

## 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 ([Click here for a list of 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. ([Click for more info about the ABO/NCLE exam](#))

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

### C. Licensure Application

All individuals must apply for licensure from the Ohio Vision Professionals 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. (See **INSTRUCTIONS below**)
- 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 Ohio Vision Professionals 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 or registration in Ohio with the Ohio Vision Professionals 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.



Ohio Vision  
Professionals Board

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

Download and review the instructions before starting. Obtaining you 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. [Click Here to Apply](#)