

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Derick Summers, Chair, Registration Committee

DATE: June 1, 2026

SUBJECT: **Approved Education Program Policy**
Appendix A: Approved Education Program Policy (Current & marked with changes version)
Appendix B: Approved Education Program Policy (Clean & proposed updated version)

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To consider approval of proposed updates to the Approved Education Program Policy, following the approval of new opticianry programs by Accreditation Canada.

Background:

The Approved Education Program Policy was first approved on June 3, 2024.

The policy lists the opticianry programs approved by Accreditation Canada. Accreditation Canada is the accrediting body approved by the Registration Committee. Graduates of these approved programs are considered to have met the education requirement for registration with the College.

For Consideration:

The current policy with visible tracked changes is attached as Appendix A and the proposed clean version of the policy is attached as Appendix B so that the Board can view what edits are being proposed.

Accreditation Canada approved three additional opticianry programs in Canada: Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, New Brunswick Community College, and Vancouver Community College. A note that the New Brunswick Community College is “accredited with conditions”. “Accredited with conditions” signals that it is a new program and is being accredited for the first time. One element of the accreditation process is collecting data from graduates. Since the New Brunswick program is new, the data didn’t exist for their first accreditation. The conditions are that the New Brunswick Community College will need to submit the data and have it accepted within a certain timeframe to have those conditions removed.

These three newly approved opticianry programs have been added to the Approved Education Program policy to ensure the policy accurately reflects the list of approved programs.

This policy is being reviewed outside of its regularly scheduled review to reflect the correct academic information as per Accreditation Canada.

On review, the Registration Committee recognizes the importance of an updated Approved Education Program Policy to ensure that prospective opticians understand the full scope of their education options and to select the program that best suits their needs. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed changes.

Public Interest Considerations:

The Committee has delegated accreditation decision to Accreditation Canada as they have the subject matter expertise and resources to carry out a thorough and robust accreditation process. The Committee recognizes that it is in the public interest for this policy to include all the programs that have met this high standard so that applicants have access to consistent information on their educational options.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations:

The Committee recognizes the importance of meeting learners' diverse needs and supports educational institutions' flexibility in developing and improving their education programs and courses. The addition of three new programs ensures that there are more options and flexibility for a diverse pool of applicants.

Risk Management Considerations:

The Committee considered that if an applicant successfully completes an approved opticianry education program, it is expected that they will have received the relevant theoretical knowledge and practical experience to be deemed a competent practitioner. This mitigates any risks associated with unethical, unsafe, and/or incompetent practice.

Action Required:

That the Board approve the proposed updates to the Approved Education Program Policy or request a further review.



College of
Opticians
of Ontario

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’Opticien
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)* <small>*completion of both programs is required for registration</small>	Optical Sciences - Eyeglasses Diploma Optical Sciences - Contact Lenses Certificate
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	Optician Diploma
Stenberg College	Optician Diploma Program
New Brunswick Community College	Diploma in Opticianry
Douglas College	Diploma in Dispensing Opticianry

Vancouver Community College	Optician Diploma
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Registration Committee/Inactive Class

Approved Education Programs Policy

Date Approved: June 3, 2024

Date Revised: TBC

REGISTRATION POLICY

Approved Education Programs

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