



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

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Continuing Education Requirements for SC Optometrist

Each licensee seeking a renewal of licensure must certify completion of forty (40) hours of continuing education (CE) for the biennial licensure period. *The current cycle begins January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.*

The Board will not recognize CEs that do not meet the following requirements:

- CE Course must be on subjects relative to optometry, exclusive of office management or administration, at board-approved and recognized educational seminars and courses or accredited institutions of learning.
- Four (4) of the forty (40) hours **may** be for courses directly related to mandated health care programs including, but not limited to, HIPAA, Medicare and Medicaid, and Ethics or Jurisprudence.
- Sixteen (16) of the forty (40) hours **must** be pharmacology or pathology related. Satisfactory proof of compliance with this requirement is a prerequisite for biennial license renewal. All laser surgery education is considered general hours, not pharmacology.
- CPR certification courses are approved for four (4) hours; CPR re-certification courses are approved for two (2) hours.
- No more than ten (10) of the forty (40) CE hours required can be from online courses unless otherwise approved by the Board.

An unlimited number of CE hours can be from courses sponsored by optometric or medical organizations or optometry schools or medical schools as approved by the Board.

If an optometrist is authorized pursuant to state and federal law to prescribe controlled substances, two (2) of the requisite hours of continuing education **must** be related to approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV of the schedules provided for in Sections 44-53-210, 44-53-230, and 44-53-250.

Each licensee shall report CE hours to the electronic tracking system designated by LLR for CE compliance and monitoring.

Initial Licensees

- If initially licensed in the same year as renewal, licensees are required to have 20 hours of CE by the license expiration date.
- If a new graduate is initially licensed a year prior to renewal, they are required to have 20 hours of CE by the license expiration date.
- If a new graduate is initially licensed the same year as their graduation, they will be exempt from CE for their first renewal cycle.