



OHIO OPTICAL DISPENSERS BOARD

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HOW TO BECOME A LICENSED DISPENSING OPTICIAN

To become a spectacle, contact lens or spectacle/contact lens licensee in Ohio, you must meet and provide the following:

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicant must be of good moral character.
“Good Moral Character” means proof from at least two individuals in the form of a written statement attesting to the individual’s good standing in the community, said statement to be based on an acquaintanceship of not less than three years. Criminal records checks may be required.
- Applicant is free of contagious or infectious disease that may impair the ability to provide safe care.
- Applicant is a graduate of an accredited high school of any state; or has attained an educational equivalent.
“An Educational Equivalent” means the proof of having successfully passed the GED examinations or a GED certificate of high school equivalency diploma.
- Applicant has attained one of the following:

Applicant must have earned a degree in optical dispensing from a Board approved school.

OR:

Two year of experience of at least 1000 hours per year in optical dispensing as a registered apprentice under the direct supervision of a Licensed Dispensing Optician, of which you may use one year of not less than 30 hours of optical laboratory experience.

OR:

Completion of two years of supervised experience and employment under a physician licensed by the state medical board engaged in the practice of Ophthalmology; or two years of supervised experience and employment under a licensed Optometrist of which you may use one year of not less than 30 hours of optical laboratory experience.

- Proof of successfully passing the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) examination if applying for a spectacle license.
- Proof of successfully passing the National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE) examination if applying for a contact lens license.
- **Ohio law requires you must apply for your Ohio License within one year of receiving notification that you were successful in passing the exam.**
- **Optical Dispensers Board – www.optical.ohio.gov**
You may obtain an application for licensure from this web site.
- **For examination information contact:**
ABO/NCLE – 800-296-1379