

Briefing Note

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Registration Committee

DATE: June 3, 2024

SUBJECT: 10.2 Approved Education Programs Policy
APPENDIX A: Draft Approved Education Programs Policy

☒ For Decision

☐ For Discussion

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To approve the proposed policy on Approved Education Programs stemming from the amendments to the Registration Regulation.

Background:

In 2017, the College of Opticians of Ontario (COO) submitted proposed amendments to the [Registration](#) and [Examination](#) regulations under the *Opticianry Act, 1991*. The proposed amendments were approved by the Ontario Government on February 1, 2024, and will come into force on July 1, 2024.

Under the amended Registration Regulation, the Registration Committee has the authority to approve Canadian opticianry programs and/or accept programs that were approved by an accrediting body approved by the Committee. When a program is approved, graduates of the program are considered to meet the education requirement for registration without the need to undergo an individual assessment of their education.

For Consideration:

The Registration Committee is proposing a policy that applies to opticianry programs recognized by the COO as meeting the education requirement for registration. Currently, any opticianry education program that has been accredited by Accreditation Canada is considered an "approved program" for the purpose of meeting the requirements set out in the Registration Regulation.

A draft of the proposed Approved Education Programs policy is attached as **Appendix A**.

Public Interest Considerations

The Registration Regulation supports the COO's public protection mandate to ensure that individuals who enter the profession have the knowledge, skills, and judgment to practice opticianry safely, ethically, and competently. Ensuring this regulatory accountability is consistently and effectively applied to opticianry education programs is fundamental to protecting the public.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations

The policy recognizes the importance of meeting diverse learners' needs and supports educational institutions' flexibility in developing and improving their education programs and courses.

Risk Management Considerations

The policy adds transparency for applicants and educators on the requirements for seeking registration under the approved education category.

Recommendation/Action Required:

That the Board approve the proposed Approved Education Programs Policy. If approved, this policy will come into effect on July 1, 2024.

REGISTRATION POLICY

Approved Education Programs

Introduction

One of the ways to meet the registration requirements for a certificate of registration as a registered intern optician or a registered optician is to complete an opticianry program that is approved by the Registration Committee or by an accrediting body approved by the Registration Committee.

Program approval ensures that applicants are prepared to practise opticianry safely, competently and ethically and is in line with the College of Opticians of Ontario's (the College) mandate to protect the public.

Graduates of an approved program are considered to have met the education requirement for registration with the College.

Programs Approved by the Registration Committee

The programs listed below have been approved by Accreditation Canada, which is an accrediting body approved by the Registration Committee and meet the registration requirements set out in the Registration Regulation:

Educational Institution	Name of Program
Georgian College	Diploma in Opticianry
Seneca Polytechnic	Diploma in Opticianry
Collège La Cité	Diplômé du programme d'Orthèses visuelles
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)* *completion of both programs is required for registration	Optical Sciences - Eyeglasses Diploma Optical Sciences - Contact Lenses Certificate
Stenberg College	Optician Diploma Program
Douglas College	Diploma in Dispensing Opticianry