



ADVISORY NO. RARM - 3

[Please file in your ACO Practitioner Manual in the “Advisories” Section. Replaces Advisory RARM-2.]

Date: January 1, 2008

**Subject: REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR
REGULATED MEMBERSHIP**

1. Optometrist Maintaining an Alberta License While Practicing in Alberta or Another Jurisdiction within Their Specified Three Year Competency Period

An optometrist may maintain regulated membership in the Alberta College of Optometrists as long as the following criterion is met:

- Must practice 150 days in Alberta within the member’s specified three year competency period.
- Must obtain 60 continuing education credits in the member’s specified three year competency period.
- Must pay all required fees.
- Must maintain appropriate liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.00.

2. Optometrist Currently Practicing in another Jurisdiction but not Holding an Alberta License

The optometrist must submit the following:

- Completed ACO application forms and pay all associated application fees. (Application Forms are available from the ACO office in Edmonton.)
- A letter from the Registrar of his/her current jurisdiction indicating that the applicant is a member in good standing that is dated within 30 days of applying for registration.

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- Evidence of passing the entire CSAO exam or an equivalent Canadian exam.
- Successful challenge of the ACO Jurisprudence Exam.
- Proof of meeting the TPA certification requirements if not a graduate from an accredited School of Optometry since 1995. (The current requirement for TPA designation in Alberta is proof of passing the Ocular Therapeutics portion of the CSAO, or, having successfully completed a 100 hour TPA course of which 60 hours was devoted to didactic instruction and 40 hours was devoted to clinical grand rounds.)
- Proof of maintenance of liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.00.
- Proof of current CPR Certificate – Level “HCP” (Health Care Practitioner).

3. Optometrist not practicing in Alberta or any Other Jurisdiction for 3 Years or Less

The optometrist must submit the following:

- Re-apply to the ACO Registration Committee and pay all associated application fees.
- Obtain the required continuing education credits for the period when in retirement.
- Pass a practical exam as determined by the ACO Registration Committee.
- Proof of current CPR Certification – Level HCP (Health Care Practitioner)
- Proof of maintenance of liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.00.
- Proof of meeting the TPA certification requirements if not a graduate from an accredited School of Optometry since 1995. (The current requirement for TPA designation in Alberta is proof of passing the Ocular Therapeutics portion of the CSAO, or, having successfully completed a 100 hour TPA course of which 60 hours was devoted to didactic instruction and 40 hours was devoted to clinical grand rounds.)

4. Optometrist Not Practicing in Alberta or any Other Jurisdiction for Longer Than 3 Years

The optometrist must submit the following:

- Re-apply to the ACO Registration Committee and pay all associated application fees.
- Write and pass all portions of the CSAO exam
- Write and pass the ACO Jurisprudence Exam
- Proof of current CPR Certification – Level HCP (Health Care Practitioner)
- Proof of maintenance of liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.000.

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- Proof of meeting the TPA certification requirements if not a graduate from an accredited School of Optometry since 1995. (The current requirement for TPA designation in Alberta is proof of passing the Ocular Therapeutics portion of the CSAO, or, having successfully completed a 100 hour TPA course of which 60 hours was devoted to didactic instruction and 40 hours was devoted to clinical grand rounds.)

5. New Graduates

i. Applicant from an Accredited School of Optometry

If the applicant has graduated from an accredited School of Optometry, the applicant must complete the following:

- ❖ Application forms must be completed and all associated application fees must be paid.
- ❖ Write and pass all portions of the CSAO exam.
- ❖ Write and pass the ACO Jurisprudence Exam.
- ❖ Provide proof of current CPR Certification – Level HCP (Health Care Practitioner)
- ❖ Provide proof of maintenance of liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.00.

Current accredited Schools of Optometry in North American include:

Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Inter American University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
Illinois College of Optometry, Chicago, IL
New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA
Northeastern State University, College of Optometry, Talequah, OK
Nova, Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR
Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Philadelphia, PA
State University of New York, New York, NY
Southern California College of Optometry, Fullerton, CA
Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, TN
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry
University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry
University of Houston, Houston, TX
University of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis, MI
University of Montreal, Montreal, PQ
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON

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ii. Applicant from a Non-Accredited School of Optometry

The applicant would be referred to the International Optometric Bridging Program at the University of Waterloo for assessment of their academic credentials and clinical skills. Upon successful completion of the Bridging Program, the applicant would then be required to successfully complete all the requirements as listed in section 5(i) - Accredited School of Optometry Graduate.