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**Board of Optometry**

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

**AT A GLANCE**

**Credentialing Services**

- 2,545 renewed licenses
- 152 new licenses

**Education Services**

- 2,545 reviews of reported continuing education
- 100% auditing of reported continuing education
- 110 continuing education program approvals
- 40 individual continuing education approvals

**Complaint Resolution**

- Investigated 26 complaints
- Formal action for 3 complaints

For two-year period ended 06/30/2024

**PURPOSE**

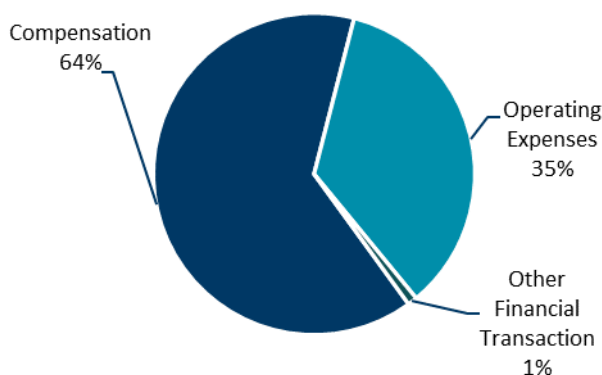
The Minnesota Board of Optometry is responsible for protection of the public through the regulation of the Doctor of Optometry (OD’s) in the state of Minnesota. The Board was established in 1901 under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 148, and was the first optometry board in the nation. Regulation is accomplished through licensure examination, annual license renewal, continuing education requirements, as well as providing neutral investigations and resolution of complaints against licensees. Approximately 75% of Minnesotans use some type of vision correction with Optometrists serving as first point of contact for many Minnesotans.

**The Board’s mission is to:**

- Protect the public through effective licensure and enforcement of the statutes and rules governing the practice of optometry.
- Ensure a standard of competent and ethical care.
- Provides timely and neutral resolution of complaints.

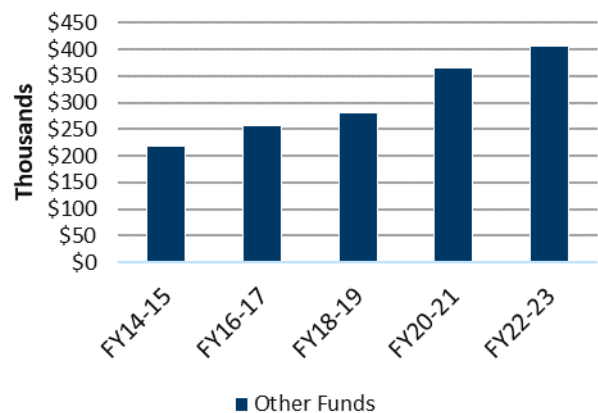
**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category  
FY 2023 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Board is funded by licensure fees and receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes section 214.06, subdivision 1(a) requires the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient to cover direct and indirect expenditures. Funds are deposited as non-dedicated revenue into the state government special revenue fund. From this fund, the Board receives a direct appropriation to pay for agency expenses such as salaries, rent, costs associated with disciplinary/contested cases, and operating expenditures. It also pays statewide indirect costs through an open appropriation.

In addition to Board operations, licensure fees fund activities that support multiple boards and/or other agencies. Some of these are: MNIT – technology, (inter-board) SMART, MMB-Administrative Operations support (inter-board), Health Professionals Services Program (inter-board), Prescription Monitoring Program (Pharmacy Board), Office of the Attorney General for legal services, and the Criminal Background Check Program (inter-board).

Board members communicate openly with licensees to ensure fees are used prudently. The national optometry board, the Association of Regulatory Boards for Optometry (ARBO) completes an annual survey of all fees charged to the nation's OD's for licensing activities. The Minnesota Board of Optometry fees are in the bottom 25% percentile in the nation for both initial licensure costs and the annual renewal rate.

## STRATEGIES

### **The Board of Optometry regulates the profession by:**

- Setting educational standards for initial licensure.
- Reviewing applicant's education and training to determine compliance with the board's licensure requirements.
- Reasonably ensuring that only applicants who meet licensure requirements are granted a license.
- Issuing initial and renew licensure for qualified professionals.
- Setting continuing education requirements for maintenance of licensure.
- Setting standards of practice and taking disciplinary or corrective action against misconduct for licensees.
- Responding to public and agency inquiries, complaints, and reports regarding licensure and conduct of applicants and licensees and completing those reviews in a timely and neutral manner.
- Providing information about licensure requirements and standards of practice to citizens and other interested persons or agencies.

As of August 2024, the board provides services to 1279 licensed optometrists in Minnesota and collaborates with continuing education and provider associations.

Quarterly board meetings are driven by seven governor-appointed board members with other stakeholders in attendance. Complaints are actively reviewed by two ODs and one public member to assure the blending of both perspectives in seeking a timely and neutral review of the concerns presented. The board agenda reflects quality improvement activities with key statistics tracked and shared with the attendees. Board discussion leads to action steps and directives to staff which is listed in the minutes of each board meeting. Those minutes are posted on the website.

## RESULTS

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Formal complaints/inquiry	Result	Formal complaints received via email	The number of complaints received and closed without formal investigation within three months has increased over last five years with increased focus on resolution.	88% (FY 2023 and 2024)
License renewals	Quantity	Online software	In past five years a transition from a mix of paper and online renewal, to entirely online.	100% (FY 2023 and FY 2024)
License Applications	Quantity	Online database	A transition from paper applications to exclusively online	100% (FY 2023 and FY 2024)

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The statutory authority for the Minnesota Board of Optometry was updated in 2015 and is located in Chapter 148: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes?id=148.52>

The rules were updated in July 2018 and are located in MN Rules Chapter 6500. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=6500>

Additional statutes pertaining to all health licensing boards are found in Chapters 13, 16, and 214.