

CHAPTER 6500
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
OPTOMETRISTS' CONDUCT AND LICENSURE

6500 0100	DEFINITIONS	6500 1300	NOTICE OF ADDITION OR DELETION OF APPROVED PROGRAMS
6500 0900	REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION	6500 1400	PROOF OF ATTENDANCE
6500 0950	HOME STUDY AND OTHER PROGRAMS	6500 1500	CREDIT HOURS
6500 1000	STUDY COMPLIANCE PERIOD	6500 1600	EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIRED ATTENDANCE
6500 1100	CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS	6500 1700	REQUIREMENTS IN SPECIFIED SUBJECTS
6500 1200	CRITERIA FOR JUDGING AND APPROVING CONTINUING EDUCATION		

6500.0100 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subps 1 and 2, see M R]

Subp 2a **Board-recognized reviewer.** "Board-recognized reviewer" means an organization, approved by the board, that has and maintains current knowledge of the optometric profession to determine whether the program content meets the criteria in part 6500.1200

[For text of subps 3 and 4, see M R]

Subp 4a **Contact hour.** "Contact hour" means an instructional session or clinical round, or both, of at least 50 consecutive minutes, excluding coffee breaks, registration, meals without a speaker, and social activities. The minimum credit which may be approved for any continuing education credit course is one hour. Further increments must be in 30-minute minimums.

[For text of subp 5, see M R]

Subp 6 **Home study.** "Home study" means the utilization of educational programs and materials outside the classroom setting, the preparation and presentation of a lecture, and preparation and publication of optometry-related subjects.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148 53, 214 12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.0150 [Renumbered 6500 0950]

6500.0200 [Repealed, 23 SR 883]

6500.0900 REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION.

All optometrists licensed in this state are required, as a prerequisite to license renewal, to attend within a two-year period courses totaling at least 40 clock hours of study of educational optometric programs approved by the board under parts 6500 1000 to 6500 1700. The first two-year period shall include the calendar years 2000 and 2001. On becoming ineligible for license renewal for failure to comply with continuing education requirements, an optometrist shall be suspended from further practice. The board shall reinstate any such suspended license upon receipt of satisfactory proof that the suspended licensee has made up the deficient hours of study.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148 53, 214 12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.0950 HOME STUDY AND OTHER PROGRAMS.

Subpart 1 **Home study and contact hours.** Licensees may acquire 15 hours of continuing education credits through home study in each two-year compliance period. Licensees may utilize self-instruction components presented in vision care periodicals, the Internet, audio and audiovisual taped programs, and other program materials specifically designed for self-instruction. All programs must include a self-test. One continuing education credit may be earned for each hour of self-instruction activity. Continuing education credits may include both instructional and testing activities. Licensees may also earn continuing education credits through contact hour equivalents. One contact hour is equivalent to one continuing education credit. Contact hour equivalents include the activities in items A to C.

A The presentation of a lecture before an audience of optometric or other health professionals will result in one contact hour for each hour of presentation. For one time only, the lecturer can also acquire two contact hours for preparation of the lecture for each hour of presentation. A syllabus or lecture manuscript shall be furnished to the board to document the presented program.

B Licensees may earn continuing education credits for the preparation of articles accepted for publication in optometric journals or other health-related journals and for the preparation of books accepted for publication. A maximum of three hours of continuing education credits will be granted for acceptance and publication of articles in optometric or health-related journals. A maximum of nine hours of continuing education credits will be granted for acceptance and publication of books on optometry-related subjects.

C Licensees may earn continuing education credits for participation in organized volunteer programs helping underserved people throughout the world by providing medical eye care and eyeglasses. A maximum of seven continuing education credits may be granted for each volunteer program.

Subp 2. Approval of other education programs. Upon written request, the board may approve the use of education methods not listed in subpart 1, and may determine the number of earned contact hours. Board approval will be determined on the following criteria:

A Whether or not the program is likely to contribute to the advancement and extension of professional skill and knowledge in the practice of optometry.

B Whether the sponsor or author of the program is recognized by the board as being qualified to design a program for education in the field of optometry.

C As a condition of approval of a program of self-instruction, the board may require that the author, sponsor, or licensee furnish the board with copies of instructional materials and testing tools.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53, 214.12*

History: *23 SR 883*

6500.1000 STUDY COMPLIANCE PERIOD.

The optometric study compliance period must begin on January 1 and encompass two calendar years, concluding on December 31 of the second year. No credit for attendance shall be given unless the board determines that an educational program complied with the criteria in part 6500.1200.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53, 214.12*

History: *23 SR 883*

6500.1100 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

A program sponsor requesting approval by the board must submit a program, schedule, and course description to the board executive secretary not less than 21 days prior to the date of the program. The board shall respond to all applications within a reasonable time. The board may, upon application by a Minnesota licensee, waive the requirement for the submission of advance information and request for prior approval of courses not previously denied. Nothing in this part shall permit the board to approve of an educational program which has not complied with the criteria in part 6500.1200. Courses not eligible for credit shall be so identified by the program sponsor.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53, 214.12*

History: *23 SR 883*

6500.1200 CRITERIA FOR JUDGING AND APPROVING CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Board approval of continuing education programs shall be determined as described in items A to G.

[For text of items A to C, see MR]

D Whether or not the tuition fee charged for courses conducted within the state of Minnesota is the same for nonmembers of the course sponsoring organization as it is for

members. Any difference in tuition charged to nonmembers as opposed to members of the sponsoring organization shall be reasonable and related to the sponsoring organization's expense in operating the continuing education

[For text of items E and F, see M.R.]

G Courses meeting approval criteria standards and receiving approval from a board-recognized reviewer of continuing education shall be accepted for credit by the board

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53; 214.12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.1300 NOTICE OF ADDITION OR DELETION OF APPROVED PROGRAMS.

The board may, after due consideration, mail written notice stating the reason to a continuing education sponsor, within 30 days of program presentation, to add or delete continuing education credit hours of previously approved continuing education due to change in content or actual hours of presentation.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53, 214.12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.1400 PROOF OF ATTENDANCE.

Certificates of attendance of continuing education courses shall be submitted by the optometrist to the board executive secretary at the time the optometrist applies for license renewal and shall contain the following information

- A the name of the sponsoring organization,
- B the name, signature, and address of the licensee,
- C the course title and instructor name,
- D number of hours in attendance,
- E the date of the educational program, and
- F such other evidence of attendance as the board may deem necessary

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53, 214.12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.1500 CREDIT HOURS.

The board reserves the right to determine the number of hours credit for any continuing education under part 6500.1100

Credit shall not be given for more than six hours' attendance of continuing education in practice management, or more than 15 hours of home study continuing education, in the two-year compliance period

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53; 214.12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.1600 EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIRED ATTENDANCE.

Any licensee serving in the regular armed forces of the United States during any part of the 12 months immediately preceding the annual license renewal date is exempt from continuing education requirements

Any licensee first licensed by examination or reciprocity in the first year of the compliance period is exempt from continuing education requirements for that year, but is responsible for 20 hours of continuing education for the second year of the compliance period. Any licensee first licensed by examination or reciprocity in the second year of the compliance period is exempt from continuing education requirements for the entire compliance period.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53, 214.12*

History: 23 SR 883

6500.1700 REQUIREMENTS IN SPECIFIED SUBJECTS.

The board may, when compelled by advancement in scope of practice or emerging public health issues, and by mailing written notice thereof to each licensed optometrist on or before January 1, require all optometrists to attend specified subjects of continuing education

MINNESOTA RULES 1998
OPTOMETRISTS' CONDUCT AND LICENSURE 6500.1700

Any specified subject credit hours shall be applied to the compliance period requirement.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.53; 214 12*

History: *23 SR 883*