

Q: Why should I become a member of Optical Seminars?

A: Membership gives you many benefits:

- 40 hours over the next two bienniums (4 years). That's only \$5.98 per hour!
- Access to at least 20 hours of home study, webinar, and audio classes.
- Free "subscription" to our monthly newsletter.
- Immediate notification of any changes in the Florida rules and laws.
- 10% discount on all books, audio, and software resources.
- As a Charter Member, you will be able to renew your membership every four years at the lowest available rate.

Q: Why should I attend classes at Optical Seminars instead of POF, CEDO, Focal Education, or others?

A: Optical Seminars guarantees (literally, a money-back guarantee) the most educational, engaging, and relevant classes to further your profession and your career. Really take a "tour" of the entire website. With over 200 unique hours, a faculty of speakers that includes industry leaders, and classes in more Florida cities than any other provider, Optical Seminars is the best choice for all your CE requirements.

Q: What are the current continuing-education requirements for license renewal?

A: To renew your opticianry license for the biennium ending December 31, 2022, a licensee must have a total of 20 hours of continuing education, with the following configuration:

2 hours – Florida Rules and Laws

2 hours – Reduction of Medical or Ophthalmic Errors

16 hours – General Hours. At least 11 of these hours must be related to the technical practice of opticianry; up to 5 of these hours may be elective hours (such as management, communication, etc.) Additionally, if you are a Board-Certified Optician, at least 4 of the General Hours must be related to contact lenses. If you are renewing for the first time, see the next FAQ.

Q: Are Optical Seminars' CE hours good for license renewal in other states or for renewing ABO-NCLE licenses?

A: Yes and No. We do not specifically request our hours be approved by any other state Board, so you should check with them before attending. To renew your ABO-NCLE licenses you only need to show a current, valid Florida license. No actual ABO or NCLE hours are necessary,

Q: This is my first time for renewing my license. Is there anything special I should know?

A: Yes! If this is the first time you are renewing your license, of the 20 hours needed to renew, 1 (one) hour must be related to HIV/AIDS. Also, if you were licensed in the first year of the biennium, you are only required to obtain 10 hours to renew instead of 20. If you were licensed in the second year of the biennium, you are not required to obtain any continuing education hours for your first renewal.

Q: Do the CE modules that appear in our journals (e.g. *20/20*, *Vision Monday*, *Eye Care Professional*) count toward our renewal?

A: Usually not. It is your responsibility to make sure that that all hours have specifically been approved by our Board. If the module doesn't explicitly list it as a Florida-approved class, it probably isn't.

Q: How many out-of-classroom hours can I take in any biennium?

A: A maximum of 5 hours are allowed for every biennial renewal.

Q: Can classes I take this biennium count toward the next biennium?

A: No. You can only take classes during the biennium for which you wish to renew.

Q: I've heard that ALL opticians will be audited from now on. Is this true?

A: Kind of. The Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, will now review your continuing education records in the electronic tracking system at the time of renewal. It will happen automatically when you renew your license, but it is important that you understand how this simple change will affect the way you renew your license in the future.

If the optician's continuing education records are **complete**, they will be able to renew their license without interruption.

If the optician's continuing education records are **not complete**, they will be prompted to enter their remaining continuing education hours before proceeding with their license renewal.

Q: I see that some of your seminar days offer 10 hours. Can't we only get 8 hours in one day?

A: At Optical Seminars live seminar days you receive 8 hours of in-classroom credits, and 2 hours of webinar or study hours. Of course, if you prefer live classes, you can take the remainder that you need the next time we come through town, or in any other city – at no additional charge for members!

Q: How can I get a copy of the current rules and laws?

A: Simply click on the Links tab on our Homepage and then click on Rules and Laws. You will be taken to a link on the Board of Opticianry website, where you can view and/or print a copy of all the rules and laws.

Q: Can I fill a spectacle prescription if the word "Void" appears in the background?

A: The short answer is "yes." These Rx pads were designed to thwart the illegal procurement of scheduled, narcotic drugs. Most attorneys agree that an optician can legally fill an optical prescription despite the appearance of the word "void."

Q: For how many years must my optical establishment keep copies of prescriptions we have filled?

A: A minimum of two years.

Q: For how many years must I keep copies of my continuing education audit sheets?

A: A minimum of four years.

Q: For how long must I keep copies of the records pertaining to apprentices I sponsor?

A: For a minimum of six years.

Q: Can I fill Rx's from that were written outside the country?

A: Yes. The law says any prescription written by a duly licensed optometrist, ophthalmologist, or osteopath...it does not say that the prescriber must have been educated and/or licensed in the United States.

Q: Is the Board of Opticianry there to represent my interests in Tallahassee.

A: No. The Board is there to see that licensees (opticians and apprentices) and optical establishments follow the rules and laws, and to ensure the protection, safety, health and welfare of the general public. That doesn't mean that the relationship between the Board and licensees is an adversarial one either. It should be, of course, neutral.

Q: What is the best way to report Unlicensed Activity?

A: The Department of Health has established a toll-free phone number for this very purpose.
It is 1-877-425-8852 (HALT-ULA)