

*State Licensing
Requirements for the New
and Established
Optometrist*

by:

Jennifer L. Prybyla

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METHODS

The Optometry State Board Administrator of each of the fifty states was contacted by mail and asked to send information regarding licensure in their state. The following information was requested from each state:

- State reciprocity/endorsement laws and procedures
- State licensure laws
- The number of optometrists that apply for endorsement and/or reciprocity each year
- The number of optometrists that are successful in gaining a license by endorsement and/or reciprocity each year
- The passing criteria for Parts I, II, and III of the National Board Exam, including any subsection scores
- Any information available regarding the number of optometrists that are currently practicing and/or licensed in each state

Thirty-eight of the 50 states contacted replied. Websites were utilized to obtain additional information from the non-replying states, as well as to supplement the information received from the states that did reply.

Where will you be in ten years? Most of us don't have a definitive answer to this question, but we hope that our careers will be flexible enough to allow for the changes that may come. The state in which we live in may be one aspect of our lives that may need reconsidering, and, as optometrists, there are many notions to consider before planning to change location. This paper will explore two of the most important considerations—concentration of existing optometrists and licensure requirements.

The first consideration is the number of optometrists in the area. Obviously, if the area in which we plan to relocate is already saturated with optometrists, it may be wise for us to reconsider. The ideal ratio is thought to be about 10-12 optometrists per 100,000 population. Table 1 provides the optometrist-to-population ratios for several states.

The next aspect to recognize is the licensing requirements and procedures for the state under consideration. Contrary to what most of us would prefer, an optometrist does not have the luxury of practicing in different states without encountering each state's unique licensing procedures. Though the first state in which an optometrist becomes licensed must be by examination, licensure may be granted in subsequent states without examination through an endorsement, a reciprocity agreement, or a waiver.

Examination requirements consist of a series of exams given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO). All states require both Part I (Basic Science) and Part II (Clinical Science) for licensure. In addition, most states also require a candidate to pass Part III (Patient Assessment and Management and Clinical Skills) and an additional portion called the TMOD (Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease). Louisiana and Michigan are the only two states which do not require either Part III or the

TMOD. Alabama and Oklahoma require Part III but not the TMOD, whereas Florida, Wyoming, and North Carolina require the TMOD but not Part III. Some states also have their own state board exams that must be passed either in addition to or instead of the NBEO exams. The NBEO website (www.optometry.org) lists these requirements which can be found starting on page 6 of this paper. The NBEO has set their own passing score criteria on their exams which most, but not all, states accept as passing (refer to Charts 1-3 on page 5).

After one has been licensed in a certain state for a specified number of years, it may be possible to gain licensure in a different state without taking some or all of the additional exams. The two most common forms of this alternate licensure are licensure by reciprocity or by endorsement. Under licensure by reciprocity, the state in which you are currently licensed and the state to which you are applying must have a prior agreement that allows for the licensing of optometrists in each state, bypassing additional exams, given that all other requirements are met in the other state. Under licensure by endorsement, no such agreement is necessary; the state board in the second state simply endorses the licensure in the prior state, thereby granting licensure in its own state. Waiver of examination is another alternate form of licensure, which is very similar to endorsement in that the state board makes a decision to waive the examination requirements for an applying optometrist.

There are several conditions for licensure by alternate means that are common for all states. The following can be assumed to be required for licensure by any of the aforementioned means:

- 1) The state in which you are already licensed must be at least of equal scope of practice as the one to which you are applying.
- 2) You are in good standing in the state in which you are licensed and have not committed any acts which constitute professional misconduct, gross carelessness or negligence, manifested incapacity in the practice of optometry or realized any unresolved board action or malpractice in any state.
- 3) You have taken and passed the law portion of the state exam.
- 4) You have complied with all continuing education requirements imposed by the state in which you are currently licensed.
- 5) Most states require that you have not previously taken and failed (usually within the past 5-10 years) the state board examination of the state to which you are applying.
- 6) You have completed the application as well as paid any application and/or licensing fees appropriate for the state to which you are applying.

Table 2 shows the alternate forms of licensure available in each state. It also gives an overview of special requirements for each state. Many states require that you have practiced for a certain number of years before consideration for alternate licensure; the chart displays those requirements. In addition, the chart identifies the states that require passing of all parts of the NBEO examination. Of the 50 states, 20 have reciprocity agreements as an alternate means of licensure, 19 use endorsement, 2 have waiver applications and 9 do not employ any alternate means of licensure.

The laws and procedures are in a state of constant evolution. Each state has its own licensing procedures and should be fully investigated by the individual seeking licensure. This can be done by contacting a current state board administrator (see pages 20-25) directly, or by investigating further on the state's website (Table 3).

TABLE 1: CONCENTRATION OF OPTOMETRISTS BY STATE¹

STATE	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF O.D.'s PER 100,000²
Alabama	13
Alaska	N/A
Arizona	N/A
Arkansas	15 (12)
California	N/A
Colorado	N/A
Connecticut	20 (14)
Delaware	17
Florida	N/A
Georgia	N/A
Hawaii	26
Idaho	N/A
Illinois	N/A
Indiana	22
Iowa	20
Kansas	N/A
Kentucky	16
Louisiana	11 (9)
Maine	16 (15)
Maryland	14
Massachusetts	26 (16)
Michigan	15
Minnesota	17
Mississippi	N/A
Missouri	18
Montana	N/A
Nebraska	18 (15)
Nevada	13
New Hampshire	21 (16)
New Jersey	14
New Mexico	16 (12)
New York	N/A
North Carolina	N/A
North Dakota	17 (16)
Ohio	17 (14)
Oklahoma	20
Oregon	39
Pennsylvania	N/A
Rhode Island	N/A
South Carolina	15 (9)
South Dakota	20
Tennessee	17
Texas	N/A
Utah	15
Vermont	18 (13)
Virginia	N/A
Washington	N/A
West Virginia	13 (6)
Wisconsin	N/A
Wyoming	N/A

¹References: www.census.gov

²Numbers in parentheses reflect concentration of optometrists with in-state licenses only

CHART 1: States that accept NBEO passing criteria of a score of 300 or better on each Part (as confirmed by the State Board Administrator):

Alabama	New Jersey
Arkansas	New Mexico
Connecticut	New York
Georgia	Ohio
Hawaii	Oklahoma
Indiana	Pennsylvania
Iowa	Rhode Island
Kentucky	South Carolina
Louisiana	South Dakota
Maine	Tennessee
Maryland	Utah
Michigan	Vermont
Minnesota	Virginia
Missouri	West Virginia
New Hampshire	

CHART 2: States that are assumed to accept NBEO passing criteria (not confirmed by State Board Administrator, but not otherwise specified in state law, refer to pages 8-14)

Alaska	Mississippi
Arizona	Montana
California	North Dakota
Colorado	Oregon
Delaware	Texas
Florida	Washington
Idaho	Wisconsin
Kansas	Wyoming
Illinois	
Massachusetts	

CHART 3: States that do not accept NBEO passing criteria and have their own passing requirements (see pages 8-14 for details):

Nebraska	North Carolina
Nevada	



Appendix

[Home](#)

[Exam Guide
Table of Contents](#)

[Exam Fees
& Information](#)

[Application
Instructions](#)

[Application
Form](#)

[Review Your
Application](#)

[TestPoints
Newsletter](#)

[National Board
Articles](#)

Use of Examination Results by State Boards of Optometry

The boards of optometry in the fifty-four jurisdictions were surveyed by the National Board in the 1999 regarding their planned use of the National Board examinations in 2000. A summary of the use of the National Boards is listed below, followed by additional informational statements to 2000 for licensure, listed by jurisdiction. These statements are printed **exactly as received** from each board. The National Board accepts no responsibility for these statements. Those states not responding which had provided information for 1999, are identified by the parenthetical statement "(2000 statement provided; 1999 repeated)." **Candidates are advised to check directly with a state board regarding specific use of examination results.** Click here to view a roster listing the names, addresses and phone numbers of the State Board Secretaries or Administrative Officers.

Legend:

Y = Accepted or Required in 2000

N = Not Accepted or Required

C = Requires Clinical Skills only

Blank = No Response

State or Other Jurisdiction	Part I	Part II	Part III	TMOD®	Additional State Board Examinations Required
Alabama	Y	Y	Y	N	Written
Alaska	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Practical, Written
Arizona	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Practical, Written
Arkansas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
California	Y	Y	C	Y	Law, Written
Colorado	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
Connecticut	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
Delaware	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
Florida	Y	Y	N	Y	Law, Practical, Written
Georgia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
Hawaii	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
Idaho	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
Illinois	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
Indiana	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
Iowa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
Kansas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Practical, Written, Path Slide
Kentucky	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
Louisiana	Y	Y	N	N	Practical

Use of Exam Results by State Boards

<u>Maine</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Oral
<u>Maryland</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Massachusetts</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Written
<u>Michigan</u>	Y	Y	N	N	Practical, Written, Oral
<u>Minnesota</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Mississippi</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Written, Oral
<u>Missouri</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Montana</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>Nebraska</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Nevada</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>New Hampshire</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>New Jersey</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>New Mexico</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Practical
<u>New York</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>North Carolina</u>	Y	Y	N	Y	Practical
<u>North Dakota</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Ohio</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law seminar
<u>Oklahoma</u>	Y	Y	Y	N	Written, Practical, Oral
<u>Oregon</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required.
<u>Rhode Island</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>South Carolina</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Practical, Oral
<u>South Dakota</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Written
<u>Tennessee</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Texas</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Utah</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Vermont</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>Virginia</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>Washington</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	None Required
<u>West Virginia</u>	Y	Y	N	Y	Written, Oral
<u>Wisconsin</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Wyoming</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law, Written, Oral
<u>Dist. Columbia</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Law
<u>Puerto Rico</u>	Y	Y	Y	N	Law
<u>Virgin Islands</u>	N	N	N	N	Practical, Written
<u>Canadian Provinces</u>	N	N	N	N	CEO

The National Board pass/fail decisions are made on the Part scores only (except for TMO state boards may also require a score of 75 or above on some sections. This action is at discretion of each state board and does not affect a candidate's status with the National I

ALABAMA: As of this date Alabama requires passage of part one, part two, and part three of the National Boards.

ALASKA: 12 AAC 48.015. EXAMINATIONS. To qualify for a license to practice optometry an applicant must prove having passed:

- (1) all parts of the written and practical examination offered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) with a minimum passing score as determined by the NBEO;
- (2) the "Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease" (TMOD®) examination offered by the International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry (IAB) with a minimum passing score as determined by the IAB, or the TMOD® examination equivalent from the NBEO examination;
- (3) All sections of the state board administered written, practical and oral exam with a minimum score of 70% on each section.

ARIZONA Beginning in 2000, the Arizona Board requires each applicant for licensure to have passed Part I, II, and NBEO examinations within the last five years of application. Applicants must also pass a state administered practical examination. For applicants licensed in another state applying for licensure via reciprocity the following requirements

- a. If examinations were taken prior to 1993, the applicant needs to submit documentation that they have taken equivalent to Arizona's 120 hour therapeutics requirement AND have passed NBEO's TMOD® exam.
- b. If examinations were taken in 1993 or later, documentation needs to be submitted by their current State Board would license a current Arizona applicant with similar credentials.

ARKANSAS Beginning in 1996, written examination will be given by the ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY area of Arkansas Optometry Statutes and any other written examinations deemed necessary by the Board to test the competency of the applicants. However, only applicants who have taken and passed Parts I, II, III, and TMOD® of the BOARD, since Jan. 1, 1987, will be considered for licensure by the ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

CALIFORNIA

This provides information about licensing examination offerings, the examination application process and deadline *Relating to the Practice of Optometry* book, California optometry license requirements.

The California state board's examination is administered each second Monday in January and the last Monday in January. Examination sites are at Sacramento and the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton. Sacramento is the January examination site offering. There is a \$317.00 application fee and the deadline for submission is 30 days before the examination date. This fee includes a law book which is also available at www.caoptometry.com or can be purchased for \$10.00 from the board office. Separate law book purchases will not be credited to the application fee. Applications are to be made in writing or verbally with fees submitted by check or money order. Requests are not accepted until the examination dates.

To sit for the California examinations, one must have an Optometric Doctorate (OD) degree, be over 18 years-old, not convicted of a crime substantially related to the profession or suffer from a contagious or infectious disease. One must pass the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO) Parts I and II examinations (indicated by a minimum score), receive a score of 75 or better in the Clinical Skills portion of NBEO's Part III examination (administered after 1996), and pass Sections I (Patient Management) and II (Laws and Regulations) of this board's License Examination (better score on each). Candidates who have graduated before January 1992 must also pass the TMOD® exam for certification. There is no required chronological order for passing the aforementioned examinations (i.e., you may pass examinations in any order).

A license will be issued to those individuals that have met all of these requirements.

COLORADO 12-40-108(c) Has successfully passed the written examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (Extracts from the Colorado law effective May 1988.)
(e) After July 1, 1988, he has satisfied the requirements of section 12-40-109.5 or equivalent requirements approved including passing a standardized national examination in the treatment and management of ocular disease.

CONNECTICUT Candidates must pass all parts of the National Board Examination (i.e., Parts I, II and III and TMOD®). Optometrists initially licensed in Connecticut, or another state, prior to April 1, 1985 who seek authorization to use diagnostic pharmaceuticals in their Connecticut practice are required to complete an approved course in pharmacology and pass an examination prescribed by the Department of Public Health. Connecticut-licensed optometrists are authorized to utilize therapeutic pharmaceutical agents; further information may be obtained from the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

DELAWARE An applicant for a license to practice optometry shall pass, at a score determined by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry®, the substantive and clinical portions (Parts I, II and III) of the examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry®. Effective January 1, 1994, the applicant must also pass the TMOD® examination. An internship is also required.

FLORIDA 64B13-4.001 Examination Requirements. The examination for licensure shall consist of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® examination (hereafter NBEO examination), the certification examination, and Parts I and II of the examination for licensure.

1. NBEO Examination -- a passing score must be obtained on Parts I, II, and the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD®) of the NBEO examination within the five years prior to application for the state examination. If the applicant has not passed the TMOD® examination within the five years period, the five years period shall be extended to include those immediately preceding years after the applicant has taken and passed the NBEO and during which the applicant was continuously attending a qualified school of optometry. Candidates with NBEO scores below 75 may substitute a scaled score of at least 75 on the clinical pharmacology section of the clinical sciences part of the examination for the TMOD® requirement.

GEORGIA Georgia requires all candidates to have passed Parts I, II, III and TMOD® of the National Board examination. Candidates must also pass a state law exam, administered 4 times yearly by the state, and two times yearly by the National Board of Examiners.

HAWAII The Board requires each applicant to take and pass all 3 parts of the NBEO Basic Science, Clinical Science, and Patient Care examinations. An applicant must have passed the NBEO Basic and Clinical examinations in their entirety on or later than the date of application. An applicant must have passed the NBEO Patient Care examination in its entirety after January 1, 1991. Examinations passed prior to these dates may be accepted by the Board if the examinations are determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent to current examinations and the applicant holds a current and valid license under the laws of the state.

In addition, each applicant for the therapeutic certification is required to take and pass the NBEO's TMOD® exam. An applicant who has completed the NBEO Part II exam after January 1, 1993, shall be considered to have passed the TMOD® exam.

IDAHO It is necessary for the candidate to have passed all parts of the National Boards and the TMOD®.

ILLINOIS Illinois requires successful completion of Parts I, II, and III of the NBEO examination including TMOD® as a condition for licensure application. Beginning in 1996 all original applicants for licensure must apply for and be qualified for use of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Topical Ocular Pharmaceuticals.

INDIANA In order to qualify for licensure, an applicant must submit the following information:

1. Application fees payable to the Health Professions Bureau. The fees may be paid together or separately. Issuance fee: \$30
2. Official transcripts sent directly from an accredited optometry school, certifying professional degree.
3. Official score report sent directly from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry showing passing score on the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease examination.
4. One (1) passport-quality photograph taken not earlier than one (1) year prior to filing an application, dated on the back, "I certify that this is a true photograph of me."

An applicant is required to attain a score of 75 or above on a written jurisprudence examination. The examination is governed by the following statutes and rules:

Optometry Statute (IC 25-24)
Health Professions Bureau Standards of Practice (IC 25-1-9)
Optometry Rules (Title 852)
Optometric Legend Drug Prescription Advisory Committee Statute (IC 25-25-15)

Copies of these Indiana statutes and rules are included with the application packet. Otherwise, the information may be obtained by contacting the Board at (317) 233-4407. *There is no charge for this information.*

IOWA An applicant for admission to practice optometry in Iowa shall successfully pass the examinations specified "a" through "c" below. Examination results from the examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry or the examination of the International Board of Examiners in Optometry on "The Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease" (incorporated into the NBEO examination effective April, 1993) shall be valid for ten years prior to the date of application. An applicant shall present a diploma from an accredited school or college of optometry and, if the applicant graduated from an optometry school prior to January 2, 1988, shall submit proof of satisfactory completion of all educational requirements in Iowa Code chapter 154.

- a. All parts of the examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® in effect at the time of application
- b. The examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (formerly IAB) on "Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease" This subsection does not apply to those applicants taking the examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® after January 1, 1993; and
- c. The Iowa jurisprudence examination.

KANSAS If the applicant is applying to take any Kansas board examination after January 1, 1993, he/she must have completed all parts of the National Board examination within the five years preceding application; (from Rules and Regulations, 1992).

KENTUCKY Candidates must satisfactorily pass the National Boards within five years of the date of application.

LOUISIANA Passage of all written portions of NBEO is required.

MAINE The Maine State Board recognizes and accepts the value of the NBEO Examination and requires that all candidates for the Maine State Examination must have passed all three Parts of the NBEO Examination. If an applicant has graduated from an optometry school, proof of passing the "Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease" examination given by the NBEO must be presented.

MARYLAND Beginning January 1, 1983, the Board may require candidates for licensure to take all or part of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry's® written examinations. The Board will not accept scores from the national boards taken prior to January 1, 1981. Candidates for licensure, other than candidates qualified under Section 11-305 shall obtain a score of 300 on the Basic Science Part, a score of 300 on the Clinical Science Part, and a score of 300 on the Patient Care Part (Part III) of the Examinations and a passing score on the written examination on the Maryland law.

MASSACHUSETTS The Board of Registration in Optometry of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires the completion of Parts I, II and III of the NBEO examinations, as well as TMOD® and a state law examination.

MICHIGAN An applicant shall have achieved a score of not less than 75 on Parts I, and II of the examination developed and scored by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® or achieved a score of not less than 75 on the Basic Science examination and a score of not less than 75 on the Clinical Science examination developed and scored by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry®. Must also receive a score of 75 on each part of the Michigan Board of Optometry clinic examination.

MINNESOTA All applicants for optometry licensure in the State of Minnesota will be required to successfully complete the Basic Science, Part II-Clinical Science, and Part III-Patient Care as pre-requisites to licensure. Successful completion of the TMOD® examination is necessary for therapeutic drug certification. The passing score of each examination will be determined by the NBEO and accepted by the Minnesota Board of Optometry.

MISSISSIPPI A passing grade on all parts of the National Boards is required to qualify as a candidate to take the licensure examination. A separate written Pharmacology test generated by the MS Board is required in order to comply with MS law.

MISSOURI All applicants for a certificate of registration as a registered optometrist shall pass all parts of the written examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO) and shall pass the Clinical Skills and Visual Interpretation of Clinical Signs examination known as the Clinical Skills/VRICS examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry®. All applicants shall also pass an examination on Missouri law within one year prior to licensure. In addition to the above, all applicants for a certificate of registration must be certified by the board as qualified to use diagnostic pharmaceuticals and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in accordance with the guidelines stated in 4 CSR 210-2.080 and 4 CSR 210-2.080. An examination on the Treatment and Management of Ocular disease (TMOD®) which is administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO) is required of all new candidates for licensure.

MONTANA The examination for admission to practice optometry in the State of Montana shall consist of passing the examinations administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry®.

NEBRASKA All applicants for licensure to practice optometry must present proof of passing Parts I, II and III of the examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO) or its successors.

Applicants for certification to use pharmaceutical agents for diagnostic purposes must have: 1) graduated after A and passed an examination which covers ocular pharmacology administered by the NBEO or by an accredited school of optometry with a score of 75 or above; or, 2) satisfactorily completed an approved 100-hour course in pharmacology and an examination which covers ocular pharmacology administered by the NBEO or by an accredited school or college with a score of 75 or above.

Applicants for certification to use pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes must have: 1) graduated after A and pass the examination which covers the treatment and management of ocular diseases (TMOD®) given by the NBEO or by an accredited school of optometry with a score of 75 or above; and 2) satisfactorily completed 40 hours of classroom didactic education concerning the use of pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes and 60 hours of supervised clinical training, and pass the TMOD® examination given by the NBEO.

All applicants for licensure to practice optometry must meet educational requirements to be authorized to treat glaucoma. An optometrist who has graduated from an accredited college of optometry after January 1, 1996, shall be deemed to meet the educational requirements for certification to use pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes which includes the treatment and management of glaucoma. An optometrist who has graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry prior to January 1, 1996, who applies for initial licensure must meet one of the following requirements:

- 1) Hold a current license to practice optometry in another state which includes glaucoma certification, and the educational requirements for that glaucoma certification are determined by the Nebraska Board of Optometry to be equivalent to the educational requirements for certification to use pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes in Nebraska;
- 2) Meet the requirements for certification to use pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes within the two years preceding the date of application for updated therapeutic certification which includes the use of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of glaucoma; or
- 3) Complete a glaucoma refresher course of at least 10 hours that is approved by the Department upon recommendation of the Nebraska Board of Optometry.

NEVADA Effective January 1, 1995 the Nevada State Board will utilize NBEO scores in determining licensure. The examination will be administered by the National Board. A score of 75 on each applicable area tested is required for licensure (with the exception of Public Health). Only scores obtained after January 1, 1993 can be utilized. Contact the Nevada State Board for complete application information and the regulations pertaining to all re-examinations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE The New Hampshire Board of Optometry requires that all applicants for licensure pass Part I, II, III, and obtain a passing score on the TMOD® examination. Each applicant must also pass the state jurisprudence examination also is required.

NEW JERSEY New Jersey requires all candidates to have passed Part I, II, III, and TMOD® of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry®.

NEW MEXICO New Mexico accepts Parts I, II, III and the TMOD® results showing successful completion of each prerequisite to sit for the New Mexico Board's jurisprudence and clinical/practicum exams.

NEW YORK Effective January 1, 1987, the Department may accept grades acceptable to the State Board of Optometry on the examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® as meeting the written examination requirements for licensure in New York.

Candidates passing the NBEO by that organization's standards may meet New York State's written examination requirements for licensure purposes, Part scores only are used in determining successful examination performance with a scale score of 300 being the pass-fail cutoff score for each Part. Candidates failing to achieve an overall Part score of at least 300 must be re-examined on the ENTIRE part regardless of the level of performance in the component content areas.

Any questions on interpretation of these regulations may be referred to the State Board for Optometry office at (516) 421-2200.

Effective December 1, 1997, candidates may meet the clinical examination requirement for licensure by successfully passing Part III of the NBEO. Credit will also be given towards meeting the clinical examination requirement to those candidates who previously passed the NERCOATS examination.

NORTH CAROLINA (a) Each applicant must submit evidence of having reached the recommended levels of acceptable performance on the National Board examinations given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® on or after January 1, 1978 administration in one of the following formats and under the following conditions prior to Board approval of his or her application for licensure: 1) take the clinical practicum examination administered by the Board and shall authorize the release of his or her official score; or 2) submit evidence of having completed a supervised clinical training program approved by the Board.

1. April, 1978 through August, 1986 administrations: passing scores on Parts I, IIA, and IIB, with scores of in Section 7 (Pathology) and Section 9 (Pharmacology) on the Part IIB examination, and a score of not less than 75 on the National Board's Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease ("TMOD®") examination.
2. April, 1987 through August, 1992 administrations: passing scores on the Basic Science examination and Clinical Science examination of the National Board, with scores of not less than 75 on the Ocular Disease/Trauma and Clinical Pharmacology sections of the Clinical Science examination, and a score of not less than 75 on the National Board's TMOD® examination.
3. April, 1993 and thereafter: passing scores on Basic Science and Clinical Science Examinations of the National Board, with a score of not less than 75 on the Ocular Disease/Trauma component within the Clinical Science examination, or a score of not less than 75 on either the TMOD® component within the Clinical Science examination, or on a stand-alone TMOD® examination.

(b) For candidates with passing scores on at least one National Board examination part under different formats and time periods described in (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this Rule, the following equivalences shall apply:

- (1) Parts I and IIA are the equivalent of Basic Science.
- (2) Part IIB is the equivalent of Clinical Science without the inclusion of TMOD®.

Clinical Practicum Examinations

(a) Each applicant, after paying the fee set in Subchapter 42J and having met the requirements of Rule .0107 of the Administrative Code, shall be given clinical practicum examinations which may be in oral, written, clinical and practical form, said examinations to cover those subjects essential to the practice of optometry as defined in G.S. 90-114.

(b) To ensure proper examination of all applicants within a reasonable amount of time, the Board is authorized to employ clinical examiners, such clinical examiners to be licensed optometrists in the State of North Carolina who have been in practice for at least five years and who have demonstrated to their peers that they have superior clinical expertise.

(c) It shall be the duty of the optometrists who are members of the Board to prepare or oversee the preparation of clinical practicum examinations. Psychometric consultants, subject matter experts and clinicians who have served as either members of the Board or as clinical examiners for the Board may be engaged by the Board in the design, implementation and administration of clinical practicum examinations.

Passing Score

An applicant must attain an average grade of 75 on the clinical practicum examinations to pass the examination and receive a license. No applicant who has received a grade of less than 60 on any part of the clinical practicum examination shall be considered eligible for licensure even though his overall clinical practicum score may average 75. Each applicant shall be advised by the Executive Director as to his success or failure after the results of the examination have been determined by the Board.

NORTH DAKOTA An applicant for licensure must pass ALL 3 parts of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination. In 1999 there will be a jurisprudence examination issued by the state of North Dakota.

OHIO Requires successful passage of NBEO Parts I, II, III, with passing scores as determined by NBEO. The TMOD® is reported as a stand alone test and must have a passing score.

Graduates between May 1992 and December 1993 must have passed NBEO Parts I, and II, TMOD®, Clinical Skills and Clinical Science with passing scores as determined by NBEO.

Any candidate who fails any part of the NBEO examination four times must then get 30 hours of transcript quality accredited college or university in the subject area of the failed exam and pass the failed examination prior to licensure.

OKLAHOMA Beginning 1995 the Oklahoma Board will require passage of the National Board Exam Part I, II, and III, as a prerequisite for taking Oklahoma Boards.

OREGON The Oregon Board of Optometry requires a passing score on Parts I, II, III, (PMP, VRICS, Clinical Skills and Clinical Science (Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry® (NBEO) examination. The standards for passing the NBEO examination will be acceptable to the Board.

PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania accepts the pass/fail statements made by the National Boards submitted to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania will not issue a license unless the applicant has passed Parts I, II, and III. Passing TMOD® is required.

therapeutic license.

RHODE ISLAND Must achieve a passing score on each part of the NBEO exam.

SOUTH CAROLINA South Carolina requires passage of the NBEO examinations and passage of the S.C. Law, & Practical Examinations as requirements for licensure. Passage of Part I, and Part II, of the NBEO examinations is being allowed to take the S.C. Examination. Passage of Part III is required before licensure.

SOUTH DAKOTA South Dakota requires the National Boards, Parts I, II and III. No in-state test given beginning Regulations test given at test site.

TENNESSEE Candidates are required to take and pass all parts of the National Board examination including the examination. Also, candidates are required to take and pass an exam on state statutes and regulations, to be adm National Board.

TEXAS The Texas Optometry Board accepts Parts I, II and III of the National Board to satisfy the requirements of clinical examination. The Texas Optometry Board must receive an application and fee prior to its published deadli candidate for Texas licensure is in good standing and is in the final semester before graduation, and the dean of th school or college optometry has so informed the Texas Optometry Board on the application provided, that candida considered eligible to take the Texas State law exam. For more information visit the Texas State Board web site.

UTAH The examinations which shall be required for each applicant for licensure as an optometrist shall be:

1. The National Board of Optometry Examinations, include the following parts:
 - (a) basic science;
 - (b) clinical science;
 - (c) treatment and management of ocular disease; and
 - (d) clinical skills;
2. the Utah Optometry Law Examination; and
3. the Utah Controlled Substances Law Examination.

VERMONT Current statute reads "The board may draft and grade a written & oral and practical exam, and additio require an applicant to pass any national board examination it deems practical...."

Current ruling reads, "We require you to submit evidence that you have successfully passed the Examination of th of Examiners in Optometry®. If you qualify, you will be expected to appear before the board for a practical clinical oral and written examination in all phases of professional optometric practice...".

The Vermont Board now requires new applicants to have taken and passed the full National Boards parts I, II, III, ;

VIRGINIA The Virginia Board of Optometry requires a passing score on Parts I and II and a score of at least 75 o three subsections of Part III (i.e., Clinical Skills, VRICS, and PMP) of the NBEO. Please note that TMOD® is not basic licensure but is required for those applicants seeking separate certification to use therapeutic pharmaceuticals. Please contact the Board office for more information about licensure and certification application requirements.

WASHINGTON Successfully completes Parts I, II, and III of the NBEO examination and the TMOD®. Part III mu after January 1, 1993.

WEST VIRGINIA The West Virginia Board Examiners in Optometry will require passage of NBEO Parts I, II and examinations for application to the board licensure effective April, 1998, and thereafter. Since 1996, the TMOD® included in Part II. The Board reserves the right to administer additional written, practical and/or oral examinations deems necessary.

WISCONSIN In order to meet the written and practical criteria for licensure, a candidate must pass Parts I, II, and National Board of Examiners examination based on the scoring procedures of NBEO.

A jurisprudence and written examination are given by the state.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA All three parts are required as of January, 1994.

PUERTO RICO The Board requires Parts I, II and III.

VIRGIN ISLANDS The U.S. Virgin Islands requires a state written exam. Optometrists and ophthalmologists work provide top eye care.

CANADIAN PROVINCES Canadian Provincial licensing bodies utilize the Canadian Standard Assessment in Opt as a requirement for the issuance of a license or certificate of registration to practice optometry. The CSAO consists of written (multiple choice) assessments and demonstrations of clinical techniques. The Assessment is predicated on Topics in Optometry and requires knowledge, skill, and judgment in the practice of optometry. The assessment was administered at the Université de Montréal and at the University of Waterloo.

Candidates interested in applying for registration in any Canadian province are urged to contact the licensing body (s) to which they wish to make an application. If eligible for a license, candidates may submit an application to take

Canadian Examiners in Optometry
6085 Main Street
Stouffville, Ontario, Canada L4A 3R4
Tel: (905) 642-8035
Fax: (905) 642-8037

TABLE 2: ALTERNATE LICENSURE

<u>STATE</u>	<u>TYPE OF ALTERNATE LICENSURE</u>	<u>NOTABLE STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS</u>
Alabama	none	none
Alaska	waiver application	Scn. 08.72.170 (a) The board may waive the written portion of the examination requirements for an applicant who: (2) holds a current license by examination in another state or province of Canada and has been established in ethical optometric practice for at least three years before the application...
Arizona	reciprocity	Scn. 32-1723: A ...shall be licensed in this state without a written examination but shall be given a practical and oral examination subject to all of the following: 4. The applicant has been engaged in the practice of the profession of optometry continuously in such state for not less than four of the five years immediately preceding his application.
Arkansas	reciprocity	Scn. 17-90-302: (a) Any person from another state desiring to engage in the practice of optometry in this state may be issued a certificate at the sole discretion of the board without a written examination upon satisfactory proof that he: ... (3) Has engaged in the practice of optometry for a period of three year in the other state and has complied with all the requirements of the Arkansas licensure law at the time of application...
California	none noted	none
Colorado	endorsement	Rules and Regulations 11.0: ...Having been actively engaged in the practice of optometry for the 24 months immediately preceding the application for licensure by endorsement. Scn 12-40-108: c) He has successfully passed the written examination of the national board of examiners in optometry. the board shall have the authority upon its investigation and approval of the examination standard, to approve some body other than the national boards as the examining body.
Connecticut	endorsement	No extraordinary requirements noted
Delaware	reciprocity	Scn. 4.1; The Board shall waive the internship requirement for an applicant holding a valid license... who has practiced for a minimum of five years...
Florida	none	none
Georgia	reciprocity	Scn. 430-13-01: The Board may license by endorsement, an optometrist who holds a license that was obtained by examination from another state or territory of the United States subject to the following conditions: (a) An applicant for licensure by endorsement must have been engaged in the active practice of optometry for at least five of the seven years immediately preceding his or her application
Hawaii	reciprocity	Scn. 16-92-26: An optometrist who is registered and licensed under the laws of another state or jurisdiction shall be licensed in the State, subject to all of the following:...(4) That the applicant has passed the national board of examiners in optometry written and practical examination in their entirety; (5) That the applicant shall have been engaged in the practice of optometry or in the federal service continuously for not less than four of the five years immediately preceding the date of application...
Idaho	none noted	none noted
Illinois	endorsement	No extraordinary requirements
Indiana	endorsement	852 IAC 1-2 Scn. 2: An applicant for license by endorsement shall submit the following information: (3) The official score report from the national board of examiners in optometry with passing scores in all parts, including the treatment and management of ocular disease examination.

TABLE 2: ALTERNATE LICENSURE

<u>STATE</u>	<u>TYPE OF ALTERNATE LICENSURE</u>	<u>NOTABLE STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS</u>
Iowa	endorsement	Scn. 645-180.6 (154): The following requirements must be satisfied prior to licensure to practice optometry in Iowa through the procedure of licensure by endorsement: b. Evidence of successful completion of the examination of the national board of examiners in optometry...f...the applicant has been licensed for at least five years immediately preceding the date of application, and evidence of having engaged in the active practice of optometry in that state for five years immediately preceding the date of application, or evidence of five years of practice satisfactory to the board. The board may waive the requirement of five years' active practice if during the above-mentioned five-year period, the applicant was: (1) Teaching optometry; (2) A military optometrist; (3) A supervisory or administrative optometrist; or (4) A researcher in optometry...
Kansas	reciprocity	Scn. 65-1505 (f): Any applicant for reciprocal licensure may in the board's discretion be licensed and issued license without examination...if the applicant has been in the active practice of optometry in another state for at least the three-year period immediately preceding the application for reciprocal licensure...
Kentucky	reciprocity	201 KAR 5:010 Scn. 6: All applicants for license by reciprocity shall in addition to KRS 320.270, furnish the following information to the board: ... (5) Information from the state board: (a) That he is licensed and has been practicing optometry for five years or more... **New law for endorsement passed in the House and Senate in Legislature and is expected to be signed by the Governor in the near future**
Louisiana	reciprocity	No extraordinary requirements noted, though according to the State Board, nobody has received a license by reciprocity in the past 20 years.
Maine	none	none
Maryland	waiver application	Requirements include that: You are licensed in another state and that you have been in practice for 3 years immediately before applying...
Massachusetts	reciprocity	No extraordinary requirements
Michigan	endorsement	R 338.253; Rule 3. (2) If an applicant was first licensed in another state before June 1, 1985, and has engaged in the practice of optometry a minimum of 5 years before the date of filing and application for a Michigan optometrist license, it will be presumed that the applicant meets the requirements...(3) (a) An applicant who was first licensed in another state on or after June 1, 1985, shall have either achieved a score of not less than 75 on part I, a score of not less than 75 on part IIa, and a score of not less than 75 on part IIb of the examination developed and scored by the national board of examiners in optometry or achieved a score of not less than 75 on the basic science examination and a score of not less than 75 on the clinical science examination developed and scored by the national board of examiners in optometry. (b) An applicant who has not been licensed in another state for a minimum of 5 years and engaged on the practice of optometry for a minimum of 5 years before the date of filing an application for a Michigan optometrist license shall achieve a score of not less than 75 on each part of the Michigan board. . .clinical
Minnesota	reciprocity	Sc. 148.57 Subd.2: A person who holds a certificate of registration, or license, from another state, and who has practiced not less than three years in that state, may apply for licensure in Minnesota by filling out and swearing to an application for licensure by reciprocity...
Mississippi	reciprocity	none noted
Missouri	reciprocity	4 CSR 210-2.011: (1) The board may issue a license to practice optometry by reciprocity and without examination...The applicant shall provide the following documentation to the board: (D) Proof that the applicant has been engaged in active clinical practice for at least three years immediately preceding the application.
Montana	reciprocity	No extraordinary requirements noted

TABLE 2: ALTERNATE LICENSURE

<u>STATE</u>	<u>TYPE OF ALTERNATE LICENSURE</u>	<u>NOTABLE STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS</u>
Nebraska	endorsement	003.01C3b: An applicant who is licensed as an optometrist in another jurisdiction must: Submit to the department documentation that the applicant has been actively engaged in the practice of optometry under such license for at least one of the three years immediately preceding the date of the application for Nebraska licensure...
Nevada	none	none
New Hampshire	reciprocity	Opt 302.04 (a) An applicant shall be denied if the applicant does not demonstrate that he or she: (2) Has been in active practice for at least 3 consecutive years in the licensing jurisdiction in question or uniform military service during the 3 years immediately preceding the application.
New Jersey	reciprocity	No extraordinary requirements noted
New Mexico	endorsement	Title 16, Ch.16, Part 4, 9.12.1: ..verification (is necessary) that the applicant has been actively engaged in the practice of optometry in the state of licensure or in federal service for 7 consecutive years immediately prior to the year in which the application is made to the Board office.
New York	endorsement	Scn. 66.3 (a) An applicant for endorsement of an optometry license issued by another jurisdiction shall satisfy all requirements of section 59.6 of this Title, except as herein provided: (1) All applicants shall present evidence satisfactory to the State Board for Optometry of at least five years of professional practice of optometry following initial licensure and within the 10 years immediately preceding application for licensure by endorsement.
North Carolina	reciprocity	Scn. 90-118.5: (a) If an applicant for licensure is already licensed in another state in optometry, the North Carolina State Board of Examiners in Optometry shall issue a license to practice optometry without examination other than a clinical practicum examination upon evidence that: (2) The applicant has practiced at least three out of the five years immediately preceding his or her application.
North Dakota	endorsement	Under certain circumstances, an applicant may secure a license to practice optometry in North Dakota without taking the required examinations. These circumstances would be: -having practiced optometry in another state for a minimum of five years...
Ohio	reciprocity	Scn. 4725-3-08: ...The board may require that the applicant must have passed the treatment and management of ocular disease examination given by the national board of examiners in optometry within the past five years or provide proof of an active therapeutic optometric practice within the past five years...if the applicant has not been involved in an active practice of optometry for the past three years the board may require additional testing...Applicants licensed after May 19,1992 must have passed the testing requirements of the national board of examiners in optometry as stated in the Ohio law. Applicants licensed prior to May 19, 1992 must have passed the national board of examiners in optometry examinations or a state test equivalent to the Ohio examination at the time the applicant was licensed in that state.
Oklahoma	none	none
Oregon	endorsement	Scn 683.220 (1) The Oregon Board of Optometry may grant to an applicant a license for the practice of optometry in the State of Oregon if the applicant: (b) Continuously engaged in the practice of optometry in the state where licensed for not less than five years immediately preceding the application to the board...(d) Has successfully passed the National Board of Examiners in Optometry Examination...
Pennsylvania	reciprocity	Scn. 23.22: An applicant shall furnish the Board with a statement, attested to by the secretary or president of the optometric board in the applicant's state of original licensure which avers that: (2) The applicant practiced optometry for at least 4 years continuously in the state of licensure, immediately prior to applying for reciprocity in this Commonwealth.
Rhode Island	endorsement	No extraordinary requirements noted

TABLE 2: ALTERNATE LICENSURE

<u>STATE</u>	<u>TYPE OF ALTERNATE LICENSURE</u>	<u>NOTABLE STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS</u>
South Carolina	endorsement	No extraordinary requirements noted
South Dakota	reciprocity	Scn. 36-7-13:...a candidate may be given a certificate of registration...provided...the candidate has practiced optometry in such other state for at least five consecutive years immediately prior to his application for registration in South Dakota.
Tennessee	endorsement	No extraordinary requirements noted
Texas	endorsement	Rule 271.5: To be eligible and qualify for licensure without examination, one must meet the following: (6) have, for at least five of the seven years preceding the application date, been: (A) actively engaged in the practice of optometry; or engaged in full-time teaching at an accredited college of optometry or medicine.
Utah	endorsement	Scn. 58-16a-302: (2) An applicant for licensure as an optometrist qualifying under the endorsement provision of Section 58-1-302 shall: (b) have been actively engaged in the legal practice of optometry for not less than 3200 hours in the immediately preceding two years, in a manner that is consistent with the legal practice of optometry in this state.
Vermont	endorsement	Scn. 1716: The board may issue a license without a written examination to a qualified applicant who is licensed in a state, territory or district of the United States... provided the applicant has been engaged in the licensed practice of optometry for at least 500 hours during each of the two years immediately preceding the application...
Virginia	endorsement	18 VAC 105-20-15: An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall pay the fees prescribed in 18 VAC 105-20-20 and file a completed application that certifies the following: 2. The applicant has been engaged in active clinical practice for at least 36 months out of the last 60 months immediately preceding the application.
Washington	endorsement	No extraordinary requirements noted
West Virginia	none noted	none noted
Wisconsin	reciprocity	Opt 4.01: An optometrist holding a license to practice optometry in another state may become licensed in Wisconsin if the applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she satisfies all of the following criteria: (3) Has practiced optometry for at least 5 years.
Wyoming	none noted	none noted

TABLE 3: WEBSITE DIRECTORY

Alabama	www.al-optometry.com
Alaska	www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/
Arizona	www.azleg.state.az.us
Arkansas	www.state.ar.us/opt/arkopt.html
California	www.optometry.ca.gov/
Colorado	www.dora.stte.co.us/optometry/
Connecticut	www.ibiblio.org/iab/states/ct/ctopt.html
Delaware	see eyenet link
Florida	www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/optometry/ophome.htm
Georgia	www.sos.state.ga.us/ebd-optometry/
Hawaii	www.state.hi.us/
Idaho	www.state.id.us/
Illinois	www.dpr.state.il.us/
Indiana	www.state.in.us/hpb/iob
Iowa	www.legis.state.ia.us
Kansas	www.ink.org
Kentucky	www.lrc.state.ky.us
Louisiana	www.state.la.us
Maine	www.state.me.us
Maryland	http://mlis.state.md.us
Massachusetts	www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/op/
Michigan	www.cis.state.mi.us/pr/optom/
Minnesota	www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us
Mississippi	www.mscode.com
Missouri	www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/optom/
Montana	www.com.state.mt.us/license/pol/pol_boards/opt_board/board_page.htm
Nebraska	www.nol.org
Nevada	www.state.nv.us/optometry/
New Hampshire	http://gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/
New Jersey	see eyenet link
New Mexico	www.rld.state.nm.us.b&c/optometry/index.htm
New York	www.op.nysed.gov/optom.htm
North Carolina	www.ncoptometry.org/
North Dakota	http://home.ctctel.com/ndsbopt/
Ohio	www.state.oh.us/opt/
Oklahoma	see eyenet link
Oregon	www.obo.state.or.us/
Pennsylvania	www.pacode.com
Rhode Island	www.health.state.ri.us/
South Carolina	www.llr.state.sc.us
South Dakota	www.state.sd.us/dcr/optometry/
Tennessee	www.state.tn.us/health/
Texas	http://info.sos.state.tx.us
Utah	www.commerce.state.ut.us/
Vermont	www.sec.state.vt.us/
Virginia	www.dhp.state.va.us/
Washington	www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/hpqad/optometry/
West Virginia	www.state.wv.us/csr/
Wisconsin	www.drl.state.wi.us/
Wyoming	http://soswy.state.wy.us

Other helpful websites:

National Board of Examiners in Optometry	www.optometry.org
American Regulatory Board of Optometry	www.arbo.org
Eyenet (provides links to each state's laws)	www.eyenet.org/member/comm/state_affairs/laws.html

State Board Administrative Officers

(Updated October 12, 2000)

ALABAMA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Dr. Robert P. Pharr, Executive Director
P.O. Box 448
Attalla, AL 35954
(256) 538-9903, (256) 538-9904 Fax

ALASKA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Steven B. Snyder, Licensing Examiner
P.O. 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
(907) 465-2580, (907) 465-2974 Fax
Email: steve_snyder@dced.state.ak.us

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Jack Confer, Executive Director
1400 W. Washington, Room 230
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3095, (602) 542-3093 Fax

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Dr. Howard F. Flippin, Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 512
Searcy, AR 72145
(501) 268-4351

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Rex W. Farmer, Licensing Program Lead Analyst
400 R Street, Suite 1070
Sacramento, CA 95814-6200
(916) 322-0961, (916) 445-8711 Fax

COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

W. Kent Mount, Program Administrator
1560 Broadway, Suite 1310
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 894-7750, (303) 894-7764 Fax
Email: kent.mount@dora.state.co.us

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Latarsha Starling, Office Assistant
Optometry Licensure, Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue MS# 12 APP
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134
(860) 509-7562, (860) 509-8457 Fax

DELAWARE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Susan W. Miccio, Administrative Assistant
Cannon Building, Suite 203
861 Silver Lake Blvd.
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 739-4522, (302) 739-2711 Fax

FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Joe Baker, Jr., Executive Director
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin #C07
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3257
(850) 410-3193, (850) 922-8876 Fax

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Regina Mobley, Applications Specialist
Georgia State Board of Optometry
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31217-3858
(912) 207-1686, (912) 207-1699 Fax

HAWAII BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

LeeAnn Teshima, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801
(808) 586-2696, (808) 586-2689 Fax

IDAHO STATE OPTOMETRY BOARD

Dee Ann Randall, Secretary
Bureau of Occupational Licenses
1109 Main Street, Suite 220
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 334-3233, (208) 334-3945 Fax

ILLINOIS OPTOMETRY EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Illinois Optometric Licensing & Disciplinary Board
Illinois Department of Professional Regulation
Technical Assistance Department
Mr. Kim Scott, Board Liaison
320 West Washington Street
Springfield, IL 62786
(217) 782-8556, (217) 782-7645 Fax
Email: www.state.il.us/dpr

INDIANA OPTOMETRY BOARD

Regina Henderson Stigger, Examination Coordinator
402 West Washington Street, Room 041
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-4443

IOWA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

Kalra Hoover, Secretary
Bureau of Professional Licensure
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075
(515) 281-4287, (515) 281-3121 Fax
Email: Khoover@idph.state.ia.us

KANSAS BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Dr. Sharon A. Michel, Secretary-Treasurer
3111 W. 6th - Suite A
Lawrence, KS 66049
(785) 832-9986, (785) 832-9986*51 Fax
Email: kssbeo@ferraworld.net

KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

Connie Calvert, Executive Director
301 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 246-2744
Email: KyOptometry@mail.state.ky.us

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

Dr. James D. Sandefur, Secretary
P.O. Box 555
Oakdale, LA 71463
(318) 335-2989

MAINE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Susan Guampetruzzi, Executive Secretary
113 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 624-8691, (207) 624-8692 Fax

MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Patricia G. Bennett, Administrator
4201 Patterson Avenue, Room 220
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF
REGISTRATION
IN OPTOMETRY**

Gladys Clifton, Administrative Assistant
Board of Reg. in Optometry
Leverett Saltonstall Building, Room 15
239 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 727-3093, (617) 727-2197 Fax
Email: gladys.m.clifton@state.ma.us

**MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF
OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS**

Doris Foley, Licensing Administrator
Board of Optometry
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-0918

**STATE OF MINNESOTA BOARD OF
OPTOMETRY**

Laurie Mickelson, Executive Director
2829 University Avenue SE, Suite 550
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 617-2173, (612) 617-2174 Fax
Email: laurie.mickelson@state.mn.us

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF
OPTOMETRY**

Beverly Limbaugh, Executive Assistant
4273 I-55N, Suite #104.
Jackson, MS 39206
(601) 321-3934, (601) 321-4628 Fax

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF
OPTOMETRY**

Pamela Groose, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1335
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-0814, (573) 526-3489 Fax

MONTANA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Linda Grief, Board Administrator
301 South Park
P.O. Box 200513
Helena, MT 59620-0513
(406) 841-2395
Email: compolopt@state.mt.us

**NEBRASKA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN
OPTOMETRY**

Becky Wisell, Credentialing Coordinator
Credentialing Division
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94986
Lincoln, NE 68509-4986
(402) 471-2118, (402) 471-3577 Fax
Email: doh6144@vmhost.cdp.state.ne.us

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Judi Kennedy, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1824
Carson City, NV 89702
(775) 883-8367, (775) 883-1938 Fax
Email: kennedy@govmail.state.nv.us

**NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF
REGISTRATION IN OPTOMETRY**

Penny Taylor, Administrative Secretary
2 Industrial Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-4728

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

Susan H. Gartland, Executive Director
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45012
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6440, (973) 648-3536 Fax

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Carmen E. Payne, Director
P.O. Box 25101
Sante Fe, NM 87504
(505) 827-7170, (505) 476-7095 Fax

EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
Peter Ferguson, Education Program Assistant
Room 3015, Cultural Education Center
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12230
(518) 474-3867, (518) 474-6375 Fax
Email: pferguso@mail.nysed.gov

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Janice Robinson, Administrative Secretary
109 North Graham Street
Wallace, NC 28466-2713
(800) 426-4457, (910) 285-4546 Fax
Email: ncsbeo@duplin.net

NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Dr. Alan King, Secretary
341 1st Street East
Dickinson, ND 58601
(701) 483-9141, (701) 483-9501 Fax

OHIO STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Nancy Ott, Secretary
77 S. High St., 16th Floor
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