

Administrative Policy No: 010 AMENDED

To: SCO COUNCIL

From: Registrar

Date: July 14, 2020

Re: Administrative Policy on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

In order to provide consistency with the licensing provisions and to accommodate those applicants that are currently licensed or, have been licensed in another jurisdiction or, have graduated from a non-accredited institution and, require a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) to determine whether they meet Saskatchewan standards for licensure, the following administrative policy shall take effect immediately.

1. In accordance with the Regulatory bylaws, an applicant must make application for licensing in Saskatchewan prior to completing an application for a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).
2. As a matter of policy, the PLAR is being offered to foreign applicants only. Canadian applicants are encouraged to register with any one of the accredited educational institutes approved by the NACOR.
3. In accordance with the regulations, only applicants that are going to be licensed in Saskatchewan are eligible for a Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR). Individuals wishing to be licensed in Saskatchewan must first complete an application for licensing accompanied by the appropriate fees. The applicant may then complete an application for a PLAR, accompanied by the documents and information set out in the application, along with the appropriate fees for document assessment, and the PLAR. For ease of administration, properly completed applications for licensure and the PLAR may be submitted together.

4. In addition to the application for licensure for PLAR, applicants must also provide the College with a *"letter of intent to practice in Saskatchewan."*
5. Applicants that are employed in the optical field and qualify may be granted a restricted license to practice under supervision. Restricted licenses are granted on a prorated quarterly basis, and a one-time registration fee of \$100 is applicable to all first-time applicants.
6. In the event a PLAR applicant has been assigned bridging courses by the Registration Committee, these courses must be completed before attempting any National Examinations. All required bridging courses and corresponding tests must be completed within one year from the date of the Registration Committee's Decision. Should the additional training not be completed as specified, the eligibility for bridging expires, and the applicant must undergo another PLAR process.
7. Upon completion of any additional training, the applicant will be eligible to write the National Optical Sciences 1 – Eyeglasses Examination conducted by NACOR, and the National Optical Sciences 2 – Advanced Contact Lens Examination conducted by NACOR if required as well. The applicant must attempt the NACOR examination(s) within three years of completing the required bridging modules.
8. Appeals from a decision of the Registration Committee may be made in writing, within 30 days, to the Council of the Saskatchewan College of Opticians.

Amended and passed by SCO Council July 14, 2020