



ALBERTA college
of OPTOMETRISTS

EXISTING PRACTITIONER LICENSED IN A JURISDICTION IN THE UNITED STATES

APPLICATION CHECKLIST, PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM & STATUTORY DECLARATION

1. **Letter of Good Standing** - Have the Registrar in all jurisdictions you have been licensed and/or practiced in forward a Letter of Good Standing directly to the Registrar of the Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) stating that you are currently (or were upon leaving) a member in good standing. In addition, the letter must:
 - State whether you are currently under investigation or whether you have ever been found guilty of unprofessional conduct in the past.
 - Be dated within 30 days of processing your application.
 - State that you have maintained your Continuing Competence requirements such as continuing education credits, practice assessment and hours of active practice while practicing in that jurisdiction.
2. **Labor Mobility** – The Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) that became effective July 1, 2017, does not apply to applicants from jurisdictions outside of Canada.
3. **National Optometry Board Exam** - If you are a graduate of an accredited School of Optometry (those located in Canada or the US), you may apply directly to the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) to challenge the OEBC exam. Please visit www.oebc.ca regarding prerequisites, exam dates, fees, etc. A directory of accredited Schools of Optometry is also listed on the ACO website.
4. **International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP)** - All graduates of a non-accredited Schools of Optometry (those located outside of Canada or the United States) are required to:
 - a) Pass the FORAC Credentialing process. Complete credentialing information is available on the FORAC website: www.forac-faroc.ca.
 - b) Successfully complete the IOBP at the University of Waterloo. Complete course information is available at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/iobp.
5. **Preliminary Application Registration Fee** - The Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) levies a Preliminary Application Registration Fee of \$400.00 (Canadian funds only). The ACO office accepts Visa, MasterCard, money orders, cheques or cash.
6. **Optometry Degree and/or Diploma** – Please forward a certified copy of your optometry Degree and/or Diploma. This certification must be notarized by a lawyer, public notary, Justice of the Peace, University official or Commissioner of Oaths.

7. **Official Transcripts** - Please ensure that official copies of **all** of your post-secondary transcripts are forwarded to the ACO office. You may request that the University send your transcript(s) directly to the ACO office or have them sent to you. If the transcript(s) is sent directly to you, you must forward this documentation to the ACO office in its **original sealed envelope**. Opened or unsealed envelopes will not be accepted. Official transcripts include courses taken during your B.Sc., M.Sc., O.D., Ph.D. or other equivalent program(s).
8. **Certification** – The ACO requires that all new Regulated Members must be TPA certified and Advanced Scope certified (definitions on pages 5 & 6). A Practice Permit will not be issued unless the applicant is both TPA and Advanced Scope certified.
9. **ACO Jurisprudence Exam** - The ACO Jurisprudence Exam is a one hour, closed book exam based on based on provincial legislation and the ACO Standards of Practice (available on the ACO website) and is structured in a true/false and multiple choice format. The exam can be written:
 - a) At the Alberta College of Optometrists office in Edmonton; or,
 - b) At the office of a member of the ACO Registration Committee in Calgary.
 Please contact the Alberta College of Optometrists office for registration and additional information about this process.
10. **CPR Certificate** - All applications must include a current Level C Health Care Practitioner (HCP) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate. CPR certificates are available from a variety of providers such as Red Cross, Heart & Stroke Foundation, YMCA, St. John’s Ambulance, etc.
11. **Criminal Records Check** - The ACO requires a Criminal Records Synopsis that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search for all new applicants. The fee for obtaining this document from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) or local Police Detachment is the responsibility of the applicant. In addition, the document must be **submitted directly to the ACO office**. Please visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca for further information on this requirement.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM, STATUTORY DECLARATION, APPLICATION FEE AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (AS NOTED ABOVE) TO:

**The Alberta College of Optometrists
#102, 8407 Argyll Road NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T6C 4B2**

Should you require additional information please contact:

Dr. Gordon Hensel
Registrar and CEO
Tel: (780)466-5999 or E-Mail registrar@collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca
or
ACO General Administrative Office
Tel: (780)466-5999 or E-Mail admin@collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca

Visit our website at www.collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca for additional information about the governance and practice of optometry in Alberta.



PRELIMINARY APPLICATION REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

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- Completed, Signed and Dated Preliminary Application Registration Form**
 - Completed, Signed and Dated Statutory Declaration**
 - Attach Preliminary Application Registration Fee (Canadian funds only)**
 - Letter of Good Standing from the Registrar of all jurisdictions you have been previously licensed and/or practiced in**
 - Official Transcripts of all Post-Secondary Pre-Optometry Programs**
 - Official Transcript of Optometry Program**
 - Certified Copy of Optometry Degree and/or Diploma**
 - Certified Copy of Your Letter of Successful Completion of International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP) (if applicable)**
 - Original Copy (with official seal) of OEBC, CACO or CSAO Exam Results**
 - Certified Copy of Your TPA Certification (if applicable)**
 - Certified Copy of Your Advanced Scope Certification (if applicable)**
 - Current CPR Certificate – Health Care Professional (HCP) Level C**
 - RCMP or Local Police Detachment Criminal Records Check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Search**
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2. ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

Pre-Optometry Education:

Degree	Date	School

Optometry Education:

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Length of Program: _____

Program Commenced: _____ Date Completed: _____

International Optometric Bridging Program (for graduates of non-accredited Schools):

Date Commenced: _____ Date Completed: _____

TPA and Advanced Scope Education: (description and the number of hours of didactic & clinical instruction if taken separately from School of Optometry curriculum).

Practice Information: List all jurisdiction(s) and dates of registration in the U.S.A., Canada or elsewhere in which you are now, or ever have been registered as a practicing optometrist:

3. CERTIFICATION

The ACO requires **all** new Regulated Members to be TPA and Advanced Scope certified.

TPA certification is defined as:

- a) Passing the entire OEBC, CACO or CSAO exam for practitioners who graduated after January 1, 1996 from an accredited School of Optometry.
- b) Registering in another Canadian province with the NBEO and being declared TPA certified by that province before transferring to Alberta.
- c) Completing a separate TPA Certification Course (minimum of 100 hours long of which 60 hours are didactic and 40 hours are clinical) for practitioners who graduated before January 1, 1996.
- d) Completing appropriate therapeutic care clinical hours and patient experiences for graduates of non-accredited Schools of Optometry.

6. EVIDENCE OF GOOD CHARACTER

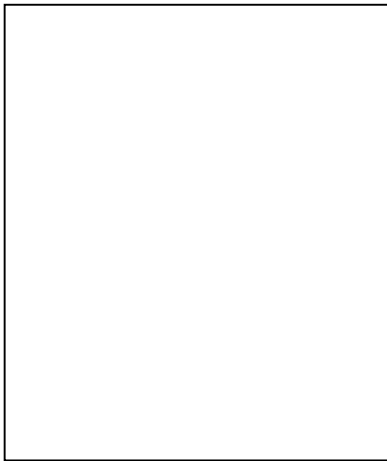
Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) Criminal Records Synopsis:
To be submitted by the RCMP directly to the Alberta College of Optometrists.

Have you ever been found guilty of a criminal offense in any jurisdiction: yes no

Have you ever had your license or registration refused or rejected in any jurisdiction:
 yes no

Have you ever had any disciplinary action in any other jurisdiction: yes no

7. PLEASE ATTACH A RECENT NOTARIZED PICTURE OF YOURSELF IN THIS SPACE:



Signed: _____

Date: _____



STATUTORY DECLARATION

In the matter of my preliminary application to the Alberta College of Optometrists for approval for registration:

I, _____, of _____

in the Province/State of _____ (City/Town)
DO SOLEMNLY

DECLARE:

[1] That I was born on _____ at _____
[month day year] [place]

Immigration status in Canada _____

[2] That I am the person referred to in the documents submitted in support of my application, and that these documents present a true and accurate account of my qualifications;

and

[3] That the following is a true chronological summary of my post-secondary educational history, giving names of institutions attended, dates of attendance and degrees or diplomas achieved:

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the “Canada Evidence Act”.

[4] I hereby attest that I have never challenged the OEBC, CACO or CSAO Examinations before the date of this declaration.

-or-

I have previously challenged the OEBC, CACO or CSAO Examinations and I hereby list all of the previous dates.

_____ [Applicant from which province]
[date]

_____ [Applicant from which province]
[date]

_____ [Applicant from which province]
[date]

[5] That I am TPA certified via:

- Passing the entire OEBC, CACO or CSAO exam for practitioners who graduated after January 1, 1996 from an accredited School of Optometry.
- Registering in another Canadian province with the NBEO and being declared TPA certified by that province before transferring to Alberta.
- Completing a separate TPA Certification Course (minimum of 100 hours long of which 60 hours are didactic and 40 hours are clinical) for practitioners who graduated before January 1, 1996.
- Completing appropriate therapeutic care clinical hours and patient experiences for graduates of non-accredited Schools of Optometry.

[6] That I am Advanced Scope certified via:

- Graduating after January 1, 2015 and passing the entire OEBC or CACO exam.
- Graduating after January 1, 2012 and registering in another Canadian province with the NBEO and passing the Alberta Advanced Scope Certification Course final exam before transferring to Alberta.
- Graduating in 2012 to 2014 and passing the CACO exam; and, passing the Alberta Advanced Scope Certification Course final exam.
- Graduating in 2011 or earlier and passing the complete Alberta Advanced Scope Certification Course or equivalent.
- Being registered and certified in a jurisdiction with similar legislation and certification requirements and passing the Alberta Advanced Scope Certification Course final exam.

[7] That I am currently not under any investigation in my jurisdiction.

[8] That I:

Have never been found guilty of unprofessional conduct

That I have been found guilty of the following (include dates)

Declared before me at _____

in the Province/State of _____ this _____ day of

_____, 20_____.

Declarant's Signature

Commissioner for Oaths, Notary Public or Justice of the Peace in
and for the Province/State of _____.