



## OHIO OPTICAL DISPENSERS BOARD

77 SOUTH HIGH ST. 16<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6108  
(614) 466-9709 FAX (614) 995-5392  
[WWW.OPTICAL.OHIO.GOV](http://WWW.OPTICAL.OHIO.GOV)  
Email: [odb@odb.ohio.gov](mailto:odb@odb.ohio.gov)

### EXAM AND LICENSURE PROCESS

To become licensed to be authorized to practice as a dispensing optician in Ohio, you must be able to document the following:

#### A. Education and/or Experience

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be of good moral character;
- Be a graduate of an accredited high school or have attained an educational equivalent such as having a GED; and,

1. Earned a degree in optical dispensing from a Board approved school (Go to Home Page for links to Board approved schools);

**Or,**

2. Completed a two year registered apprenticeship of a least one thousand (1000) hours per year in optical dispensing under the direct supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, of which one year of not less than 30 hours/week of optical laboratory experience under the direct supervision of a licensed dispensing optician which may be used towards the apprenticeship requirements.;

**Or,**

3. Completed two years of experience of a least one thousand (1000) hours per year of direct supervision **and** in the employment of an optometrist or ophthalmologist

#### B. National Qualifying Exam

- Proof of successfully passing the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) examination for licensure as a dispensing spectacle optician;
- Proof of successfully passing the National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE) examination for licensure as a dispensing contact lens optician. (Go to Home Page for link to ABO)

**\*\*For the purposes of licensure, exam results are valid for three years.\*\***

## C. Licensure Application

All individuals must apply for licensure from the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board in order to practice as a dispensing optician and to hold themselves out to be a licensed dispensing optician in Ohio.

### **TO APPLY ONLINE PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:**

- All license and registration applications must be submitted online. [CLICK here for more information.](#)
- We recommend using Google Chrome.
- You must register to create a new user account when you apply for a license or registration for the first time.
  - If you never applied for a license or registration to the Optical Dispensers Board or with any other board in Ohio, CLICK “I Don’t Have a License” to create a new user account.
  - If you have applied previously or currently hold a license in Ohio with the Optical Dispensers Board or any other board, CLICK “I Have a License” when creating a new user account. You will also need your Security Code. See below for instructions to obtain your Security Code.

#### ▪ **INSTRUCTIONS**

[Click Here for INSTRUCTIONS to Create a New Account & Obtaining your Security Code](#)

Download and review the instructions before starting. Obtaining your Security Code this way will only work if you have previously applied for, or already have a license or certificate with the Board and have access to the same email address you used previously with us.

**eLicense.Ohio.gov**

[Click Here to Apply](#)

**Browser Information:** It is recommended that you use newer versions of Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox web browsers. Internet Explorer users, must use IE 11 or Edge to access the eLicense 3.0 system.