



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry**

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### **Continuing Education Requirements for SC Optometrist**

Each licensee seeking a renewal of licensure must certify completion of forty (40) hours of continuing education (CE) for the biennial licensure period. *The current cycle begins January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.*

The Board will not recognize CEs that do not meet the following requirements:

- CE Course must be on subjects relative to optometry, exclusive of office management or administration, at board-approved and recognized educational seminars and courses or accredited institutions of learning.
- Four (4) of the forty (40) hours **may** be for courses directly related to mandated health care programs including, but not limited to, HIPAA, Medicare and Medicaid, and Ethics or Jurisprudence.
- Sixteen (16) of the forty (40) hours **must** be pharmacology or pathology related. Satisfactory proof of compliance with this requirement is a prerequisite for biennial license renewal. All laser surgery education is considered general hours, not pharmacology.
- CPR certification courses are approved for four (4) hours; CPR re-certification courses are approved for two (2) hours.
- **For this renewal cycle only (expiration date of 12/31/2022):**
  - No more than fifteen (15) of the forty (40) CE hours required can be from online courses unless otherwise approved by the Board. Online courses are specified as those that are pre-recorded.
  - The remaining CE hours must be obtained in-person or via live-stream.

An unlimited number of CE hours can be from courses sponsored by optometric or medical organizations or optometry schools or medical schools as approved by the Board. The Board will accept CE hours in quarter hour increments.

If an optometrist is authorized pursuant to state and federal law to prescribe controlled substances, two (2) of the requisite hours of continuing education **must** be related to approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV of the schedules provided for in Sections 44-53-210, 44-53-230, and 44-53-250.

Each licensee shall report CE hours to the CE Broker. **All licensees must activate their free Basic Account by December 31, 2022.** To activate, visit <https://cebroker.com/sc/account/basic/>. If you have questions concerning setting up your account or problems with your account with CE Broker, please contact their customer support directly from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST at (877) 434-6323 or [support@cebroker.com](mailto:support@cebroker.com).

### Initial Licensees

- If initially licensed in the same year as renewal, licensees are required to have 20 hours of CE by the license expiration date.
- If a new graduate is initially licensed a year prior to renewal, they are required to have 20 hours of CE by the license expiration date.
- If a new graduate is initially licensed the same year as their graduation, they will be exempt from CE for their first renewal cycle.