



## Quality Assurance Program Information for New RO Members

Congratulations on your registration as a Registered Optician (RO)! Now that you are a member of the College, you are required to engage in the Quality Assurance (QA) program and complete continuing education each year, beginning as soon as you are registered.

The QA program is designed to ensure that ROs maintain a high standard of practice and professionalism and that they deliver safe and competent patient care.

### Continuing Education Each Year for All ROs

Each calendar year (January – December), all ROs must complete a Professional Portfolio which requires that you reflect on your practice, enhance your competence, and demonstrate continuous learning. As part of the Portfolio, you must complete a combined total of 16 continuing education (CE) hours annually, which includes:

- 4 hours specific to contact lens (CL) technology
- 4 hours specific to eyeglass (EG) technology
- 4 hours specific to professional growth (PG))
- 4 non-accredited, self-directed hours.

ROs must also successfully complete Jurisprudence Chapter One, Professional Boundaries and Sexual-Abuse Prevention within 12 months of registration and then once every three years. The tool is designed to help ROs maintain professional boundaries in their practice. This has been accredited as a Professional Growth activity and may be used toward your accredited professional growth requirements in the year in which it is completed.

Registrants are required to complete all components of their professional portfolio online through their Registrant Portal. For complete instructions, including video tutorials, please visit our website.

<https://collegeofopticians.ca/registrants/registered-opticians/quality-assurance-program/quality-assurance-portal>

### Continuing Education Requirements for new ROs in their First Year of Registration

The number of continuing education hours that newly registered ROs must complete will depend on the date you are registered with the College. Please refer to the prorated CE requirement chart below to determine how many CE hours you are required to complete:

Date Registered	Accredited CE Required	Unaccredited CE required
January 1 – March 31	<b>12</b> (100%) (4 EG + 4 CL + 4 PG)	<b>4</b> (100%)
April 1 – June 30	<b>9</b> (75%) (3 EG + 3 CL + 3 PG)	<b>3</b> (75%)
July 1 – September 30	<b>6</b> (50%) (2 EG + 2 CL + 2PG)	<b>2</b> (50%)
October 1 – December 31	<b>3</b> (25%) (1 EG + 1 CL +1 PG)	<b>1</b> (25%)

**This schedule applies to the first calendar year of registration only, and only applies to members who have not previously held an RO certificate of registration in Ontario.** Starting in your second calendar year of registration, you will be required to complete all 16 CE activity hours.



**Contact us!**

If you have any questions about the QA program, please contact us by email at [qa@collegeofopticians.ca](mailto:qa@collegeofopticians.ca) or by phone 416-368-3616 or 1-800-990-9793 extension 204/205.