



OHIO OPTICAL DISPENSERS BOARD

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EXAM AND LICENSURE PROCESS

To become licensed to be authorized to practice as a dispensing optician in Ohio, you must be able to document the following:

A. Education and/or Experience

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be of good moral character;
- Be a graduate of an accredited high school or have attained an educational equivalent such as having a GED; and,

1. Earned a degree in optical dispensing from a Board approved school (Go to Home Page for links to Board approved schools);

Or,

2. Completed a two year registered apprenticeship of a least one thousand (1000) hours per year in optical dispensing under the direct supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, of which one year of not less than 30 hours/week of optical laboratory experience under the direct supervision of a licensed dispensing optician which may be used towards the apprenticeship requirements.;

Or,

3. Completed two years of experience of a least one thousand (1000) hours per year of direct supervision **and** in the employment of an optometrist or ophthalmologist

B. National Qualifying Exam

- Proof of successfully passing the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) examination for licensure as a dispensing spectacle optician;
- Proof of successfully passing the National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE) examination for licensure as a dispensing contact lens optician. (Go to Home Page for link to ABO)

****For the purposes of licensure, exam results are valid for one year only.****

C. Licensure Application

All individuals must apply for licensure from the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board in order to practice as a dispensing optician and to hold themselves out to be a licensed dispensing optician in Ohio.

Licensure applications may be downloaded from the Board's web page at www.optical.ohio.gov.