

REGISTRATION POLICY

Practicum Policy

Introduction

To qualify as a Registered Optician, applicants must demonstrate to the Registration Committee that they have acquired practical fitting and dispensing experience.¹

The following policy outlines the College's **Practicum** for applicants seeking registration as a Registered Optician. This Practicum may be completed as part of the applicant's educational program, or separately if the educational program does not include co-op placements or other practical experience components.

Applicants who are unable to complete the Practicum will be asked to demonstrate to the Registration Committee that they have gained the equivalent practical experience in another way.

Practicum

The Practicum consists of the following elements:

Activity	Minimum Requirement	Supervision Requirement
Verified dispensing experience	1000 hours	All dispensing must be supervised by a person authorized to dispense prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses and/or subnormal vision devices in the jurisdiction where the dispensing takes place (e.g. optician, optometrist, ophthalmologist).
Eyeglass fittings	250 fittings, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 multifocal; and • 25 myopic or hyperopic 	All eyeglass fittings must be supervised by a person authorized to dispense prescription eyeglasses in the jurisdiction where the dispensing takes place (e.g. optician, optometrist, ophthalmologist).
Contact lens fittings	20 fittings, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 rigid gas permeable (RGP) 	All contact lens fittings must be supervised by a person authorized to dispense contact lenses in the jurisdiction where the dispensing takes place (e.g. optician, optometrist, ophthalmologist). Contact lens fittings that take place in Ontario must be supervised by an individual who has been approved as a Contact Lens Mentor under the College's Contact Lens Mentor Policy .

¹ See section 5(1)2 of the Registration Regulation

Evidence

Applicants must provide evidence that they completed the Practicum. The following documents will be accepted as evidence of completion:

- Certain accredited education programs include all of the elements of the Practicum as part of their curriculum. Graduates of these programs may submit a letter from their education program verifying completion of the Practicum.
- Graduates from:
 - Accredited education programs that do not include the Practicum in their curriculum;
 - Non-accredited education programs; or
 - Internationally trained applicants

must submit [Form A – Dispensing Experience Verification](#) signed by themselves and by the person(s) who supervised their Practicum.