



# South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry

2019 Newsletter

## Board Members

Dr. Michelle Cooper,  
Optometrist – President

Dr. Derek Van Veen,  
Optometrist – Vice President

Charles Hill,  
Public Member

Jesse Price, III  
Public Member

Dr. James Vaught,  
Optometrist

## Office Staff

Meredith Buttler – Administrator

Patricia Lutz – Board Assistant

Stacey Hewson – Advice Counsel

## Office Information

110 Centerview Drive  
PO Box 11329  
Columbia, SC 29211-1329  
(803) 896-4679

[Contact.optometry@llr.sc.gov](mailto:Contact.optometry@llr.sc.gov)  
[www.llr.sc.gov/POL/Optometry](http://www.llr.sc.gov/POL/Optometry)

## Office Hours

The Board is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm, except on the following State holidays:

- July 4, 2019  
Independence Day
- September 2, 2019  
Labor Day
- November 11, 2019  
Veterans Day
- November 28-29, 2019  
Thanksgiving
- December 24-26, 2019  
Christmas

## Meeting Dates

The Board will meet at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Kingstree Building, Room 204, at 9 am on the following dates:

- July 31, 2019
- October 2, 2019

## Content

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| CE Updates.....      | 2 |
| Reg. Updates.....    | 3 |
| Exam Part III.....   | 3 |
| Board Elections..... | 4 |
| Online Services..... | 4 |
| Licensure Stats..... | 4 |
| FAQs.....            | 4 |

**New LLR website coming soon!**



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## REGULATIONS UPDATE

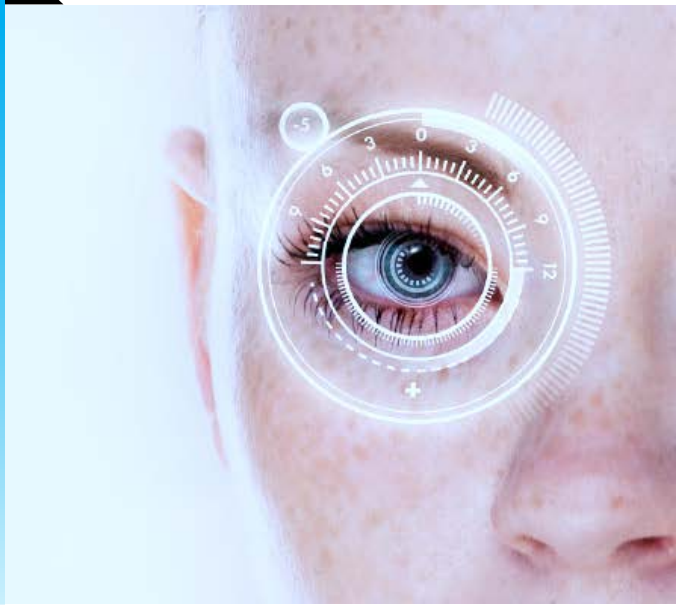
As of May 24, 2019, the revised Board regulation 95-4 has become effective. These revisions increase the number of online continuing education hours, remove the restricted hour stipulation for local optometric society groups, and require the use of an electronic CE tracking service designated by LLR. The following is an overview of the revised CE requirements:

- Each licensee must certify completion of forty (40) hours of continuing education for the biennial licensure period (December 31 of even years). Continuing education instruction 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. General business, marketing, and management course are not approved for continuing education
- Four (4) of the forty (40) hours may be for courses directly related to mandated healthcare 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.
- CPR certification courses are approved for four hours; CPR re-certification courses are approved for two hours and qualify for unlimited CE.
- An unlimited number of CE hours can be from courses sponsored by optometric or medical organizations or optometry or medical schools as approved by the Board.
- No more than ten (10) of the forty (40) hours required can be from online courses, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

If an optometrist is authorized pursuant to state and federal law to prescribe controlled substances, two 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.

## Amended Board Regulations 95 can be found on the Board website.

The Board amended the regulation to specify examinations required for licensure and modification to continuing education.



## News from NBEO

Beginning August 2019, The National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO) will implement changes to the Part III Clinical Skills Examination and Injection Skills Examination.

- **New Slit Lamps for the Part III CSE**

The NBEO will be replacing the slit lamps used for the Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE®) beginning August 1, 2019, with the Haag-Streit BI900. More information about this slit lamp can be found in the 2020 Site Information and Equipment List for the CSE on the NBEO website [here](#). Candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the features of this model.

- **Part III CSE Orientation Video**

Beginning August 1, 2019, during the Part III CSE on-site orientation candidates will have the choice to view the Orientation Video or spend their time practicing with the equipment. The Orientation Video is available on the NBEO website [here](#). Candidates are encouraged to view the video as well as the Evaluation Forms, Candidate Guide, and Site Information List before arriving at the NCCTO as these materials address questions they may have about their exam day.

NBEO is also offering a new Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination. More information about the LPSE can be found on the [NBEO website](#).

## **Board Seat Elections**

Per [SC Code of Law §40-37-10](#), the Board of Examiners in Optometry is to consist of seven members, five members being licensed optometrists. These members are appointed by the Governor upon nomination by all licensed optometrists in the State through an election conducted by the Board.

Board staff is currently working on the creation of an online voting system. As with renewals, all SC licensed optometrists will be required to log onto LLR's portal to submit their nomination and vote. Additional information will be sent to all licensees upon activation of the online system.

## **Online Services**

LLR offers licensees many great online services: application status check, change of address, and print pocket cards. You can avoid paying \$10 for a duplicate pocket card by printing one from the Board website. To access online services, you will need the user identification and password to log-in.

Explore [LLR's Online Services](#).

## **FAQs**

**Q. Are applicants for licensure required to take a SC Jurisprudence examination?**

A. Yes. Applicants will be made eligible for the examination upon submission of a completed application. Instructions and study material will be provided after application.

**Q. How can I get a CE course approved by the Board?**

A. Submit the request to [contact.optometry@llr.sc.gov](mailto:contact.optometry@llr.sc.gov). Requests must include course agenda, subject matter, sponsor, date and number of CE hours being requested. Additional information may be requested prior to approval.

**Q. Does SC share reciprocity with any other state regarding licensure in Optometry?**

A. SC does not share reciprocity with any state regarding licensure in Optometry.

## LICENSURE STATS

As of June 20, 2019

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Total Licenses: | 916 |
| In State:       | 588 |
| Out of State:   | 328 |

