



National Academy of Opticianry

Continuing Education Course

Approved by the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners

Georgia Opticianry Laws and Rules

National Academy of Opticianry

8401 Corporate Drive #605

Landover, MD 20785

800-229-4828 phone

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www.nao.org

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National Academy of Opticianry

PREFACE:

This continuing education course was prepared under the auspices of the National Academy of Opticianry and is designed to be convenient, cost effective and practical for the Optician.

The skills and knowledge required to practice the profession of Opticianry will continue to change in the future as advances in technology are applied to the eye care specialty. Higher rates of obsolescence will result in an increased tempo of change as well as knowledge to meet these changes. The National Academy of Opticianry recognizes the need to provide a Continuing Education Program for all Opticians. This course has been developed as a part of the overall program to enable Opticians to develop and improve their technical knowledge and skills in their chosen profession.

The National Academy of Opticianry

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read and study the material. After you feel that you understand the material thoroughly take the test following the instructions given at the beginning of the test. Upon completion of the test, mail the answer sheet to the National Academy of Opticianry, 8401 Corporate Drive, Suite 605, Landover, Maryland 20785 or fax it to 301-577-3880. Be sure you complete the evaluation form on the answer sheet. Please allow two weeks for the grading and a reply.

CREDITS:

The American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners have approved this course for One (1) Continuing Education Credit toward certification renewal. To earn this credit, you must achieve a grade of 80% or higher on the test. The Academy will notify all test takers of their score and mail the credit certificate to those who pass. You must mail the appropriate section of the credit certificate to the ABO and/or your state licensing board to renew your certification/licensure. One portion is to be retained for your records.

AUTHOR:

Diane F. Drake, LDO, ABOM, FCLSA, FNAO

COURSE LEVEL:

General Knowledge

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will present the laws and rules for opticians in Georgia. The discussion will include history, scope of practice, violations and penalties, licensing process and continuing education.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, the participant should be able to:

- Have a better understanding of the differences between "Statutes" and "Rules"
- Be able to explain the licensing process
- Explain how Laws are enacted
- Describe how Rules come into effect
- The effect of violations of laws and rules
- Explain the scope of practice for Georgia opticians

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Georgia Opticianry Laws and Rules

Diane F. Drake, LDO, ABOM, NCLEM, FNAO

This is a course for continuing education credit that involves the Georgia Opticianry Laws and Rules. As changes occur, this course will also change. This course is not intended as a replacement for legal advice and in no way should it be used as such. As Laws and Rules can change fairly often, it is prudent to refer to them on the Georgia Secretary of State's website. It is always a good idea if being involved in legal situations to retain the advice of your own personal attorney.

Legislatively established in 1956, the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians is empowered by the state constitution to protect the public health, welfare, and safety. Its function is to ensure that the general welfare and safety of the public is upheld. It is not to make more money for a licensed optician, although having a license could have an impact on the earning potential of an individual.

This course is not designed to act as a legal counsel for any person or business. It is for reference only. Due to the nature of the material in this course, although only a synopsis of statutes and rules are given, the word count may be longer than is customary for a one-hour course, however, so that information is more complete, the word count is necessary.

Information in this course may be viewed at <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/20>

Definitions:

There is often confusion between Laws and Rules.

Statutory Law (Statutes) begin as a house or senate bill that must have a sponsor. They are then voted on by the house and senate. The laws that are passed by both houses of the Georgia legislature and signed by the Governor. Laws become part of the Official Code of Georgia. Licensed dispensing opticians in Georgia are governed by Title 43 – Chapter 29 within the code. The statutes are legislatively made.

Administrative Rules are rules and regulations passed by the State Board of Dispensing Opticians for the purpose of carrying out the statutes regulating opticians. The rules fall under department 420. Rules and regulations are adopted that govern the examination of applicants and allow for the enforcement of the Statutes. It shall establish a code of ethics and standards of practice for dispensing opticians and such other rules and regulations governing procedure as shall be necessary and proper for the carrying out of the objectives of the Statutes.

It is important to note that Rules are for the purpose of implementing the law. They are subordinate to the law and are used to allow for better clarification and definition. However, they cannot be used to circumvent the law or change it. After writing or changing a Rule, the proposed Rule must go to the Attorney General's office to give authority to the Rule or Rule Change. Once the authority is received, the Rule will come back for a board vote, where during public hearing, anyone who wishes to ask questions or make comments to the board is allowed to do so. Once voted on, as of 2016, the Rule then goes to the Governor before being enacted as a Rule.

TITLE 43. PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES

CHAPTER 29. DISPENSING OPTICIANS

Dispensing Opticians fall under Title 43 and chapter 29 within that title. Discussion for the title/chapter is as follows:

§ 43-29-1. Purpose of chapter

This chapter is enacted in the exercise of the police powers of the state. Its purposes generally are to protect the public health, welfare, and safety by providing for the regulation of the sale, dispensing, and supplying of all ophthalmic appliances, eyeglasses, and all aids to human vision.

§ 43-29-2. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term: (1) "Board" means the State Board of Dispensing Opticians. (2) "Dispensing optician" means, subject to Code Section 43-29-18, an individual who is duly licensed to prepare and dispense lenses, spectacles, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and optical devices to the intended user thereof as specifically directed or authorized on the written prescription of a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or an optometrist duly licensed to practice his profession.

For the balance of this course, each section with bullet points will be a synopsis of that section. For full clarification, to the statute § 43-29.

§ 43-29-3. Creation of board; members; election of officers; meetings; powers and duties

- Made up of 6 members – 5 licensed dispensing opticians and 1 public member appointed by the governor.
- Term is 4 years or until successor has been appointed and qualified.
- Chair and vice-chair are selected from its own and shall adopt rules and regulations governing procedure as shall be necessary and proper for the carrying out of the objectives of this chapter.
- Shall provide for at least 2 meetings per year for board business
- Shall administer oaths, summon witnesses, and take testimony
- Shall issue licenses to practice dispensing opticianry to all persons who furnish satisfactory evidence of attainments and qualifications.

§ 43-29-4. Board records and seal

- Board shall have official seal and keep records
- Records shall be open to public inspection, all examination papers shall be kept for a period of 90 days after examination.

§ 43-29-5. Jurisdiction of board

- Board shall have exclusive jurisdiction in enforcement over all persons engaged in business as dispensing opticians, whether licensed or unlicensed.
 - Provided that nothing would limit or abrogate the power or authority of any board or commission by this state defining regulating of regulating any profession to enforce such respective laws or exercising any of the powers contained in such laws against violators thereof, even though engaged in the business of dispensing optician.

§ 43-29-6. Rules and regulations; violation as grounds for revocation of license

- Board is authorized to adopt rules and regulations.
 - The violation of such rules and regulations shall be grounds for the revocation of any license issued under this chapter.

§ 43-29-7. License requirement; qualifications of applicants; subjects to be tested on examination; issuance and display of license

- Any person wishing to practice the trade or occupation of dispensing optician shall make application to the board
- Obtain a license from the board.
- Qualifications
 - Pay the fee
 - Over 18 years of age
 - Has completed a high school education or its equivalent, as defined by the State Board of Education
 - The applicant is of good moral character
 - The applicant has satisfactorily completed one school year of not less than an 850- hour course of study in a recognized school of optical dispensing
 - or has had not less than two years to include 3000 hours as a registered apprentice under the supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, a licensed physician, or a licensed optometrist, provided that any time spent in a recognized school shall be considered as part of the apprenticeship period.
 - Prior to beginning an apprenticeship, the applicant shall register with the board.
 - Effective July 1, 2008, Registration shall identify the supervising licensed person and the mailing address where training shall occur.
 - May also meet educational requirements by satisfactorily completing the formal home study program through the Career Progression Program with the National Academy of Opticianry or other programs approved by the board.
 - License will be issued when passage of all qualifying matters has been met.
 - Licenses shall be conspicuously displayed in the office or place of business

§ 43-29-8. Examination; examination fee; effect of failure of two examinations

- Persons shall be tested according to the methods and covering subject matter deemed by the board to be the most practical and expeditious.
- Fees shall be paid
- Persons failing 2 subsequent examinations before becoming licenses shall make application furnishing sufficient proof of having taken additional training

§ 43-29-9. Reciprocity

- Persons who are licensed as a dispensing optician in any state in the USA which has standards at least equal to Georgia may make application to the board for review. Further information shall be viewed on the sos.ga.gov website.

§ 43-29-10. Registration; fee; reinstatement

- Register with division director, pay fee on or before biennial renewal date
- Failure to register and pay fee will result in forfeiture of license
 - Board may reinstate certificate by paying all registration dues and an additional penalty fee in an amount established by the board.

§ 43-29-11. Continuing education requirement; waiver; effect of failure to complete required course hours

- Licensees must complete ten hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of such license. (Must be approved source by the board.)
- Must submit affidavit of proof of attendance
- Credit given by any “recognized national, regional, or state dispensing society or association”
 - if course increases the education of a dispensing optician
 - is made available to all licensed opticians on a reasonably nondiscriminatory fee basis.
 - Board may also approve other courses held within or outside of this state.
 - Any ten or more licensed opticians may arrange for and request approval for an educational course.
 - Request shall be made at least 90 days prior to the proposed date
 - Must include:
 - Full details as to the contents of the course,
 - instructors
 - charge
 - any other information which the board may require.
 - Board will act upon request at least 45 days prior to the date
 - thereupon notify all licensed opticians (posted on website)
 - Certificate of attendance shall be issued upon completion of the approved course.
 - Credit shall be allowed on the basis of an hour for an hour.
 - No fractional hour credits shall be allowed.

- Board may issue a waiver of CEC requirements upon proof optician's hardship or disability,
 - optician's license may be revoked upon failure of the licensee to complete the required number of hours, not to exceed 20 hours, of continuing education within 12 months immediately following renewal.
- Optician failing to complete required hours shall have his or her license restored upon proof of subsequent completion of required course hours and, except for a waiver granted under Code section, upon payment of a penalty fee

§ 43-29-12. Refusal or revocation of certificates of registration

- Board shall refuse to issue certificate of registration and may revoke its certificate of registration issued to any person who:
 - is not of good moral character,
 - commits an act involving moral turpitude,
 - is guilty of highly unprofessional conduct,
 - whose certificate was issued through error, fraud, or perjury,
 - written notice of the charges must be given at least ten days prior to the date set for hearing,
 - person shall be notified to appear before the board to answer charges
 - notice shall make charges clear
 - person shall appear to answer the same.
 - Accused has right to bring witnesses and cross-examine those testifying against him
 - the board shall render judgment against him.

§ 43-29-13. Appeal from decisions of board

- Appeals may be made by anyone whose licenses has been revoked or suspended.
 - to the superior court of the county of domicile of the board for a trial de novo

§ 43-29-14. Duties when dispensing contact lenses; restrictions; qualified dispensing optician as engaging in lawful trade or occupation

- After fitting and dispensing contact lenses, the patient must be instructed to return to the prescribing optometrist or physician skilled in the diseases of the eye for evaluation and follow-up care.
- May duplicate lenses without prescription, but not contact lenses nor substitute contact lenses for spectacles or other optical devices
- May not engage in the diagnosis of diseases of the human eye
- May not attempt to determine the refractive powers of the human eye
- May not in any manner attempt to prescribe remedies for or treat diseases or ailments of human beings.

§ 43-29-15. Advertising

- Any advertising must not mislead or deceive the public nor discredit others in the eyecare field.

§ 43-29-16. Splitting fees or costs

- No fee splitting either directly or indirectly
 - No assignment, rebate, refunding of service fees or costs of eyeglasses or parts with a physician, optometrist, or other person or persons.

§ 43-29-17. Sale of nonprescription glasses; manufacture and sale of artificial eyes

- No restriction on
 - sale of spectacles for reading purposes,
 - toy glasses, goggles,
 - sunglasses consisting of plano white, plano colored, or plano tinted glasses
 - ready-made nonprescription glasses
 - manufacturing and sale of plastic or glass artificial eyes
 - any persons engaged in the manufacturing or sale of plastic or glass artificial eyes.

§ 43-29-18. Construction of chapter

- Opticians may not be permitted to:
 - hold himself out as being able, or to offer, undertake, or attempt, by any means or method, to examine eyes or to diagnose, treat, correct, relieve, operate, or prescribe for any human ailment, deficiency, deformity, disease, injury, pain, or physical condition.
- Does not restrict in any respect, the practice of medicine by duly licensed physicians authorized to practice under Article 2 of Chapter 34 of this title or the practice of optometry by duly licensed optometrists authorized to practice under Chapter 30 of this title.
- Does not restrict furnishing, selling, or supplying of any commodities or services by any manufacturer, wholesaler, jobber, vendor, or distributor.
- Does not restrict unlicensed person from performing merely mechanical work upon inert materials in an optical office or laboratory.
- Optical products and services shall only be dispensed, furnished, or supplied to the intended wearer or user only upon prescription issued by a physician or an optometrist;
 - but duplications, replacements, reproductions, or repetitions may be done without prescription,
- This chapter has no authority over licensed physician or licensed optometrist to require an employee of a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist to secure a license under this chapter or be otherwise subject to this chapter, so long as such employee is working exclusively for and under the direct supervision of such licensed physician or optometrist or licensed optician and does not hold himself out to the public generally as a dispensing optician.

- § 43-29-19. Payment of fees in advance; restriction on paying out funds and creating expenses
- All fees shall be paid in advance to the division director.

§ 43-29-20. Unlicensed practice as public nuisance; injunctions

- Dispensing opticians activities affect public interest, health, safety and welfare.
 - Any person engaged in dispensing activities who are not licensed is declared to be a public nuisance and harmful to the public health, safety, and welfare.
 - Board or appropriate prosecuting attorney where such nuisance exists may bring an action to restrain and enjoin such unlicensed practice in the superior court of the county where such unlicensed person resides. It shall not be necessary in order to obtain the equitable relief provided in this Code section to allege or prove that there is no adequate remedy at law.

§ 43-29-21. Penalty

- Practicing trade or occupation of dispensing optician without license is deemed a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or by imprisonment of not more than six months in the county jail, or both.

Georgia Opticianry Rules are listed in department 420 of the Georgia Rules.

420-1-.01 Organization of Board.

- Clearly stated in statute. 6 member board appointed by governor for term of 4 years.
- Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217-3858.

420-2-.01 Registration.

- All dispensing opticians shall register with division director and pay a biennial fee before March 31 of the registration year (Odd year, example 2017, 2019, 2021)
- Late renewals between April 1st and May 31st may still renew with payment of a late renewal penalty fee in addition to the renewal fee.
- Failure to register and pay renewal fee by the deadline shall lapse said license
- Lapsed license considered for reinstatement by submission of an application, any supporting documents or other requirements as defined in 420-2-.01 (3) below and paying the established registration fee and an additional penalty.

420-2-.01 Registration and Reinstatement

- Service members as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-31 whose license to practice opticianry expired while serving on active duty outside the state shall be permitted to practice opticianry in accordance with the expired license and shall not be charged with a violation relating to such practice on an expired license for a period of six (6) months from the date of her or her discharge from active duty or reassignment to a location within the state. Any such service member shall be entitled to renew such expired license

without penalty within six (6) months after the date of her or her discharge from active duty or reassignment to a location with the state. The service member must present to the board a copy of the official military orders or a written verification signed by the service member's commanding officer to waive any charges.

- Reinstatement of an expired or lapsed license is at the discretion of the board.
 - Reviewed by a designated Board member.
 - An applicant for reinstatement must submit a completed reinstatement application, pay the required registration fee and additional penalty fee, and comply with one of the following:
 - 1. An application for reinstatement of an expired or lapsed license submitted within two (2) years of the effective date of the expiration or lapse of that license must submit evidence of completion of fifteen (15) course hours of continuing education obtained within the two (2) years prior to the date of the reinstatement application. Of the fifteen (15) hours, a minimum of two (2) hours shall be in the area of contact lenses and must be obtained from a Board recognized approved source pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-29-11(b).
 - 2. An application for reinstatement of an expired or lapsed license that's been lapsed or expired for more than two (2) years, but less than four (4) years, of the effective date of the expiration or lapse must submit evidence of completion of thirty (30) course hours of continuing education obtained within the two (2) years prior to the date of the reinstatement application. Of the thirty (30) hours, a minimum of four (4) hours shall be in the area of contact lenses and must be obtained from a Board recognized approved source pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-29-11(b).
 - 3. An application for reinstatement of an expired or lapsed license that's been lapsed or expired for more than four (4) years of the effective date of the expiration or lapse must also submit evidence of completion of thirty (30) course hours of continuing education obtained within two (2) years prior to the date of the reinstatement application. Of the thirty (30) hours, a minimum of four (4) hours shall be in the area of contact lenses and must be obtained from a Board recognized approved source pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-29-11(b). In addition, the following must be submitted: (i) Verification of current ABO/NCLE Certification. (ii) Applicants for reinstatement under this rule who were licensed in Georgia before the requirement of ABO/NCLE certification for Georgia licensure, and who have continued to practice in the field of opticianry in another state or jurisdiction, and who currently hold a valid, unencumbered dispensing opticians license in that state, may not be required to provide current ABO/NCLE certificates.
 - If reinstatement is granted, any continued education hours credited for the reinstatement application shall not be used or applied towards the continuing education requirements for the renewal period following the date of reinstatement.

420-3-.01 Change in Address.

- Changes of address MUST be made to the Secretary of the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians within ten days after the change is made.

420-3-.06 Branch Office.

- Any branch office of a licensed dispensing optician shall have to be under the direct supervision of a licensed dispensing optician.

420-4-.01 All Work Under Supervision of Licensed Dispensing Optician.

- Any trainee, apprentice, unlicensed optician, or any other person working for and under a licensed dispensing optician, optometrist, or physician shall not do optical dispensing unless he/she is:
 - working exclusively for and under the direct supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, optometrist, or physician
 - and does not hold himself/herself out to the public generally as a *dispensing optician*.
- Direct supervision shall mean daily, onsite, close contact while optical dispensing is taking place within the retail establishment.

420-4-.02 Unprofessional Conduct.

- Unprofessional conduct, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the practice of optical dispensing shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - Use title of “doctor” or any abbreviation of doctor unless licensed to do so
 - Conduct or advertising to deceive or mislead the public
 - Aiding or abetting, either directly or indirectly in conduct or advertising of any employer, firm or associate to deceive or mislead the public
 - Directly or indirectly participating in any type of fee splitting
 - A licensed dispensing optician shall display either the title “Licensed Dispensing Optician” or the abbreviation “L.D.O.” on a name tag or other similar form of identification during times when such person is providing direct patient care.

420-4-.03 Code of Ethics.

The following code of ethics is hereby adopted by the Board to govern and as a guide for the conduct of licensed dispensing opticians in the practice of opticianry in this state.

Each licensed optician shall:

- (a) Keep the visual welfare of the customer uppermost at all times;
- (b) Promote in every possible way the better care of the visual needs of the citizens of this state;
- (c) Enhance continuously his/her educational and technical proficiency to the end that his/her customers shall receive the benefits of all acknowledged improvements in visual care;

- (d) See that no worthy person shall lack for opticianry service regardless of the financial status of the person;
- (e) Advise each customer whenever consultation with an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist for professional care seems advisable;
- (f) Hold in confidence all information concerning a customer and use such data only for the benefit of the customer;
- (g) Conduct himself/herself as an exemplary citizen;
- (h) Maintain his office and practice in harmony with true professional standards;
- (i) Maintain and promote cordial and useful mutual relationships with members of his profession and other professions for the interchange of information for the advantage of mankind; and
- (j) Refrain from any exaggeration of a customer's condition.

420-5-.01 Application and Examination Requirements.

- Exams held a minimum of 2 times a year
- Completed applications received at least 30 days prior to each exam to include
 - Verification of age (Birth Certificate or equivalent required)
 - Copy of high school diploma or its equivalent
 - If applying on the basis of education, the applicant must have satisfactorily completed an opticianry degree or diploma from a recognized school of ophthalmic dispensing approved by the Board.
 - An official college transcript and copy of diploma or degree indicating the graduation date must accompany the application.
 - Schools include a Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) approved curriculum of opticianry courses leading to a diploma, degree, or certificate that is recognized by the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians. Recognized programs include opticianry programs accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation and may include other opticianry education programs recognized by the Board (Successful Completion of The Ophthalmic Career Progression Program by the National Academy of Opticianry is also recognized)
 - May apply on basis of education and experience. Clock hours must be submitted as well as affidavit of work hours engaged in ophthalmic dispensing. The total combined number of hours must be a minimum of 3000 hours, and not less than two calendar years;
 - Applicants applying on the basis of practical experience shall furnish an affidavit of work hours engaged in ophthalmic dispensing activities approved by the Board while under the direct supervision of a licensed optician, a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist. The total of hours must be a minimum of 3,000 hours and not less than two calendar years,
 - Only hours earned after registering with the board count toward apprenticeship hours.
 - The fee must accompany the application;
 - A recent photograph of the applicant taken within the past year;
 - Subject matter of examination shall be related to ophthalmic dispensing

- Passing score shall be 75.
- Any false or misleading information in connection with any application may be cause for exclusion from the examination
- Application will be reviewed and if all information is complete, a letter will be sent to the applicant which shall advise the applicant of the time, date and place of the examination.
 - The candidate shall submit his/her letter to the examiner upon entrance to the examination room.
- Licensing examinations shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedure and any candidate violating the procedure may be dismissed from the examination room or otherwise disciplined:
 - no candidate may enter the examination room late nor leave the examination room early;
 - during the examination no candidate shall communicate with any other candidate in any way;
 - a candidate shall not bring books or other help of any kind into the examination room unless directed to do so by the Board because of the character of the examination.
- Prior to issuance of a license, applicant must submit current ABO and NCLE certificates.

420-5-.03 Revocations; Suspension.

- Complaints may be filed with the board and will be investigated.
- Any violation found shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the license of the offender.
- A hearing may be held at which time person charged shall be afforded opportunity to be present in person and by counsel at such hearing, with such witnesses as he may desire to produce. Notice is public.

420-6-.01 Dispensing Opticians.

- Definition of “dispensing optician”
 - anyone who prepares, fits, and dispenses prescription lenses, spectacles, eyeglasses, contact lenses, or any other type of vision-correcting optical device to the intended user.
 - Interprets optical prescriptions issued by an ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician
 - Measures inter-ocular or pupillary distances to determine the proper position of vision-correcting lenses;
 - Determines the necessary type or shape of lenses or position of multi-focal segments and optical centers for the intended wearer of vision-correcting optical lenses;
 - Measures any part of a person's face or head for the purpose of adapting any vision correcting optical device thereto;
 - Adapts or aligns frames with vision-correcting lenses to the face of the intended wearer.
 - Eyewear may be fabricated by an unlicensed laboratory person but must be must be originally measured and final checked by a licensed optician.

420-7-.01 Procedural Rules.

- The GSBDO hereby adopts by reference as its permanent rules Chapters 295-3 through 295-13, and any future amendments thereto, Rules and Regulations of the Office of Joint Secretary, State Examining Boards, relating to Procedure for Hearings before the several State Examining Boards.

420-8-.01 Practical Training and Experience.

- Effective July, 1, 2008, every person wishing to qualify under the apprenticeship statute must register with the Board and pay the registration fee. Clock hours do not begin until the “Completed” application has been received by the board and the fee paid. NO prior hours worked may be used toward apprenticeship.
 - Application must include name of licensed optician, licensed optometrist or licensed physician who will be responsible for training and the mailing address and telephone number of the primary location where the training shall occur. Clock hours must be signed off by the licensee on record.
 - Apprenticeship includes 3000 clock hours AND two full years of apprenticeship under the registered sponsor/supervisor.
 - Only 3 apprentices may apprentice under one licensed sponsor at a time.
- If wishing to qualify under education, instruction may be given by a certificate from recognized schools of opticianry with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education or formal home study programs through the Career Progression Program with the National Academy of Opticianry or other programs approved in advance by the Board. (As stated in the statute...Out of state formal opticianry programs are recognized which have accreditation through the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation.)
- Supervision means that the appropriate licensed practitioner(s) must be on the premises where the practical training and experience is being acquired for every hour of apprenticeship sought to be considered in fulfillment of this requirement.

420-9-.01 Continuing Education for License Renewals.

- Continuing education totaling ten hours of approved courses are required for every biennial renewal
 - 6 of the 10 must be technical hours – either spectacle or contact lenses
 - 2 of the 10 must be in the area of contact lenses
 - 1 hour must be from an approved provider of Georgia Opticianry Laws and Rules
 - No more than 5 hours may be obtained via the internet or home study from only approved providers.
 - The only approved online providers or home study providers are the National Academy of Opticianry, the Opticians Association of America and the Opticians Association of Georgia.
 - No more than 8 hours may be obtained in one 24-hour day.
 - Affidavits as proof of attendance are required for each course.
 - No duplicate courses will be accepted during the same renewal period

420-9-.02 Continuing Education Hours for New Licensees.

- If licensed in the first six months of the renewal period, new licensees must get all 10 hours.
- If licensed during the following twelve months, new licensees must get 5 hours.
- If licensed during the last six months of the renewal period, licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that renewal period only.
- The full requirement of ten (10) hours must be fulfilled each renewal period thereafter.

420-9-.03 Continuing Education Program Approval.

- As stated in the statute, Credit given by any “recognized national, regional, or state dispensing society or association”
 - some examples, non-inclusive, of such recognized national or regional dispensing society or association are:
 - Opticians Association of America (OAA)
 - National Academy of Opticianry (NAO)
 - SouthEastern Opticians Conference (SEOC)
 - Some examples, non-inclusive, of such recognized state dispensing society or associations are:
 - Opticians Association of Georgia (OAG)
 - Professional Opticians of Florida (POF)
 - North Carolina Opticians Association (NCOA)
 - Tennessee Dispensing Opticians Association (TDOA)
 - South Carolina Opticians Association (SCOA)
 - if course increases the education of a dispensing optician
 - is made available to all licensed opticians on a reasonably nondiscriminatory fee basis.
 - Board may also approve other courses held within or outside of this state.
 - Any ten or more licensed opticians may arrange for and request approval for an educational course.
 - Request shall be made at least 90 days prior to the proposed date
 - Must include:
 - Full details as to the contents of the course,
 - instructors
 - charge
 - any other information which the board may require.
 - Board will act upon request at least 45 days prior to the date
 - thereupon notify all licensed opticians (posted on website)
 - Certificate of attendance shall be issued upon completion of the approved course.
 - Credit shall be allowed on the basis of an hour for an hour.
 - No fractional hour credits shall be allowed.

- The certificate of attendance shall not be issued until the program is completed and the method of monitoring must be reported to the Board prior to the program date.
- Post-approval of continuing education courses will not be granted.

420-10-.01 Fees.

- Required fees are posted on the Secretary of State Licensing Board website and are subject to change as authorized by the division director and/or the Board.

Violations and Penalties

Lie to the Board of Opticianry

Pretend to be an Optician

Dispensing without license

Using title

Play Doctor

Dispensing without a prescription* Felony

Refracting

Diagnosing

Treating

Synopsis

Don't go beyond scope of licensure

Renew on time

Get appropriate CECs (Ensure they are approved by the Board)

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