

## REGISTRATION POLICY

### Internationally Educated Applicants

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An applicant seeking registration as a Registered Optician in Ontario, who completed education related to opticianry outside of Canada is considered an Internationally Educated Applicant.

To determine whether the applicant's knowledge and skill level meet the requirements of the core competencies of the profession, their application and supporting documents will be referred to the Registration Committee for review.

The Registration Committee uses the Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition (PLAR) process to assess the applicant's current level of knowledge and skills as it relates to the practice of opticianry. To meet the eligibility requirements for PLAR, the applicant must submit documents to support the following:

1. that their academic credentials are related to the practice of opticianry and have been assessed against Canadian education standards by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Registration Committee. Specifically, applicants must undergo a World Education Services (WES) Course-by-Course Evaluation to determine the equivalency of their opticianry-related education in terms of Canadian education.
2. English or French language proficiency as set out in the Language Proficiency Policy.
3. professional background and experience related to opticianry, where applicable.

A full list of the documents that applicants must submit with their application is available on the [COO website](#).

If the applicant is unable to provide any of the required documentation due to circumstances beyond their control, the Registration Committee may consider accepting alternatives to the required documentation. An applicant must demonstrate that they have made reasonable attempts and are unable to access the required documents before acceptable alternative documentation will be considered.

After the initial review of the application and the supporting documents, the Registration Committee will make a decision about whether the applicant is eligible for the PLAR process.

Those eligible for the PLAR process will be required to undergo a Competency Gap Analysis (CGA), a multiple-choice computer-based assessment tool designed to assess the applicant's achieved learning outcomes against entry-to-practice competencies set out in the National Competencies for Canadian Opticians.

Applicants who are determined not to be eligible for the PLAR process will be provided with reasons for not meeting the eligibility requirements including what gaps were identified in the application.

For applicants that proceed to the PLAR process, the Registration Committee will direct the applicant to do one of the following, based on the outcome of the CGA:

1. Take and pass the National Examinations.
2. Complete courses approved by the Registration Committee to bridge the knowledge gaps identified in the CGA;
3. Complete opticianry education at a Canadian accredited opticianry program.