

SUMMARY CHART – CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This chart provides a **summary** of the continuing education hours required for license renewal in each state. Some states require additional continuing education hours for optometrists holding prescriptive authority. Each state licensing board may limit the number of hours of continuing education credit that may be used by a licensee for license renewal purposes for courses taken in practice management, home study, Internet, etc. Some states may specify that a certain number of the required hours be in particular areas of optometric education such as pharmacology, diagnosis, or treatment of ocular disease. For further information, please contact Sherry Cooper at the AOA St. Louis Office (314-991-4100/800-365-2219, Ext. 4266 or SLCooper@AOA.org) or the appropriate state licensing board.

Last Revised April 16, 2009

STATE:	Year Law First Enacted:	CE Requirements for All Licensees:	Additional Req.'s for ODs With Prescriptive Authority:	Year Last Amended:
ALABAMA	1975	14 hrs/yr	6 hrs/yr[1]	1995
ALASKA	1969	36 hrs/2 yrs[2]	[2a]	2008
ARIZONA	1980	32 hrs/2 yrs		1991
ARKANSAS	1961	12 hrs/yr	[33]	1997
CALIFORNIA	1988	40 hrs/2 yrs	50 hrs/2 yrs[27]	2000
COLORADO	1992	24 hrs/2 yrs		
CONNECTICUT	1976	14 hrs/yr[3]		2007
DELAWARE	1974	12 hrs/2 yrs	12 hrs/2 yrs[2]	1994
D.C.	1988	24 hrs/2 yrs	6 hrs/2 yrs	1999
FLORIDA	1979	30 hrs/2 yrs	[4]	
GEORGIA	1971	28 hrs/2 yrs		
HAWAII	1972	32 hrs/2 yrs	36 hrs/2 yrs [32]	1997
IDAHO	1968	12 hrs/yr	6 hrs/yr[2]	1992
ILLINOIS	1975	24 hrs/2 yrs[5]	6 hrs/2 yrs[28]	1996
INDIANA	1973	30 hrs/2 yrs	30 hrs/2 yrs[26]	1992
IOWA	1938	30 hrs/2 yrs	20 hrs/2 yrs	1985
KANSAS	1940	24 hrs/yr[35]		1999
KENTUCKY	1974	8 hrs/yr[6]	7 hrs/yr[2]	1991
LOUISIANA	1969	12 hrs/yr	4 hrs/yr[7]	1993
MAINE	1971	22 hrs/yr	25 hrs/yr[8]	1996
MARYLAND	1973	36 hrs/2 yrs[9]	50 hrs/2 yrs[31]	1996
MASSACHUSETTS	1974	18 hrs/yr[10]		1994
MICHIGAN	1978	40 hrs/2 yrs[40]	[41]	
MINNESOTA	1973	40 hrs/2 yrs		2000
MISSISSIPPI	1965	20 hrs/yr[37]		1994
MISSOURI	1963	32 hrs/2 yrs		2007
MONTANA	1971	36 hrs/2 yrs		1999
NEBRASKA	1966	16 hrs/yr		
NEVADA	1973	18 hrs/yr	12 hrs/yr [25]	1996
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1973	15 hrs/yr	150 hrs/3 yrs[11]	2002
NEW JERSEY	1975	50 hrs/2 yrs [39]		2006
NEW MEXICO	1960	16 hrs/yr	[12]	1995
NEW YORK	1995	none	36 hrs/3 yrs	
NORTH CAROLINA	1969	20 hrs/yr[13]		1993
NORTH DAKOTA	1971	50 hrs/3 yrs	[14]	1997
OHIO	1974	15 hrs/yr	5 hrs/yr[2]	1995[24]
OKLAHOMA	1956	18 hrs/yr	[15]	1994

OREGON	1973	15 hrs/yr	[16]	2001
PENNSYLVANIA	1980	30 hrs/2 yrs	[30]	2004
PUERTO RICO		36 hrs/3 yrs		
RHODE ISLAND	1976	16 hrs/yr for non-TPA	20 hrs/yr [17]	2009
SOUTH CAROLINA	1972	20 hrs/yr	[18]	1993
SOUTH DAKOTA	1973	36 hrs/3 yrs		
TENNESSEE	1974	30 hrs/2 yrs	[19]	2009
TEXAS	1975	16 hrs/yr [20]		1993
UTAH	1975	30 hrs/2 yrs		1991
VERMONT	1980	20 hrs/2 yrs	20[2][38]	2004
VIRGINIA	1976	16 hrs/yr	[36]	2003
WASHINGTON	1976	50 hrs/2 yrs		
WEST VIRGINIA	1969	40 hrs/2 yrs	[34]	2002
WISCONSIN	1989	30 hrs/2 yrs	[21]	2006
WYOMING	1975	40 hrs/2 yrs	[22]	2005

KEY:

- [1] Of the 20 hours required for TPA-certified OD license renewal (14 for regular license renewal plus 6 additional hours for TPA-certified ODs), one half must be in subjects relating to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of disease of the eye as approved by the Board.
- [2] Twenty-four hours of the 36 hour requirement for the biennial renewal period beginning on or after January 1, 2009, must be in ocular pathology or pharmacology.
- [2a] For those seeking to renew their prescriptive authority - in the four-year period immediately before renewal of the prescriptive authority endorsement they must complete 8 hours in the use and prescription of pharmaceutical agents and 7 hours in the injection of nontopical therapeutic pharmaceutical agents. These hours may be used to satisfy the 36 hour requirement for license renewal.
- [3] The regulations are currently being revised which will increase the requirement to 20 hours per year. An effective date for this revision has not yet been determined. [Communication with Board Staff, 4/16/09, slc]
- [4] Six hours of the 30 hour requirement must be "transcript quality" courses in ocular pharmacology for certified ODs.
- [5] Six hours of the 24 hours/2 years requirement must be transcript quality.
- [6] One hour must be in AIDS/HIV for all licensees.
- [7] Eight hours of the 16 hour total requirement for TPA-certified ODs must be ocular and systemic pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease. These eight hours may only be obtained from specific sources listed in the rule.
- [8] Fifteen hours of the 25 hour requirement (all 25 hours must be "Category 1" CE) must be in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease for TPA-certified ODs.
- [9] Six hours of the 36 hour requirement must be in diagnostic pharmaceutical agents for DPA-certified ODs.
- [10] Three hours of the 18 hour requirement must be in one or more specific areas.
- [11] The 150 hour requirement for TPA-certified ODs includes the basic 15 hour requirement. For glaucoma certified optometrists, a minimum of ten of the required 50 hours per year (for a total 150) must be in glaucoma specific education.
- [12] Six hours of the 16 hour requirement must be in ocular therapeutic pharmacology for TPA-certified ODs.
- [13] Nine hours of the 20 hour requirement must be in general pharmacology, diagnosis, and therapeutics.
- [14] One-half of the requirement must be in the treatment and management of ocular disease for TPA-certified ODs.
- [15] Five hours of the 18 hour requirement must be in therapeutics and one hour must be in the judicious prescribing of dangerous drugs and controlled dangerous drugs for TPA-certified ODs.
- [16] Five hours of the 15 hour requirement must be in the diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular disease for all licensees.
- [17] Ten hours of the 20 hour requirement must be in pharmacology. Non TPA-certified optometrists must complete 16 hours/year.
- [18] Eight hours of the 20 hour requirement must be in pharmacology for DPA/TPA-certified ODs.
- [19] Twenty hours of the 30 hour requirement for therapeutically certified optometrists is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease. One hour of the 20 hour requirement must be a course designed specifically to address prescribing practices.
- [20] Six hours of the 16 hour requirement must be in the diagnosis or treatment of ocular disease.

- [21] Seven hours of the 30 hour requirement must be in glaucoma.
- [22] Licensees authorized to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceuticals shall obtain fifteen (15) hours of the required forty (40) hours of continuing education in topics addressing ocular systemic therapeutics.
- [23] Reserved.
- [24] Rule change in 1995 became effective for license renewals in 1997.
- [25] Fifteen hours of the total 30 hour requirement must be TPA-related for TPA-certified ODs.
- [26] TPA-certified ODs may apply 10 hours of the CE obtained to meet the 30 hour "additional" requirement to the 30 hours needed for "all licensees", which makes the total requirement for TPA-certified ODs 50 hours/2 years.
- [27] Thirty five hours of the 50 hour requirement must be in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular, disease.
- [28] The additional six hour requirement for courses in the treatment of ocular disease for TPA-certified ODs is effective with the 2-year license renewal period ending March 31, 1998. Two of the six hours for the renewal period ending March 31, 1998 must be in the study of glaucoma.
- [29] Reserved.
- [30] At least six hours of the 30 hour requirement must concern the prescription and administration of TPAs. At least four hours of the 30 hour requirement must concern the prescription of drugs to treat glaucoma. The four glaucoma drug hours may apply toward the six hour prescription drug requirement.
- [31] The 50 hours every two years requirement is the total requirement for TPA-certified ODs (it is not in addition to the 36 hours every two years requirement for non-TPA-certified ODs). Thirty hours of the 50 hour requirement for TPA-certified ODs must be in the use and management of TPAs.
- [32] The 36 hours every two years requirement is the total requirement for TPA-certified ODs (it is not in addition to the 32 hours every two years requirement for non-TPA-certified ODs). All 36 hours of the 36 hour requirement for TPA-certified ODs must be in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular and systemic diseases.
- [33] ODs with DPA certification only must complete 12 hours/year plus 6 hours/3 years in pharmacology (these 6 hours may count toward completion of the 12 hours/year requirement). ODs with TPA certification only must complete 12 hours/year plus 12 hours/3 years in pharmacology (these 12 hours may count toward completion of the 12 hours/year requirement). ODs certified as optometric physicians must complete 20 hours/year in ocular therapy and pharmacology. (Note: only the requirements for the highest level of certification attained apply.)
- [34] Six hours of the 15 hour requirement must be in ocular pathology or therapeutic pharmacological agents for TPA-certified ODs.
- [35] Five hours of the 24 hour requirement shall relate to ocular pharmacology, therapeutics or related topics of study.
- [36] Fourteen of the 16 hour requirement shall pertain directly to the care of the patient. Licensees with TPA-certification shall complete at least two hours annually in the prescribing and administration of drugs.
- [37] Half of the twenty hours/year requirement must be in therapeutic subject matter.
- [38] Not less than 50% of the required CE must be in the use of pharmaceuticals, including treating possible complications arising from their use, and the treatment of glaucoma.
- [39] At least 30 hours of the 50 hour requirement every two years must be in therapeutic pharmaceutical agents, of which 10 must be in orals.
- [40] Of the 40 hour requirement at least one hour must be in pain and symptom management.
- [41] Of the 40 hour requirement at least 20 hours must be in pharmacology management.

SGRC/G:Charts/CERequirements