



MINNESOTA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

2020 Renewal Newsletter

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(651) 201-2762

<https://mn.gov/boards/optometry/>

Annual Renewal of License Steps

Electronic renewal only at: <https://opt.hlb.state.mn.us/#/login>

1. Update your Browser using either link:
 - a. Google Chrome <https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html>
 - b. Firefox <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>
 - c. Internet Explorer or a MAC is not always successful using the Minnesota Health Licensing Board system.
 2. **Step 1: Renew your LICENSE.** Continuing Education is NOT required this year to renew.
 3. **Step 2: Complete the Opioid Reporting requirement,** this is new this year and requires a second AUDIT process. Once completed and board staff find it satisfactory, the requirement is removed from your profile/log in page. You may complete this legislative mandate during renewal or anytime during the year.
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Opioid Continuing Education Requirement for Prescribers

Effective January 1, 2020, all health care licensees who have authority to prescribe controlled substances must obtain two (2) hours of continuing education credits between January 1, 2020 and November 30, 2022. The continuing education credits must include content on:

1. best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances; and
2. non-pharmacological and implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain.

You are exempt from completing this requirement if you:

1. do not hold DEA registration, or
2. participate in the Department of Human Services Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program (OPIP). You are considered a participant if you have prescribed opioids for outpatient pain management to a Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) member in the current or the last calendar year AND received an opioid prescriber report from DHS in the last calendar year. An MHCP member is someone with Minnesota Medicaid or MinnesotaCare insurance.

The online system for verification of completion of the opioid continuing education is Live on the Minnesota Board of Optometry website and is the method for submitting verification of completion of the requirement.

1. Log into your account.
2. Choose the tab labeled "Opioid CE Audit (OD)".
3. Click on "Submit to Proceed" and move through the prompts.
4. Answer the questions- please read them carefully!
5. **If you DO NOT have a DEA registration, answer No and you have completed the requirement.** The tab will go away.
6. If you are required to complete the continuing education, upload the verification of completion certificate between now and November 30, 2022.
7. You may upload and submit your certification of attendance at any time during the year, not just during the renewal period. Once accepted, the tab will go away.

Minnesota Board of Optometry Accepted Opioid Continuing Education Classes:

1. Both MOA and MAOO two-hour Opioid CE sessions. Please monitor their websites.
2. AMA Category 1 CE that meets the minimum requirements as found in the statute below. Please monitor their websites.
3. Another state's CE education that focuses on narcotics and meets the minimums as found in the Statute.

Minnesota Board of Optometry Approved CE Providers:

1. COPE – (Continuing Optometric Provider Education)
2. Other U.S. State /Canadian Board Provinces Optometry Boards
3. State associations formally approved by their State Board of Optometry
4. AMA for purposes of recognized category continuing education
5. American Academy of Optometry
6. ACOE (Accredited Colleges of Optometric Education)

Opioid Compliance Requirement --- Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Where can I find a list of courses that satisfy the mandatory education requirement?
A. Please use the above references for any Opioid related education if it pertains to the practice of Optometry or those approved by a Minnesota CE Provider. The Opioid issue is a national focus at this time and board broadened their approval for other states if an OD is practicing in a border state or resides farther away.
- Q. How do I know if I need to complete the mandatory education?
A. IF you hold a DEA registration, you must meet the requirement. Through your online account, Click the tab to the **Opioid CE Audit (OD)** and respond to the questions to determine whether you are required to complete the mandatory education. If you are required to complete the education, submit verification of course completion and course content any time between January 1, 2020 and November 30, 2022. The **Opioid CE Audit (OD)** tab will appear in your Minnesota Board of Optometry on-line account until the activity is completed.

- Q. Do I have to complete the mandatory coursework before my next renewal?
- A. No, coursework may be submitted any time between January 1, 2020 and November 30, 2022. The **Opioid CE Audit (OD)** tab will appear in your Minnesota Board of Optometry on-line account until the activity is completed.
- Q. If I don't have a DEA license, do I need to complete the mandatory education?
- A. No, if you are not **authorized** to prescribe controlled substances, you do not need to complete the coursework.
- Q. I have a DEA license, but I don't prescribe opioids. Do I have to complete the mandatory education?
- A. Yes. The law requires licensees who are **authorized** to prescribe controlled substances to complete the coursework, unless they are exempt as a participant in the Department of Human Services Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §214.12, subd. 6(b).
- Q. I completed mandatory opioid continuing education in another state. Does that satisfy the requirement for Minnesota?
- A. Yes, if it includes the criteria established in law: licensees with the authority to prescribe controlled substances must obtain at least two hours of continuing education credit on **best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances, including nonpharmacological and implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain management**. The Minnesota Board in the spirit of the law and the comprehension of Optometric related processes broadened the interpretation and will approve any other states OPTOMETRIC Opioid training continuing education. It must be approved by the board in another jurisdiction. Coursework that does not meet the statutory content requirements of the Minnesota law will not be accepted.
- Q. I live and/or practice outside of Minnesota. Do I need to satisfy this mandatory education requirement?
- A. Yes, the law requires individuals **who hold a Minnesota license** and who are **authorized** to prescribe controlled substances to complete the coursework, unless they are exempt as a participant in the Minnesota Department of Human Services Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §214.12, subd. 6(b).
- Q. Does the Opioid CE apply to my renewal of license requirements in 2021 and also the Minnesota Opioid?
- A. Yes, the completion of a Minnesota or COPE approved CE will apply to both the Minnesota Opioid requirement and towards the 2021 clock hour requirement.

STATUTE:

- [Minnesota Statute 214.12 Subdivision 6](#) will expire on January 1, 2023.
- [Optometry News Article](#)

Continuing Education

How many Continuing Education Hours are required for next year or the 2022 License Renewal?

Date of Initial License	Required Number of CE Credits to Renew for 2022
Before January 1, 2020	40 CE Credits
Between January 1 and December 31, 2020	20 CE Credits
Between January 1 and December 31, 2021	0 CE Credits

CE Requirements:	Maximum Clock Hours in Category
Correspondence or Internet (Enduring)*	Up to 15
Practice Management*	Up to 6
Total Required Hours	40
Timeframe (in years) for CE Requirements	2

*pro-rated on initial licensure date

What is Live CE?

The Minnesota Board of Optometry reviewed and utilizes the current national COPE definitions. For Minnesota, LIVE and Interactive Distance Learning are considered as LIVE.

LIVE: A live format is when the instructor is in the same room with the participants, even if other formats are used as audiovisual aids for teaching the course. The instructor is face to-face with the audience and can touch the participants.

Examples include

- CE: There is no post-course test.
- CEE (Continuing Education with Examination): There is a post-course test.

Interactive Distance Learning: (Minnesota Format = Live credit) This format allows for immediate interaction and feedback between the audience and the instructor. Once the event has taken place, learners may no longer participate in that activity.

Examples include:

- webinar
- video conference
- teleconference

In Minnesota, this is considered a LIVE Continuing Education Event

Enduring Distance Learning (Minnesota Format = Non-Live/Non-Interactive): Format that provides one-way content to the audience without immediate interaction with the instructor. There is not just one time on one day to participate in the activity, rather, the participant determines when he/she participates.

Examples include:

- webcast
- podcast
- video
- journal
- website
- written, or

- other format that provides one-way content to the audience without immediate interaction with the instructor.

In Minnesota, this is considered ‘non-interactive’ event and limited to 15 hours per two-year CE cycle.

How is COPE vs NON-COPE CE approved by the Minnesota Board?

If CE hours are officially entered in your personal OE Tracker account by Continuing Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), they have been **approved** for your renewal of license.

Continuing education (CE) program hours are required to be approved by:

1. COPE, or
2. Minnesota Board of Optometry, or
3. Approved by a Minnesota recognized reviewer; such as another state board of Optometry.

Any NON-COPE approved CE hours but have been **approved by the Minnesota Board CE Committee** will be marked ‘NON-COPE’ in OE Tracker. They are valid for your Minnesota required CE hours; but *may* not qualify for other states renewal of license. COPE provides a five-digit approval number and Minnesota approved sessions are identified in OE Tracker with a MNYR-Event numbering model, such as MN20-058-GO.

ARBO/OE Tracker Contact Information:

To send copies of certificates of attendance to be entered into OE Tracker: Either scan and email, mail or fax them to:

Fax: 888-703-4848

Website: <http://www.arbo.org/>

Email: arbo@arbo.org

Phone Number 704-970-2710

Mailing Address:

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry 200 South
College Street, Suite 2030
Charlotte, NC. 28202

Duplicate License Cards: To order additional license cards...

Step 1: To order duplicate license cards, click “Add to Cart and Continue Shopping” on the Fee Information page.

Submit a Renewal Application (Optometrist #1642)

Payment Fee Details

Payment Information	Amount
Annual Renewal Fee	\$135.00
Total Amount	\$135.00

Buttons: Add to Cart and Continue Shopping, Previous, Proceed To Checkout

Step 2: It will reroute you to the Profile page to order Duplicate Cards

- License Lookup
- License Verification
- Submit an Application for Licensure
- Request a Duplicate License Card (1)

Profile Information

Name John Snow

Birth Date 01/01/1900

Email Address atthewall@gotmail.com 

Website No Website on Record 

Phone Numbers 

Type	Number	Public	Primary
Business	555-867-5309	✓	 

New User: Please select 'Online Services' from the drop-down menu to find the available services for you, such as online applications.

Existing User: To renew your license, or to continue with an existing application, click the respective tab on the left.

2020 Update from the Board:

Professional Firms

Online renewal of the Professional Firms annual registration will soon be available. OD's with a Professional Firm Registration will be emailed a separate notification with a direct link to the online registration. This is required for all health-related licensing boards meeting this law that requires the Minnesota Optometrist to own certain Minnesota incorporated businesses providing Optometry professional services.

Contact Lens Consumer Act on Website;

New information on the FDA's new contact lens law is found on the website.

Board Appointments:

In June 2020 Governor Walz appointed Tina McCarty, OD, Maple Grove, to the Board, replacing Don Sipola who served two four-year terms. We welcome Dr. McCarty and thank Dr. Sipola for their service on the board.

Eric Bailey, OD has served one four term and his term expires on June 30, 2021. He is eligible for another term. Ron Czerepak is a retired educator and serves as a public member on the board. Both positions will be open in November 2020 with more information below.

The Open positions are posted in November of each year. If interested, appointments are initiated through the Secretary of State and those applications are forwarded to the Governor who makes the final selection. If interested in this board position, please contact the office with any questions or go directly to the Secretary of State and complete an application. <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/boards-commissions/current-vacancies/>

Current Board Members

Patrick O'Neill , OD, President <i>Northfield</i> <i>Term ends 1/2023</i>	Sam Villella , OD <i>Blaine</i> <i>Term Ends 1/2023</i>
Tina McCarty , OD <i>Maple Grove</i> <i>Term ends 1/2024</i>	Shari Koll , Public Member <i>Springfield</i> <i>Term ends 1/2023</i>
Ron Czerepak , Public Member <i>North St. Paul</i> <i>Term Ends 1/2021</i>	Eric Bailey , OD, Vice President <i>St. Cloud</i> <i>Term ends 1/2021</i>
Michelle Shi-Ming Falk , OD, Secretary <i>Woodbury</i> <i>Term ends 1/2022</i>	Phone: 651-201-2762 Fax: 651-201-2763 Email: optometryboard@state.mn.us

Minnesota Board of Optometry Mission:

The Board works collaboratively with other multiple stakeholders, including the valuable Provider Associations, who are dedicated to advancing the professional of Optometry. The boards' mission is dedicated towards *Public Safety* by:

- Promoting the publics' interest in receiving quality optometric health care from competent licensed optometrists.
- Protecting the public by ensuring that all licensed optometrists meet the educational and practical requirements specified in law.
- Protecting the public by setting standards for quality optometric health care.
- Protecting the public by addressing all concerns from patients regarding optometric care.