



**Administrative Policy No: 007**

To: COUNCIL  
From: REGISTRARS  
CC: Office  
Date: 12/06/2015  
Re: Administrative Policy on Approval of Continuing Education Seminars

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**CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING:**

Seminars in continuing education or ophthalmic practices that are provided by institutions not sponsored by the council must be pre-approved by the council, or its delegate, in order to qualify as educational credits for licensing purposes. Seminars may also be approved for continuing education purposes through the NACOR. To be approved as a continuing education seminar, the seminar must consist of a variety of professional development topics that are designed to improve and advance the professional development of opticians/ practicing members and contact lens practitioners.

Continuing education seminars must adhere to the NACOR core competencies and values as follows:

**Categories of Acceptable Continuing Education and Competencies**

**There are four base categories of mandatory continuing education as follows:**

1. Eyeglass Dispensing;
2. Contact Lenses Dispensing;
3. Eyeglass or Contact Lens (EC)
4. Professional Service; and
5. Related Fields.

**The SCO will consider continuing education from the following sources:**

- A Canadian Educational Institutions with an Accredited Opticians Programs;
- A Canadian Provincial or National Organizations recognized by the College;

- A Related Organizations or Corporation approved by the college;
- Any presentation or course approved by the NACOR; and
- Any presentation or course approved by the SCO Council

**Continuing education credits will be provided based upon the following criteria, and credits will be issued based on the information provided, its complexity and completeness:**

**Eyeglass Dispensing:**

- Lens seminars, lens design, materials and dispensing techniques;
- Frame seminars, materials and advancements;
- Tints, coating, sunglass lenses, transmission and absorptive properties;
- Tools and adjustments;
- Equipment, such as diagnostic, surfacing, edging, vision screening;
- Ocular Anatomy and Physiology;
- Visual Optics; and
- Others (as approved by the college).

**Contact Lens Dispensing:**

- Ocular Anatomy and Physiology;
- Pharmacology;
- Lens Design and Manufacture;
- Lens Material;
- Specialty Lens Fitting; and
- Others (as approved by the college).

**Eyeglass or Contact Lens (EC)**

Credits in this category represent topics that are applicable to both eyeglass and contact lens dispensing.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Refraction
  1. advanced level of knowledge of accommodation
  2. presbyopia related to accommodation
  3. hypermetropia related to accommodation
  4. correction of visual error and principles of refraction
  5. Demonstrate knowledge of retinoscopy in terms of the static plane mirror theory, with and against movements, speed of reflex, determination of the spectacle refraction retinoscopy in astigmatism and streak retinoscopy

6. Demonstrate understanding of the principles of phorometry
7. Explain the principles and procedures of the subjective examination
8. Assess visual function and refractive status

- Vision Screening

1. Demonstrate knowledge of instruments and procedures used in visual assessment
2. Discuss the keratometer and slit lamp as analytical instruments
3. Explain principles and procedures for use of the Topographer, Keratometer, Retinoscope, Slit lamp, Phoropter, Autorefractor, wave front devices and Trial lens sets
4. Describe tests used to verify stereoscopic vision
5. Perform clinical procedures to assess visual function and refractive status.
  - ☐ Conduct visual acuity measurements
  - ☐ Conduct testing for ocular motility/versions
  - ☐ Conduct cover-uncover/alternating cover testing
  - ☐ Conduct corneal reflex testing
  - ☐ Conduct near point convergence/accommodation test
  - ☐ Conduct testing for pupillary function
  - ☐ colour vision verification
  - ☐ peripheral visual fields verification

- Low vision (emerging technology, techniques, etc.)

- Jurisprudence

- Patient management

1. Demonstrate knowledge of ophthalmic pharmacology

- Anatomy &/or ocular pathology

1. Apply knowledge of anatomy and physiology of the visual system to assess refractive status
2. Demonstrate an understanding of contrast sensitivity.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the use of high and low contrast sensitivity charts

**Professional Services:**

**College members attending or serving on College and/or Association Boards or Committees may receive credits as follows for performing professional services:**

- Attendance at College (SCO) AGM (1 cr. per year)
- Con Ed Lecture Preparation & Presentation (2 cr. per presentation);
- A written and published article on Opticianry (4 cr. per year maximum);
- Others (as approved by the college).

**Related Fields:**

- Marketing Techniques Both Internal and External;
- Personal Human Relationships;
- Ophthalmic Surgical Techniques and Advances; and

**Boards and Committees:**

- Emergency Medical Courses, CPR and Emergency Intervention;
- Other (as approved by the college).

**Certification of Courses:**

Course attendance certificates must be completed by the sponsoring agency and given to the member.

All course/seminar materials and details must be sent to the College for approval and may be subject to a fee for review and approval.