South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry Licensure Information

A license to practice optometry can be obtained by completing Licensure by Credentials or Licensure by Endorsement requirements. If you have not passed the National Board of Examiners in Optometry’s Parts I, II, III, and the TMOD you will need to apply for Licensure by Endorsement. South Carolina does not have reciprocity with any state or issue temporary permits to practice optometry.

Applicants are evaluated individually to determine eligibility and if circumstances warrant, passage of an additional examination may be required.

Requirements for all Applicants

- Complete the online or paper Optometry Application for Licensure. The $425 fee is payable to the S.C. Optometry Board. A credit card is required for online applications and a check or money order is required for paper applications.

- Include a copy of your driver’s license. If applicable, additional documentation may be required; information can be found in the Affidavit of Eligibility section of the application.

- Request an official optometry school transcript showing the O.D. degree and date awarded with the Registrar's seal to be directly submitted by the school to the Board office.

- Request the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) report examination scores directly to the Board office.

- Provide documentation of any military service.

- A verification of licensure must be directly submitted from all states in which you have ever held a license to practice optometry.

- Pass the S.C. Board of Examiners in Optometry Jurisprudence Examination; this is an online examination consisting of thirty multiple choice and true/false questions. Examination questions are taken from information contained in the S.C. Practice Act and Regulations found at www.llronline.com. Select Licensing Boards, Optometry, then select Laws/Policies. After you have met all other requirements, information on accessing the online examination will be sent to you.

Licensure by Endorsement Additional Requirements – S.C. Optometry Law Section 40-37-245 and Regulation 95-5 address endorsement requirements.

- Applicant must currently hold an active and unrestricted license to practice optometry in another jurisdiction that includes authorization by law to treat glaucoma. TPA licensure must be reported on your current practice state’s verification.

- Must have actively practiced optometry at the therapeutic level for the past twelve months or twenty-four out of the thirty-six months immediately preceding this application.

- Must have passed a practical examination that was required for licensure in another state.