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 at 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 at 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.
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