

## REGISTRATION POLICY

### Currency Policy

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#### Introduction

Practising opticians are required to ensure that their knowledge, skills and judgement remain current. This policy describes the minimum requirements for currency of practice experience for opticians who hold a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician.

#### Policy

##### *Requirement to demonstrate currency*

The Registration Regulation requires opticians to demonstrate **currency** in order to hold a certificate of registration as a Registered Optician.<sup>1</sup>

##### *Definition of current*

To be considered current, a Registered Optician must have engaged in at least 500 practice hours within the previous 3-year period.

The following activities will count as “practice hours” for the purposes of this policy:

1. Dispensing of eyeglasses, contact lenses and subnormal vision devices, and related duties (e.g. record keeping, cleaning and disinfecting eyewear, optical appliances, tools or equipment).
2. Teaching opticianry at an accredited opticianry program in Canada.
3. Supervising student and/or intern opticians in accordance with the Student/Intern Supervision Policy and/or the Contact Lens Mentor Policy.
4. Directly supervising, managing or assuring the quality of services of opticianry staff engaged in dispensing.
5. Completing continuing education activities accredited by the College.
6. Completing up to 4 hours of self-directed continuing education activities.

The following activities do NOT count as “practice hours” for the purposes of this policy:

1. Engaging in sales or marketing of eyewear or optical appliances.
2. Work in a dispensary that is not related to opticianry services (e.g. human resources, information technology, risk management, business administration).
3. Supervision of staff who are not providing opticianry services or engaging in dispensing (e.g. supervision of IT staff or reception staff).
4. Conducting or supervising research in opticianry.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 5(3)1

### *How currency is monitored*

Registered Opticians must declare at annual renewal the number of practice hours that they engaged in during the previous calendar year. To be considered current, the total number of practice hours reported over any three-year period must be at least 500.

### *Opticians who cannot demonstrate currency*

Registrants who have not engaged in at least 500 practice hours within the previous 3 years will have the following options:

1. Complete a refresher program approved by the Registration Committee. The refresher program will need to be completed within 6 months from the date the registrant is notified by the College that they do not meet the currency requirements. Registrants who do not complete the refresher program by the deadline may be referred to the Quality Assurance Committee.
2. Change their registration status to Inactive. Opticians in the Inactive Class are not entitled to practise opticianry or use the title Registered Optician. Inactive opticians may be re-issued a certificate as a Registered Optician if they meet the requirements set out in the Reinstatement and Returning to Active Practice Policy.
3. Resign their registration with the College. Opticians who resign their registration will no longer be permitted to practise opticianry or use the title Registered Optician. In order to return to practice following resignation, they would be required to re-apply to the College as a new applicant and meet the registration requirements in place at the time of their re-application. For more information see the Resignation Policy.