



Prince Edward Island College of Optometrists

Continuing Education and Competence Policy

Updated June 4, 2024

A person who applies for renewal of a license shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the College that the person has maintained familiarity with current practice and endeavoured to enhance professional competency by meeting such requirements for continuing professional development as are prescribed in this policy. Licensed optometrists are required to obtain a minimum of sixty (60) continuing education hours during a three (3) year cycle of continuing education credits provided by a recognized program of learning. Details of recognized programs are provided in this document. The three-year period will commence on **December 1st and end November 30th three years later.**

New Registrants

Optometrists licensed part-way through a Continuing Education cycle will be required to complete a pro-rated number of hours based on the number of complete years remaining in the reporting cycle. The requirement of a new registrant will be 20 hours per complete year remaining in a cycle with a minimum of 15 hours from category A and a maximum of 5 hours from category B.

CPR Requirement

All members of the College must maintain a valid certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid as per section 6. (2) of the Optometrists Regulations.

Category A

Category A education is directly related to the practice of optometry as it pertains to patient care. It must not be provided by a biased source (i.e. industry sponsored lectures). A minimum of 40 hours of continuing education must come from Category A in the three-year cycle.

Category B

Category B education is relevant to the practice of optometry but may not be related to patient care or may be industry sponsored. A maximum of 20 hours of continuing education may come from Category B in the three-year cycle.

Category A	Category B
Directly related to the practice of optometry as it pertains to patient care	Relevant to the practice of optometry but may not be directly related to patient care
Minimum: 40 hours required per cycle Maximum: All 60 hours can be Category A	Minimum: No minimum required Maximum: 20 hours claimed per cycle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPR Level C certification (mandatory) ● Lectures, courses or workshops by an approved provider with content that <i>is</i> directly related to patient care ● Online lectures relating to patient care that are watched live ● Online lectures pre-recorded with a test ● Journal or web-based course (with test) ● New graduate ● Board exam (OSCE successful completion) ● Fellowship (CCSO, AAO, COVD) ● Specialist (CCSO) ● Diplomate (AAO) ● Residency ● Graduate studies ● Presenting lecture* ● Article publication ● Case report publication ● Poster author ● OSCE assessor ● CJO peer reviewer. Two CE credits per peer reviewed journal article with max of 6 CE credits per cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lectures by an approved provider with content that <i>is not</i> directly related to patient care ● Lectures by optical, optometric or ophthalmic suppliers ● Lectures about practice management ● Lectures by an unapproved provider ● Online lectures - pre-recorded lectures relating to patient care but without a test ● Holding an elected position on the PEIAO or PEICO ● Holding an appointed or elected position on a health care Association, Institute, Board or Panel ● Presenting lecture* ● Supervision of optometry student ● Volunteering (non-profit clinics, health promotion fairs)

* When presenting a lecture to *regulated health professionals*, the presenter will be granted *Category A* hours even if the participant received credit for Category B. When presenting a lecture to a *non-healthcare group*, the presenter will be granted *Category B* hours.

List of Approved Continuing Education Providers

(Category A or B depending on content)

- Prince Edward Island Association of Optometrists or other provincial or state Associations of Optometrists
- Prince Edward Island College of Optometrists or other national, provincial or state licensing authorities
- Canadian Association of Optometrists, British Association of Optometrists, American Optometric Association or other national Associations of Optometrists
- Accredited universities, schools, colleges and institutes of optometry
- Maritime Continuing Education (MCE)
- Canadian College of Specialties in Optometry (CCSO)
- American Academy of Optometry (AAO)
- Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO)
- The Academy of Ophthalmic Education (AOE)
- ODwire.org
- Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEP)
- College of Vision Development (COVD)
- College of Syntonic Optometry (CSO)
- Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) approved courses (Not all COPE approved courses are considered Category A! If a COPE-approved lecture pertains to practice management, it is category B)
- Canadian Red Cross, Heart & Stroke Foundation, YMCA and St. John Ambulance and other CPR providers

In order to receive credit in **Category A** for a continuing education course by journal, web-based platform, or a pre-recorded online lecture the following criteria must be met (live online lectures will be considered a live lecture):

- Course must fulfill Category A requirements for provider and content
- Course must provide method of assessment (test)
- The practitioner must complete the test and submit proof from the course provider that they were successful in obtaining a passing grade.
- If the course does not provide a method of assessment, then regardless of the content it will be assigned Category B credit.

Credit Values Assigned to Specific Activities in Category A		
Category A Activity	Details	CE Hours Granted
New Graduate	A graduate who is licensed within 12 months from the date of their graduation from an accredited optometry school. This credit cannot be combined with the credit assigned under Successful OSCE completion.	40
OSCE Successful Completion	A practicing optometrist who is licensed within 12 months of successfully challenging the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This credit cannot be combined with the credit assigned under New Graduate.	40
Fellowship (CCSO, AAO, COVD)	Fellowship in the Canadian College of Specialties in Optometry (CCSO), American Academy of Optometry (AAO) or the College of Vision Development (COVD). Credit must be assigned within 12 months of having been awarded the Fellowship.	30
Specialist (CCSO)	Specialist designation with the Canadian College of Specialties in Optometry (CCSO). Credit must be assigned within 12 months of having attained Specialist status.	60
Diplomate (AAO)	Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry. Credit must be assigned within 12 months of having attained Diplomate status.	60
Residency	One full year of residency training. Credit must be assigned within 12 months of completion of the residency.	30

Graduate Studies	Graduate Studies in an optometric or health related area will be granted four hours of continuing education credit for each course credit of academic study.	4 hours of credit per course
Presenting Lecture*	Presenting a lecture to regulated health professionals . Three hours of continuing education credit will be granted for each hour of lecture on an optometric topic. The credit will be applied under Category A even if the participant credit received is Category B.	3 hours of credit per hour of lecture
Article Publication	Publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal	15
Case Report Publication	Publication of a case report in a peer-reviewed journal	5
Poster Author	Optometrists who are credited as an author on a clinical poster presentation	5
OEBC OSCE Assessor	Optometrists serving as assessors for the OSCE will receive Category A continuing education credits as determined by the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC)	determined by OEBC

Credit Values Assigned to Specific Activities in Category B		
Category B Activity	Details	CE Hours Granted
Lecture by unapproved provider	Courses or lectures given by organizations or companies not listed above as approved providers will be granted credit hours as per the length of lecture.	hours per length of lecture
PEIAO/PEICO Board Member	Holding an elected position on the Prince Edward Island Association of Optometrists (PEIAO) or the Prince Edward Island College of Optometrists (PEICO) will be granted five hours for each full year of service.	5 hours per year
Board Position	Holding an appointed or elected position on a health care Association, Institute, Board or Panel will be granted five hours for each full year of service.	5 hours per year

Presenting Lecture*	Presenting a lecture to a non-healthcare group . Three hours credit will be granted for each hour of lecture on an optometric topic.	3 hours of credit per hour of lecture
Supervision of Optometry Student	Optometrists who provide optometric student placement will be granted one hour credit for each week of supervision. The student must be enrolled in a professional optometry school comparable to the standards of the institutions referred to in 2.(1)(b)(i) of the Optometry Regulations and it must be a requirement of the optometry program of that school.	1 hour per week
Volunteering	Volunteering at volunteer eye care clinics (third world countries, non-profit clinics) or health promotion fairs will be granted a maximum of 10 continuing education hours per cycle.	Max 15 Hours/ cycle

CPR/First Aid	CPR and First Aid Certification or recertification	Maximum of 4 hours/cycle
Cultural Competency	Cultural Competency Education	Maximum 1 hour/cycle

Reporting of CE Hours

Optometrists must self-declare completion of CE requirements on their annual application for renewal of licensure. Optometrists must also submit all CE hours to OE TRACKER. Some CE providers send COPE accredited attendance information directly to OE TRACKER. Otherwise, the optometrist must submit their own certificates for COPE and non-COPE accredited CE to OE TRACKER. The College will verify optometrists' reporting hours through individual OE TRACKER profiles. It is incumbent upon optometrists to ensure that their OE TRACKER profiles are up to date, particularly toward the end of the CE cycle.

Failure to meet continuing education requirements

The failure of a licensed practitioner to comply with these requirements will result in payment of a re-registration fee, possible suspension of licensure, and mandatory completion of the remaining hours.

- If a registrant's CE requirement has not been met, this counts as late registration. As such, a notice will be served to the registrant stating that a re-registration fee of **\$250.00 must be paid within 2 weeks**. Registrants who are late submitting CE for consecutive cycles will be subject to higher re-registration fees as determined by the council.

- All outstanding CE must be obtained within **1 month**.
- Failure to pay the re-registration fee or complete CE within **1 month** will result in suspension or revocation of license to practice upon review by the College.

Phase in of new Continuing Education requirements will be as follows;

December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2024; Total of 50 CE hours, 30 Category A + 20 Category B

December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2025: Total of 55 CE hours, 35 Category A + 20 Category B

December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2026; Total of 60 CE hours, 40 Category A + 20 Category B