

1 **Motion: That the American Optometric Association House of Delegates endorses the**  
2 **concept of general Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification for Optometry**  
3 **and authorizes the AOA to participate in the development, formation, implementation and**  
4 **governance of the American Board of Optometry (ABO) and that the American**  
5 **Optometric Association House of Delegates recommends that the American Board of**  
6 **Optometry (ABO) adopt the following founding principles and develop a process for**  
7 **Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification based predominantly on the draft**  
8 **model proposal below:**

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11 **Founding Principles:**

- 12 1. The certificate conferred by the American Board of Optometry may be used for credentialing  
13 purposes only. Certification does not confer legal qualification, privilege, or license to  
14 practice optometry. The ABO will not in any way interfere with nor limit the professional  
15 activities of any duly licensed optometrist who is not certified by the ABO.
- 16 2. The ABO will create multiple pathways to achieve board certification.
- 17 3. The ABO will oversee a process for general board certification of optometry and will not  
18 interfere with other established optometric sub-specialty certifications such as Fellowship in  
19 the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, Fellowship in the Neuro-Optometric  
20 Rehabilitation Association, and Diplomate programs of the American Academy of  
21 Optometry.
- 22 4. The composition of the ABO should reflect that board certification and maintenance of  
23 certification for optometry has been established by the profession as a means of  
24 demonstrating ongoing clinical competence independent of established licensing and  
25 regulatory boards.
- 26 5. The AOA reserves the right to withdraw its endorsement and support of the ABO at any  
27 time.

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***DRAFT MODEL***  
***American Board of Optometry (ABO)***  
***Governance***

The new board will be called the American Board of Optometry. It will be an independent not-for-profit corporation with seven members, consisting of one (1) Public Member and representatives nominated by the following organizations:

- American Academy of Optometry (1)
- American Optometric Association (2)
- American Optometric Student Association (1, an OD licensed <5 years)
- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (1)
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (1)

Each member of the board will serve a maximum of two 3-year terms with a staggered initial appointment. Organizations will submit a slate of three nominees per position for selection of replacement board members.

45 **DRAFT MODEL**

46 **American Board of Optometry (ABO)**

47 **Initial Board Certification Process**

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49 **STEP ONE: Initial Application to the American Board of Optometry.**

50 **A Candidate for Board Certification must submit the Eligibility Application, Application**  
51 **Fee, and evidence of the following Initial Qualifying Requirements:**

- 52 • Graduate of School or College of Optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on  
53 Optometric Education (ACOE).
- 54 • Possession of an active license to practice therapeutic optometry in a State, District of  
55 Columbia, U.S. Commonwealth or Territory.
- 56 • Clearance of Search of National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) & Healthcare Integrity and  
57 Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) [*Note: Closed cases and infractions that have been reported*  
58 *to the NPDB and/or HIPDB that do not prevent an optometrist from holding an unrestricted*  
59 *license should not be an impediment to Board Certification.*]
- 60 • Statement of adherence to American Board of Optometry Code of Ethics

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62 Upon confirmation of the requirements, the American Board of Optometry will confer that the  
63 candidate is **Board Eligible/Active Candidate** for a period of one year. Candidates may renew  
64 their **Board Eligible/Active Candidate Status** for up to three years total by submitting of proof  
65 of completion of **50 points** progress toward completion of Post-Graduate Educational  
66 Requirements by the end of each year of board eligibility.

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68 **STEP TWO: Application for the Board Certification Examination**

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70 **A Board Eligible Optometrist must submit the Certification Application and evidence of**  
71 **the completion *within the previous three years* of the following Licensure and Educational**  
72 **Requirements:**

- 73 • Three years active licensure (\*See Exceptions)
- 74 • 150 Points of Post Graduate Educational Requirements

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76 **Post Graduate Educational Requirements:**

77 A minimum of 150 points after initial licensure establishes eligibility for the examination. These  
78 must be attained within the three years immediately prior to the examination and can be attained  
79 by the following experiences. Note that these categories have minimum or maximum points  
80 permitted.

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82 **1. Residency**

83 Certificate of Completion of an ACOE-accredited optometry residency is worth 150 points  
84 toward the requirement if within three years of completion of the residency, or 100 points if  
85 between 3-10 years of completion of the residency. \*In addition, the three-year active  
86 licensure general requirement is waived. *[Note: For those who apply within a three-year  
87 window from the date on which the American Board of Optometry accepts applications, an  
88 ACOE-accredited Residency will count 150 points regardless of when completed.]*

89 **2. Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry**

90 Certificate of Fellowship (Clinical) in the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) is worth  
91 50 points toward the requirement if within 10 years of completion of Fellowship. \*In  
92 addition, the three-year active licensure general requirement is reduced to 1 year. *[Note: For  
93 those who apply within a three-year window from the date on which the American Board of  
94 Optometry accepts applications, a Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry  
95 (Clinical) will count 50 points regardless of when completed.]*

96 **3. Experience in Practice**

97 For those who apply within a three-year window from the date on which the American Board  
98 of Optometry accepts applications, a maximum of 150 Experience in Practice Points will be  
99 accrued equal to 5 points per year of active licensure.

100 **4. Fellowship in the College of Optometrists in Vision Development.** *For those who apply  
101 within a three-year window from the date on which the American Board of Optometry  
102 accepts applications, a Fellowship in the College of Optometrists in Vision Development will  
103 be worth 50 points toward initial board certification in optometry.*

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105 **OTHER:**

106 **Category I Education: A Minimum of 50% of Points must be Category I.**

107 A. Continuing Education conferences, meetings or workshops carrying ABO-authorized  
108 credit (such as State, District of Columbia, U.S. Commonwealth or Territory board approved  
109 or COPE-approved credit.) *[Note: Continuing Education with Examination, CEE, is*  
110 *acceptable but not required, and will be credited with 2 points per hour of education.]*  
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112 **Category II Education: A Maximum of 50% of Points can be Category II. A maximum**  
113 ***of 20% of the total points can be from any lettered sub-category.***  
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115 A. Educational activities (such as papers and poster presentations, scientific sessions and  
116 grand rounds) provided by schools and colleges of optometry accredited by the Accreditation  
117 Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), and medical schools approved by the Liaison  
118 Committee on Medical Education (LCME).  
119

120 B. Distance learning courses, both interactive and non-interactive, with examinations that  
121 qualify for ABO-authorized credit (such as State, District of Columbia, U.S. Commonwealth  
122 or Territory board approved or COPE-approved credit.) upon completion. (Examples include  
123 electronic media, audio/video tapes, and journals.)  
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125 C. Educational or scientific portions of hospital meetings, local optometric or medical society  
126 meetings, or grand rounds not approved by COPE or the state board.  
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128 D. Other ABO-authorized performance in practice activities (other than SAMs or PPMs)  
129 such as web-based quality improvement modules, record review, peer evaluation,  
130 documented point of care learning, etc.  
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132 E. An educational program of a university or college having a defined curriculum, designated  
133 faculty, and accreditation from a recognized institutional accrediting organization or an  
134 agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, that is designed to enhance a  
135 participant's instructional, research, administrative, or clinical knowledge and skills  
136 necessary for the participant to succeed as an educator, administrator, or practitioner in  
137 optometry.  
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139 F. Scholarly Activities

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- 141 • Members of teams who develop assessment tools, including Self-Assessment  
142 Module (SAM) and Performance In Practice Modules (PPM) knowledge  
143 development for Initial and Maintenance of Certification for Optometrists, item  
144 developers for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO), members  
145 of graduate thesis committees or AAO oral examination committees.
  - 146 • Teaching healthcare students or healthcare professionals.
  - 147 • Review of manuscripts for publication in a peer-reviewed optometry, medical or  
148 scientific journal.
  - 149 • Publication of a clinical, review or research article in a peer reviewed optometry,  
150 medical or scientific journal.

151 **Category III Education (FOR MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION ONLY, not**  
152 **initial board certification)**

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154 A. Completion of Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) and Performance In Practice Modules  
155 (PPMs) designed to enhance knowledge and skills significant to the practice of optometry.

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157 *NOTE: All points are subject to final approval of the American Board of Optometry.*

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159 **STEP THREE: Completion of the Board Certification Examination**

160 **A Board Eligible/Active Candidate Optometrist should pass the Examination within 12**  
161 **months of submitting the Application for the Board Certification Examination.**

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163 **Board Certification Examination**

164 The Examination is an Enhanced Patient Assessment and Management-like (PAM-like)  
165 examination(s) with areas of emphasis

- 166
- 167 • Possible Examination Topics:

168 Refractive Status / Sensory Processes / Oculomotor Processes:

- 169
- 170 • Ametropia
  - Ophthalmic optics

- 171           • Contact lenses  
172           • Low vision  
173           • Binocular Vision / Perceptual anomalies

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175           Disease / Trauma:

- 176           • Lids / lashes / lacrimal system / ocular adnexa / orbit  
177           • Conjunctiva / cornea / refractive surgery  
178           • Lens / cataract / IOL / pre- and post-operative care  
179           • Episclera / sclera / uvea  
180           • Vitreous / retina  
181           • Optic nerve / neuro-ophthalmic pathways  
182           • Glaucoma  
183           • Emergencies  
184           • Systemic health

185

- 186           • The candidates will choose three of the bulleted topics to weight their examination toward  
187           their areas of interest.

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189           **Upon successful completion of the Board Certification Examination, the American Board**  
190           **of Optometry will confer *Board Certified* status to the optometrist for a period of 10 years.**

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192 *DRAFT MODEL*

193 *American Board of Optometry (ABO)*

194 *Maintenance of Certification Process*

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196 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) in Optometry is a four step process:

- 197 1. Professional Standing
- 198 • Current, valid, therapeutic license
- 199 2. Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
- 200 • Education (e.g., CE) and self-assessment (e.g., SAMs)
- 201 3. Practice Performance Assessment
- 202 • Demonstrate ability to assess the quality of care provided compared to peers and
  - 203 national benchmarks and apply best evidence or consensus recommendations to
  - 204 improve care using follow-up assessments (e.g., PPMs)
- 205 4. Cognitive Expertise (PAM-like examination)
- 206 • Demonstrate through examination the fundamental practice-related and practice
  - 207 environment-related knowledge to provide quality of care

208  
209 MOC introduces to optometry two new concepts that are used for MOC programs in medicine,  
210 Self-Assessment Modules and Performance in Practice Modules.

- 211 1. Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs)
- 212 a. Provide in-depth assessment of current knowledge in specific content areas
  - 213 b. Consist of 2 parts:
    - 214 i. A 60 item knowledge assessment, with direct links to supporting
    - 215 references and critiques, and
    - 216 ii. A clinical simulation that focuses on patient management
  - 217 c. Completed over the Internet, usually in 1-4 hours
- 218 2. Performance In Practice Modules (PPMs)
- 219 a. Comprised of a quality improvement activity which takes place over a 3- to 6-
  - 220 month period
  - 221 b. Incorporates a practice assessment questionnaire related to a specific diagnostic
  - 222 code or set of codes selected by the optometrist
  - 223 c. Practice pattern is evaluated:

- 224 i. Select patient records based on specific diagnostic codes
- 225 ii. Enter data on various clinical measures
- 226 iii. Receive immediate feedback on how responses compare with peers
- 227 iv. The program will suggest interventions to affect clinical outcomes

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229 The Ten-Year MOC process is divided into three 3-year stages and a recertification examination  
230 year. In each of Stages I, II and III, Board Certified Optometrists must complete 150 total points  
231 within the three years, including 2 SAMs (worth 15 points each) and 1 PPM (worth 50 points)  
232 and 70 total points over the three years from other educational activities, at least 50% from  
233 Category I Education. All Stage III requirements must be completed to be eligible for the re-  
234 certification examination. The Board Certified Optometrist may apply for recertification  
235 examination in either the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> year of the certification cycle.