

# Opticianry

## Licensure Requirements

---

Please read all application instructions, and the laws and rules governing the practice of Opticianry, before completing the application. Within 30 days after receipt of an application, we will notify the applicant of any apparent errors or omissions and request any additional information required for the application to be considered complete. A complete application will be approved or denied within 90 days of completion.

No application is complete until all required documentation and fees are received. Your application will not be processed until it is complete. Applications are reviewed in date order received.

Apply online or mail a completed Application for Licensure Examination and required fees. The application must be submitted online or postmarked at least 90 days in advance of the examination date. To meet the examination deadline, the application must be complete at least 60 days in advance of the examination date.

**The department shall certify eligible for the licensure examination each applicant who:**

- Has completed the application form and remitted the required fees;
- Is not less than 18 years of age;
- Is a graduate of an accredited high school or possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school education;
- Successfully passed the National Opticianry Competency Examination within three years of application or has current ABO certification;
- Successfully passed the Contact Lens Registry Examination within three years of application or has current NCLE certification; and
- Has completed one of the following:
  - Received an associate degree, or equivalent, in opticianry from an accredited school; or
  - Is licensed to practice opticianry in another state and has actively practiced in such state for more than 3 of the last 5 years; or
  - Has actively practiced opticianry in a state in which licensure is not required for more than 5 of the last 7 years and provides tax records, business records, affidavits, etc. documenting such; or
  - Has registered as an apprentice with the department and completed 6,240 hours of training under their registered sponsor(s). These requirements must be met within 5 years after the date of registration.

If an applicant fails to complete the application within 12 months of its receipt in the Board office, he or she shall be required to apply as an initial applicant.

# Opticianry

## Licensure Requirements

---

### Licensure Requirements following receipt of a passing score on the opticianry licensure examination:

- Original certificate documenting completion of a two-hour initial licensure laws and rules course from a board approved laws and rules course provider;
- Copy of certificate documenting completion of a board approved two-hour continuing education course relating to the prevention of medical errors; and
- Payment of initial licensure fee within one year of notification of successful passage of the licensure examination.

**Note:** For approved provider course information:

- Visit CEBroker at [https://www.cebroke.com/public/pb\\_index.asp](https://www.cebroke.com/public/pb_index.asp)
  - Click on the "Florida Department of Health" link
  - Click on the "Official Course and Provider Search" link
- 

### Apprenticeship Program Requirements:

1. Apply online or submit a completed application.
2. Submit the registration fee.
3. Submit a completed sponsor registration form.
4. Submit a copy of high school diploma, transcript or equivalency certificate.
5. Submit a 2x2 photograph.

### Important Information

- An approval letter will notify the applicant of their Apprentice Optician number and starting date.
- An Apprentice Optician is required to complete a two hour Board-approved Apprentice/Sponsor Orientation Course and submit the original certificate of attendance to the board office within one year of registration with Department.
- Apprentice Opticians may perform opticianry tasks only under the direct supervision and physical presence of a licensed Optician, Ophthalmologist or Optometrist licensed under the laws of this state. An optician must be licensed in this state for at least one year before providing supervision.
- A sponsor may only supervise 2 Apprentices at any given time.
- An Apprentice may have 2 sponsors, a primary and a secondary sponsor, and may only work at the location(s) specified on the application.
- The registered sponsor is responsible for the completion, filing, signature and verification of the Apprenticeship Sponsor Attestation Form to the department within six months of the apprentice's completion of the program.
- If an Apprentice terminates apprenticeship with a sponsor or the sponsor is no longer providing training to an apprentice, the sponsor shall submit a completed Apprenticeship Sponsor Attestation Form to the department within 30 days from the date of termination.
- Sponsors are required to keep copies of all apprentice records for a period of 6 years or one year subsequent to the date the apprentice is licensed as an optician, and pursuant to Chapter 64B12-6.009, F.A.C., the sponsor shall provide copies of the apprentice's time records to the Board, upon request.

## **Opticianry**

### **Licensure Requirements**

---

- An apprenticeship shall consist of 6,240 hours of specified training, completed within 5 years after the apprentice's first registration with the Department. Each credit hour earned at a board-approved school of Opticianry shall count as 86.67 apprenticeship hours.

# Opticianry

## Licensure Requirements

---

### **Board Certification Requirements:**

Only licensed opticians certified by the Board pursuant to Section 484.002, F.S. and Rule Chapter 64B12-14.002 may use the title Board Certified Optician. To qualify for certification you must:

1. Apply online or submit a completed Board Certification Application.
2. Submit the board certification application fee.
3. Submit proof of successful completion of a Board approved 20 hour course for Certification within a period of no more than 2 years prior to application.
4. Submit proof of having passed the National Contact Lens Registry Examination.
5. Submit proof the applicant's license to practice Opticianry in this state is not subject to any current disciplinary action.

Board certified opticians are required to dedicate 4 of the 20 CE hours to technical courses relating to contact lens theory and practice in order to renew their Board Certification.

-----

### **Optical Establishment Permit Requirements:**

1. Apply online or submit a completed application.
2. Submit the application fee.

**Note:** A permit is valid for as long as that establishment operates at that location, and is not transferable to another owner or location. The owner of a permitted optical establishment shall notify the department and return the permit within 30 days after a change in ownership. Upon any change in ownership, the new owner of the establishment shall file for a new permit and pay the prescribed permit fee.