



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
South Carolina Board of Examiners in Opticianry

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REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The registered apprenticeship program is complete when all of the following requirements have been met:

- Submission of a completed application and payment of registration fee(s).
- Graduate from an accredited high school or GED completion.
- Submission of the required Apprentice Sponsor Agreement. Sponsors cannot train more than two (2) registered apprentices at a time.
- The apprenticeship training program must be for a period of two (2) continuous years under the direct supervision of a South Carolina licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist. The Board may extend the apprenticeship for an additional year upon request of the apprentice for good cause shown, and payment of a fee as specified by the Board. The request must be accompanied by a statement signed by the apprentice's sponsor providing the proposed curriculum for the extended apprenticeship period, to be approved by the Board.
- Maintain active registration through annual renewal by October 1st. Failure to do so will require apprentices to submit a Reinstatement Application, proof of continuing education and payment of a \$50 reinstatement fee plus the renewal fee.
- Completion of a pre-approved formal optical education program. Below is a current listing of pre-approved programs. Information must be submitted to the Board for pre-approval if the applicant seeks to enroll in a formal optical education program other than those listed below.
 - **Career Progression Program:** A home study education program for opticians offered through the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO). For information concerning this program contact the NAO at 800-229-4828, or www.nao.org, or email sbonner@nao.org. Other educational materials may also be purchased through the NAO.
 - **Penn Foster Career School:** This is an accredited school of independent study that offers a training program for opticians. For information contact an enrollment advisor at 800-272-4410 or visit their website at www.pennfoster.edu.
 - **Durham Technical College Optical Apprentice Certificate:** An internet/classroom-based program offered through Durham Technical College located in Durham, North Carolina. For information concerning this program contact the school at 919-686-3333 or on-line at www.durhamtech.edu.
 - **Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Optical Sciences Eyeglasses Diploma:** For information visit their website at www.NAIT.ca.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

At the end of the two (2) year program timeframe, apprentices will be notified of the upcoming program completion date. A maximum of three (3) years is allowed for program completion. The Apprentice Completion Form and formal optical education official transcripts or diploma is due to the Board within sixty (60) days following the program completion date.

Registered apprentices will be eligible to apply for a South Carolina Optician's License upon completion of the Registered Apprenticeship Program and passage of the American Board of Opticianry Examination (ABO).

Per Board regulations 96-106(F), registered apprentices must take the opticianry examination within five (5) years from the commencement of the apprenticeship. Failure to do so means the apprentice may not take the examination until the apprenticeship has been started over from the beginning and the apprentice has waited a year after completion of the prior apprenticeship before recommencing the apprenticeship.