therapeutic and Glaucoma**

### Initial Licensing Fee

- **HIGHEST:** $1,250.00 (Alaska)
- **MEDIAN:** $300.00
- **LOWEST:** $25.00 (Pennsylvania)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprinting fees.*

### Renewal Fees

- **HIGHEST:** $760.00 (Connecticut)
- **MEDIAN:** $305.00
- **LOWEST:** $93.00 (Utah)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.*

*8 States do not this type of license.*
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Observation Section

Training / Experience Requirements for Optometrist, Optometrist - Diagnostic, Optometrist - Therapeutic, and Optometrist - Therapeutics and Glaucoma:

Optometrist:

- **Arkansas** - The applicant must complete an internship that consist of at least 100 hours of supervised clinical training under the supervision of a board-certified ophthalmologist.

- **California** - Be certified by an accredited school of optometry that the applicant has completed 10 hours of experience with an ophthalmologist.

- **Colorado** - 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and appendages.

- **District of Columbia** - For at least 10% of supervised practice during any 1 month period, a supervising optometrist or ophthalmologist be physically with the student and either discussing or observing the student’s practice.

- **Florida** - Complete at least 110 hours of transcript quality course work and clinical training in general and ocular pharmacology. Applicant must complete at least 1 year of supervised experience in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the optometric experience.

- **Louisiana** - 34 clock hours of supervised clinical training is a requirement for Certification to Treat Pathology and to Use and Prescribe Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents.

Therapeutic:

- **Delaware** - Internship period must consist of at least 35 hours per week for at least six months for licensure. 40 hours of supervised therapeutic experience required for Optometrist-Therapeutic licensure.

- **Hawaii** - Complete 100 hours of board-approved coursework in the treatment and management of ocular diseases and 100 hours of preceptorship under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

- **Massachusetts (Therapeutic)** - Complete 90 hours of didactic instruction and 30 hours of supervised clinical education relating to therapeutic pharmaceutical.

- **New York (Therapeutic)** - Complete at least 300 hours of acceptable clinical training.

- **Pennsylvania (Therapeutic)** - Complete 100 hours in the prescription and administration of pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes.
Observation Section

Training / Experience Requirements for Optometrist, Optometrist - Diagnostic, Optometrist - Therapeutic, and Optometrist - Therapeutics and Glaucoma:

- **Connecticut (Diagnostic/Therapeutics & Glaucoma)** - 15 clinical hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist. 51 clinical hours for Therapeutics & Glaucoma

- **Maine (Therapeutic/Glaucoma)** - Minimum of 100 hours of ocular therapeutics including at least 25 hours of supervised clinical training in the examination and treatment of conditions of the eye

- **Maryland (Diagnostic)** - Applicants are required to document 36 hours of supervised clinical training, of which 6 hours must be diagnostic. Applicants must provide current CPR certification

- **Tennessee (Optometrist/Therapeutics & Glaucoma)** - 40 clock hours of supervised clinical experience that is approved by the Board
Sources: State Licensing Boards

Alabama
http://optometry.alabama.gov/

Arkansas
http://www.aeroptometry.org/

California
http://www.optometry.ca.gov/index.shtml

Colorado
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Optometry

Connecticut
http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?
a=3121&q=397562&dphNav_GID=1821

Delaware

District of Columbia
https://doh.dc.gov/service/optometry-licensing

Florida
http://floridaoptometrygov/licensing/

Georgia

Hawaii
http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/optometry/

Idaho
Bureau=OPT

Illinois
https://www.idfpr.com/profs/optometry.asp

Indiana
https://www.in.gov/pla/opt.htm

Iowa
https://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-
Optometry

Kansas
http://www.kssboe.ks.gov/

Kentucky
https://optometry.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx

Louisiana
http://weoassociation.com/documents/7/RULESpracti-
ingoptometry.pdf

Maine
http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/profe-
ssions/optometry/index.html

Maryland
https://health.maryland.gov/optometry/Pages/index.a-
spx

Massachusetts
http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/op/

Michigan
http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-
72600_72603_27529_27546---,00.html

Minnesota
http://mn.gov/boards/optometry/

Mississippi
http://www.msbo.ms.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx

Missouri
http://pr.mo.gov/optometrists

Montana
http://boardsbsd.dil.mt.gov/opt#1?1

Nebraska
http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_Sy-
stem/Title-172/Chapter-120.pdf

New Hampshire
https://www.opcl.nh.gov/optometry/

New Jersey
http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/opt

New Mexico
http://www.rl.state.nm.us/boards/optometry.aspx

New York
http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/optom/

North Carolina
https://www.ncoptometry.org/examinations/applicant-
information

North Dakota
http://www.ndoptometry.com/

Ohio
http://optometry.ohio.gov/license.stm

Oklahoma
https://optometry.ok.gov/

Oregon

Pennsylvania
http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsC-
ommisions/Optometry/Pages/default.aspx

Rhode Island
http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=235

South Carolina
https://lrsc.gov/ot/pub.aspx

South Dakota
https://doh.sd.gov/boards/optometry/

Tennessee
https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-
areas/health-professional-boards/opt-board.html

Texas
http://www.tob.state.tx.us/

Utah
https://dopl.utah.gov/licensing/optometry.html

Vermont
https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-
of-professions/optometry.aspx

Virginia
https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/optometry/

Washington
https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificate-
s/Professions/NewReneworUpdate/Optometrist

West Virginia
http://www.wvbo.org/

Wisconsin
https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/Optometrist/Def-
ault.aspx

Wyoming
http://optometry.wyo.gov/