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 AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Paraoptometric Email Newsletter



OPTOMETRY'S MEETING®



5th WORLD CONGRESS OF OPTOMETRY



Optometry's Meeting® 2025: See you in Minneapolis!

edge continuing education. Attend courses designed specifically for paraoptometric, OD/para integrated courses covering a wide range of topics, and interactive workshops including the optometric surgical assisting paraoptometric micro-credential, lasers for paraoptometric, and amniotic membranes. In Eye Care Square, visit industry leaders and vendors, attend education sessions in the education theater, and enjoy food and beverages. View the conference preview [here](#).

Highlights

- **Register for a workshop** before they sell out:
 - Scleral Lens Workshop – Thursday, June 26, 2025, 8-10 a.m.
 - Para Laser Workshop – Thursday, June 26, 2025, 5-7 p.m.
 - Slit Lamp Essentials: A Step-by-Step Workshop, Friday, June 27 2025, 4-6 p.m.
 - Optometric Surgical Assisting for the Paraoptometric Technician Workshop, Saturday, June 28, 2025 8 a.m. – noon (note that this workshop is the hands-on component to the AOA Paraoptometric Micro-credential: Optometric Surgical Assisting; the lecture and theory component is available in EyeLearn)
 - Magnification for Visually Impaired Patients: A Hands-On Experience, Saturday, June 28, 2025, 8-10 a.m.
- Don't miss these **paraoptometric courses!**
 - Refractive Surgery Updates, Thursday, June 26, 2025, 7-8 a.m.
 - Blinded by the Light: An Optometric "CSI" Episode – Friday, June 27, 2025 9-10 a.m.
 - "Put on Your Poker Face" Understanding Body Language – Friday, June 27, 2025, 5-6 p.m.
- **Eye Care Square:** Be sure to visit the Paraoptometric Booth to meet your peers, members of the Paraoptometric Resource Center and the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPC). This is the place to get answers to questions about certification and renewal, AOA associate membership, study resources, volunteering with the AOA and CPC and more!
- All paraoptometric are invited to attend the **Paraoptometric Appreciation Luncheon Celebration**, Thursday, June 26, from 12 to 1 p.m., immediately followed by the **Paraoptometric Idea Exchange** from 1 to 3 p.m. Please add these free events to your registration. We'd love to see you there!
- **Celebration of Optometry:** Closing party, Friday, June 27, 7 to 10 p.m. This is a ticketed event, and a small registration fee is required. Registered guests must show their badge at the door.



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION | American Optometric Student Association | WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

GO REGISTER NOW!

for ALL attending paraoptometrics

THURS. JUNE 26, 2025

12 PM PARA APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

1 PM PARA IDEA EXCHANGE

Login to the attendee service center and select "Update Registration"



Congratulations to the 2025 Paraoptometric Award Winners!

The awards will be presented in Minneapolis during Optometry's Meeting® | 5th World Congress of Optometry. [Read more](#)

- **2025 Paraoptometric of the Year:**
Jennifer Stroupe, CPO
- **2025 Paraoptometric Lifetime Achievement Award:** Tamara (Tami) Franklin, CPOT
- **2025 Paraoptometric Community Service Award:** Kimberly Pickle, CPOA

Congratulations to the February exam candidates!

The CPC would like to congratulate the paraoptometric candidates who passed their examination in February. The newly developed examinations were administered for the first time to CPO, CPOA and CPOC candidates and over one hundred paraoptometric candidates earned their certification!



Call for Courses 2026 is open!

We invite you to [submit courses](#) for presentation during Optometry's Meeting 2026 that will be held in Phoenix, June 17-20, 2026.

- Courses accepted for Optometry's Meeting should be original and not presented previously at Optometry's Meeting or slated to be presented at any other meetings in 2025/2026.
- Paraoptometric education as well as joint education for optometrists and paraoptometric candidates may be submitted.



Are you displaying your certification and credentials?

The Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.) says, "A high-quality certification validates an individual's knowledge, skills and abilities in a defined profession, occupation, skill or role. Certified individuals in the workforce reduce risk and enhance consumer protection and public safety. In addition, these certifications allow employers and other stakeholders to identify individuals with the competencies needed to perform a role or task."

- Use your credentials on your email signature
- Wear a name tag with your credentials—patients may ask about the letters behind your name
- Wear a [CPC credential pin](#) while working



Who wrote your study materials?

Post-exam surveys have shown that many paraoptometrics have been relying on Quizlet or Examzify to prepare for examinations rather than using recommended resources. The creators of those resources may have the best intentions, but it may not be clear exactly who created them or when. The examinations for 2025 are new—the outlines and exam content have changed considerably. The Education Center developed materials based on the 2025 outlines using trusted and reliable doctors of optometry and certified paraoptometrics to edit outdated information and create new tools. Are you confident that the materials you are using are current, accurate and based on the new exam outline?

Here are some tips to help you prepare for your exam:

- Use the outline found in the [2025 handbook](#)
- The [expanded outlines](#) have additional details
- Use [recommended study resources](#), including EyeLearn prep courses, books and websites
- Reach out to educationcenter@aoa.org or cpc@aoa.org with questions

Attention office managers

Just a reminder to office managers or others in the office who may be registering staff for paraoptometric examinations. The exam candidate's personal or unshared business email address must be used on the application so that PTC, Prometric and CPC can contact the registered candidate about their application, appointment, exam details and exam results. Results are confidential and will only be released to the candidate.



2025 Paraoptometric Examination Schedule

The [registration deadline](#) for the August 9-23 paraoptometric examinations is June 25. Late registrations will be accepted through July 16 and includes a late fee. New study resources are available to AOA associate members for free in [EyeLearn](#) and for purchase by nonmembers.



Remote Proctored Testing (RPT) is available in rural and remote areas

Access to amenities when you live in a rural or remote area can be difficult. Over the years, the CPC has heard from paraoptometrics and doctors that testing locations weren't always convenient. We listened, and in 2023, remote proctored testing, or RPT, was launched.

information on upcoming examinations, live remote proctored testing opportunities, and all the recommended study resources.

from home or another quiet location without needing to drive, or in some cases for people living in places such as Alaska and Hawaii, fly to a testing site. RPT is also available to overseas candidates. Anyone can choose to test remotely for any reason, so long as the technical and physical location requirements can be met. Want [more information](#)?

Upcoming Live Webinars

A combined OD/para course will be offered in June, and the popular Para Speaker Series continues in August. These live webinars will be recorded for those who miss the live presentations and will be accessible through your [EyeLearn](#) account afterward. These courses will be AOA or CPC-approved. Registration in [EyeLearn](#) is required.

- June 5 – AMT in Routine Optometric Practice – this course will be an OD/Para course supported by Ophthalmogix.
- August 12 – Mahsa Masoudi, O.D., will present an informative course on glaucoma beginning at 7 p.m. CT.

Need assistance with your EyeLearn account? Contact educationcenter@aoa.org for more information.

What is new in EyeLearn?

Access the full Paraoptometric Catalog in [EyeLearn](#).

New Paraoptometric Courses

Para Speaker Series: Introduction to OCT



Clinical Insights for the Paraoptometric Professional

*CPOC approved



Para Speaker Series: The Real MVP – Becoming a Myopia Visionary Professional and Leading the Charge in Paraoptometric Patient Care



AOA Paraoptometric Micro-credential:
Optometric Surgical Assisting



CPC CE Continuing Education Committee Seeks Volunteers!



[Learn More](#)

This committee is responsible for the review and granting or denying of requests for CPC approval of CE courses that are presented to paraoptometrics for certification maintenance and competency. This committee, with the help of CPC staff, will:

- Review and approve or deny requests of education for purposes of certification renewal
- Maintain a list of currently approved and expired courses.
- Collect information on continuing education opportunities and provide this information to paraoptometrics in various formats.

The award of CE is dependent on participation. Members are expected to participate in reviews assigned to them.

Anyone who may be interested in this opportunity to earn CE toward their renewal should complete a [volunteer interest form](#) or contact cpc@aoa.org for more information.

AOA membership has benefits

receive discounts on materials and meeting registration. All for free to paraoptometric who are employed by an AOA-member optometrist. Paraoptometrics can now enroll themselves! All you need is your employer's AOA ID number.

[Read More](#)

Paraoptometric Newsletter archive

Catch up on paraoptometric news you may have missed in the [newsletter archive](#).



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

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The AOA is here to help.

Chat with an AOA representative at www.aoa.org 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. CT.

Or call Member Services at 800.365.2219



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