



SCO Council Elections 2024

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Registrants elected to the Council do not represent the interests of the opticians in their electoral province but, instead, make decisions that further the College's mandate to regulate and improve the practice of opticianry in the public interest.

For more information regarding the elections, eligibility to run/vote, nominations, terms of office and electoral province, please get in touch with the College at (306) 652 0769 or by email at registrar@skopticians.com

1. What is the length of the term if I am elected?

Anyone elected to the Council of the Saskatchewan College of Opticians will serve a two-year term and are eligible to run again at the end of their term if nominated.

2. What is the Council of the Saskatchewan College of Opticians?

The Council is the governing body of the College and is composed of at least five elected members and three public members. Elected Council members are Licensed Opticians elected during the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Public appointees (Public Representatives) are appointed to the Council by the Ministry of Health.

3. Why is it important to be involved in self-regulation?

Self-regulation means that the opticians elected to a council of the regulatory body (the College) in Saskatchewan are involved in determining and overseeing the rules that govern the profession. The Council governs the College and is responsible for establishing the policies, programs, and standards that regulate the profession of opticianry. Registrant participation is at the heart of being a self-governed profession and essential in ensuring that professional standards and all related activities respond to opticianry practice today. The optician members of the Council and Committees bring expertise about opticianry and an understanding of today's practice realities to their decision-making. They reflect each optician's commitment to the public's right to safe, ethical and competent care.

4. What kind of work is involved?

As an elected member of the Council, you will contribute to the self-regulation of opticianry in Saskatchewan in many meaningful ways. Elected Council members participate in decision-making about:



- ✓ Standards of Practice and professional conduct
- ✓ Competencies for entry-to-practice and ongoing practice
- ✓ The development of new programs and policies to guide the profession and relevant regulations and bylaws required under legislation.
- ✓ Members of the Council may fulfill a critical role through participation in:
 - Regulation Committee

In addition, there are other specific expectations that potential candidates should be prepared to fulfill, which include:

- ✓ arranging schedules to meet time commitments.
- ✓ reviewing preparatory materials in advance of meetings.
- ✓ participating in discussions and decision-making.
- ✓ maintaining confidentiality.
- ✓ implementing and supporting Council and Committee decisions and directives.
- ✓ demonstrating accountability to the public through decision-making in the public interest.

5. What must I know to serve on the Council or a Committee?

Opticians do not require prior experience to serve as Council members but should familiarize themselves with all the relevant legislation, policies and Standards of Practice.

6. What attributes and competencies will help me serve on the Council or a Committee?

Anyone seeking election to the Council will be required to demonstrate the following core competencies:

- **Passion – Public Service Oriented:** Demonstrates outstanding initiative and commitment towards the practice of opticianry. Committed to service the College's mandate to regulate the profession of opticianry in the public interest.
- **Exemplified Integrity:** Demonstrates a conviction to do what's right and to reject what's wrong, regardless of the consequences.
- **Unbiased and Open-Minded:** Demonstrates the ability to self-identify and set aside conscious biases. Proactively reflects on the impact of unconscious biases in all situations. Actively listens and absorbs all information to make an informed and open-minded decision.
- **Critical Judgment and Decision Making:** Makes good decisions based upon a combination of analysis, wisdom, experience, and sound judgment. Comfortably deals with concepts and complexity and looks beyond the obvious to avoid 'group think' and/or the status quo.
- **Collaboration and Inclusion:** Demonstrates an open mindset, listens without judgment, and embraces the diversity of others and thought. Seeks to understand and build on the strengths of others.



7. Is this a volunteer position?

Being an elected Council member requires dedication and commitment; it is not a volunteer position. Council members are compensated for their time and reasonable expenses.

8. What's in it for me?

By participating in the election, either as a candidate or through voting, every optician has an opportunity to shape the future of the opticianry practice and self-regulation. Serving as an elected Council member broadens your professional scope by offering you the following:

- ✓ an opportunity to shape policies and decisions made by the College in the public interest.
- ✓ an opportunity to be directly involved in self-regulation.
- ✓ a greater understanding of governance.
- ✓ an insight into the trends that influence professional practice.

9. What is the time commitment?

While members find serving on the Council personally and professionally rewarding, it requires a significant time commitment. Council members must attend seven to eight meetings (1 to 3 hours per meeting) annually. Dates are set well in advance to facilitate planning for members. Preparation time associated with Council meetings averages one to two hours for each meeting. This generally involves reviewing material before meetings to contribute constructively to Council discussions and decision-making.

Registrants interested in running for election must consider whether they can commit the time to serve, as this time is spent outside of their employment obligations.

10. How long can I serve as a member of the Council?

Council terms are governed by the Opticians Act and the College's bylaws.

11. How do I know if I'm eligible to run for a position on the Council?

Detailed information regarding eligibility for election is available in the College's bylaws and is also included in this nomination package.

12. Do I have to resign from a professional association before I can be nominated?

No, you do not need to cancel your membership with any professional associations related to opticianry to sit on the Council.

If, however, you hold a position of authority with a professional association relating to opticianry, such as director, owner, Council member, or officer, or you are an employee of the professional association, you will have to resign from this position in the year immediately preceding the election. This "cooling off period" exists to mitigate the risk that there will be a conflict of interest between your prior position and your duties as a Council member.



13. How do I know if a registrant (Licensed Optician) can nominate me, or if I can nominate a candidate?

A registrant of the College can nominate a candidate if they:

- ✓ support the candidate's nomination.
- ✓ are a Licensed optician (who is not suspended at the time of nomination and who is not in default of any fee or other amount owed to the College or of returning any required form or information to the College)
- ✓ principally resides in the candidate's electoral province and practices opticianry in the candidate's electoral province.

To ensure a registrant is eligible to nominate a candidate, please check the [eligibility checklist](#) or contact the College at (306) 652 0769.

14. How will I know if my nomination is approved?

Once the College receives your completed nomination form and supporting documentation, the College will correspond with you to confirm your eligibility to run for election. Prospective candidates may not campaign for election until they have received written notification from the College that their nomination has been approved.