

Young Optometrist of the Year

PURPOSE

The American Optometric Association Young Optometrists (defined as those who have been in active practice 10 years or less, including residency or fellowship) recognizes those ODs in their first decade of practice who show leadership skills when serving their profession, their patients, and their community.

ELIGIBILITY

The nominee must be an AOA member and nominee must be in active optometric practice 10 years or less (including residency or fellowship). Age is not a criteria for this award. **Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are NOT eligible for consideration.***

The nominee must be nominated by the respective affiliated optometric association. (Associations are limited to one nominee per year.)

JUDGING AND SELECTION

The Young Optometrist of the Year will be selected by the AOA Awards Committee, comprised of the five most recent available past presidents, and honored at Optometry's Meeting®.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

All nominations for the AOA Young Optometrist of the Year Award shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Nominations are to be submitted online at www.aoa.org/awards. A statement, not to exceed 2,000 words, should accompany the nomination, explain the primary reason the nominee should be named as award recipient (see Criteria section).
2. Supplemental information (i.e., letters of recommendation, curricula vitae, etc.) may also be attached to the form.
3. A current head and shoulders photograph must be included with the completed nomination form.
4. Only affiliated association nominees are eligible, and only one nominee per affiliated association will be considered in any one year.
5. Nomination of a person in any given year does not preclude future nominations of the same person by the affiliated association. Affiliated associations may wish to enter the same nominee in the national competition at a later date due to new or continued service, if the individual meets the years in practice criteria (10 years or less).
6. The completed nomination form must be submitted by **February 19** (no exceptions can be made).

CRITERIA

SERVICE TO OPTOMETRY (40 point maximum)

- Leadership roles (include titles and dates).
- Major accomplishments.
- Initiating and/or implementing unique plan, program, or action on behalf of optometry.
- Published professional articles or research findings.
- Outreach to potential students, or assistance to optometry students and/or recent graduates.

II. SERVICE TO THE VISUAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC (35 point maximum)

- Sight-saving groups or charities.
- Service efforts in the community.
- Participation in government health care programs.

III. SERVICE TO AOA OR AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION (25 point maximum)

- Service as an officer, committee chair or member, etc.
- Promotion of the association's goals and programs.
- Activity in support of association's projects.
- Involvement in public information activities (media spokesperson, etc.).

*Approved change by AOA Board of Trustees March 5, 2020.