

1 Board of Optometry

2

3 Adopted Rules Governing Continuing Education and Licensure

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5 Rules as Adopted

6 6500.0900 REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION.

7 All optometrists now or hereafter licensed in this state
8 are and shall be required, as a prerequisite to license renewal,
9 to attend within a three-year period courses totaling at least
10 45 clock hours of study of educational optometric programs
11 approved by the board under parts 6500.0900 to 6500.1700. If an
12 optometrist becomes ineligible for license renewal for failure
13 to comply with continuing education requirements, he shall be
14 suspended from further practice. The board shall reinstate any
15 such suspended license upon receipt of satisfactory proof that
16 the suspended licensee has made up the deficient hours of study.

17 6500.1000 STUDY COMPLIANCE YEAR.

18 The optometric study compliance period must begin on
19 January 1 and encompass three calendar years, concluding on
20 December 31 of the third year. No credit for attendance shall
21 be given unless the board determines that an educational program
22 complied with the criteria in part 6500.1200.

23 6500.1100 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

24 A program sponsor requesting approval by the board must
25 submit a program, schedule, and course description to the board
26 executive secretary not less than 45 days prior to the date of
27 the program. The board shall respond to all applications within
28 a reasonable time. The board may, upon application of any
29 licensee and for good cause shown, waive the requirement for the
30 submission of advance information and request for prior
31 approval. Nothing herein shall permit the board to approve of
32 an educational program which has not complied with the criteria
33 in part 6500.1200. Courses not eligible for credit shall be so
34 identified by the program sponsor.

1 6500.1500 CREDIT HOURS.

2 The board reserves the right to determine the number of
3 hours credit for any course or program under part 6500.1100.

4 Credit shall not be given for more than six hours'
5 attendance in courses of office management or administration, or
6 more than nine hours of home study courses, in the three-year
7 compliance period.

8 6500.1600 EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIRED ATTENDANCE.

9 The following licensees shall be exempt from the
10 requirements of this part:

11 A. any licensee serving in the regular armed forces
12 of the United States during any part of the 12 months
13 immediately preceding the annual license renewal date; and

14 B. those licensees as the board, in its discretion,
15 determines were unable to attend sufficient hours of continuing
16 education courses because of illness, incapacity, or other
17 unavoidable circumstances.

18 Any licensee first licensed by examination or reciprocity
19 is exempt for the calendar year in which the license is issued,
20 but is responsible proportionately for the remainder of the
21 compliance period as follows: one year, 15 hours; two years, 30
22 hours.

23 6500.2000 INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWAL.

24 Subpart 1. Fee. On or before January 1 of each year, the
25 board shall receive a license renewal fee of \$65 from every
26 licensed optometrist who desires to continue to be entitled to
27 practice in this state.

28 Subparts 2 to 5. [Unchanged.]

29 6500.2100 RECIPROCITY.

30 Subpart 1. Good cause defined. To determine whether an
31 applicant for licensure by reciprocity is required to take a
32 practical examination, the term "good cause" under Minnesota
33 Statutes, section 148.57, subdivision 2, means that the
34 applicant:

35 A. has not regularly practiced for the three-year

1 period immediately preceding the application;

2 B. has not attended at least 45 hours of continuing
3 education during the same period;

4 C. suffers from a physical or mental condition which
5 could affect the applicant's fitness to practice;

6 D. has previously been denied or has failed to
7 maintain licensure in Minnesota;

8 E. is not in good standing in any state in which the
9 applicant is licensed; or

10 F. has been convicted of a crime reasonably related
11 to the practice of optometry during the three-year period
12 immediately preceding the application.

13 The applicant must show by sworn statement that none of the
14 circumstances listed exists.

15 Subp. 2. Equivalency of state requirements. In accordance
16 with Minnesota Statutes, section 148.57, subdivision 2, another
17 state's licensure requirements shall be deemed to be equivalent
18 to Minnesota's if the state requires that each applicant:

19 A. be of good moral character;

20 B. be a graduate of an optometry school which
21 requires at least two academic years of preprofessional training
22 for admittance and which is approved by the board;

23 C. pass a practical clinical demonstration which
24 thoroughly tests the applicant's fitness to practice; and

25 D. pass the written competence examination required
26 of new licensees under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.57,
27 subdivision 1. This item applies only to licensure granted in
28 the other state after July 31, 1973.

29 Applicants granted licensure by reciprocity are not
30 authorized to purchase, possess, or administer topical ocular
31 drugs in this state. Requirements for these practices are set
32 forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.573.

33 A fee of \$50 shall accompany every application for
34 licensure by reciprocity.

35 6500.2300 CLINICAL PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION.

36 A clinical practical demonstration must be given in

1 sections covering pathology, contact lenses, refraction, and any
2 other sections the board deems necessary. The board shall give
3 written notice to the applicant of the sections on which he or
4 she will be examined. No applicant will be required to be
5 examined on a subject on which other applicants are not
6 examined. All sections must be equally weighted in value. A
7 score of less than 75 percent of the total number of section
8 points constitutes failure of the entire clinical
9 demonstration. A single score of less than 65 percent of any
10 single section constitutes failure of the entire demonstration.

11 6500.2400 JURISPRUDENCE TEST.

12 A test on Minnesota optometric jurisprudence shall be given
13 and must be passed with a grade of 65 percent or better. An
14 applicant who fails the Minnesota jurisprudence test and passes
15 the clinical practical demonstration sections may repeat the
16 jurisprudence test only. If the clinical practical
17 demonstration portion is failed, the entire demonstration must
18 be retaken, including the Minnesota jurisprudence test.