

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Passage of HB 149 has increased the continuing education requirements. **ALL** Ohio optometrists will be required to obtain 25 hours of C.E. which includes 10 hours of pharmacology study.

This new requirement will not be effective until the C.E. period of October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009.

Below are the approved continuing education rules from the April 16, 2008 Board meeting.

4725-9-01. Hours required; study compliance year

Annually, on or before the twentieth day of October, every licensed optometrist, except as exempted in section 4725.16 of the Revised Code, as a prerequisite for license renewal, shall file with the executive director of the board proof of attendance for twenty-five clock hours which includes ten clock hours of instruction in pharmacology of board approved continuing education during the study compliance year.

The study compliance year shall extend from October first through September thirtieth for the subsequent license renewal year beginning January first and ending December thirty-first. Credit will be allowed only for the study compliance year in which the educational course was actually attended.

4725-9-02. Approved education programs

Approved educational programs include, but are not limited to, those hereinafter listed. Approval is based on past performances, continued maintenance of acceptable standards and must meet the applicable criteria set forth in rule 4725-9-03 of the Administrative Code.

- (A) Scientific and clinical educational courses and meetings of the college of optometry at the Ohio state university or any other school or college of optometry accredited by the board.
- (B) Scientific and clinical educational courses and meetings of a college of medicine that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.
- (C) Scientific and clinical educational courses and meetings approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education.
- (D) Scientific and clinical educational courses and meetings certified/approved by a Canadian province or state board of optometry.
- (E) Scientific and clinical educational courses and meetings provided for licensed optometrists serving in the Active, Guard, or Reserve Components of the Uniformed Services of the United States. Approval shall be based on receipt of a letter from their commanding officer certifying the training meets the applicable requirements of 4725-9-03 of the Administrative Code.
- (F) Other scientific and clinical educational courses and meetings approved by the board as meeting the applicable criteria as set forth in rule 4725-9-03 of the Administrative Code, after submission of one copy of the application for optometric continuing education credit. Requests for approval of continuing education must be submitted by the sponsor and will not be considered if submitted by an individual attendee.

4725-9-03. Board approval of continuing education

Continuing education programs must meet the following requirements in order to receive Board approval and credit.

- (A) Programs shall relate to the practice of optometry that will contribute to the advancement, extension and enhancement of professional clinical skill, and scientific knowledge of the participants and enable them to render continuously better and more comprehensive optometric service to the recipients of their care.
- (B) Speakers, lecturers and others participating in the presentation of the programs must be recognized as possessing requisite qualifications and being expert and of recognized repute in their area of instruction.
- (C) Programs shall be available to all Ohio optometrists. Limitations may be necessary based on space, time or format of presentation and must be so noted on application. Any program that is too restrictive may be denied approval.

- (D) Programs must be based on scientific and clinical education and cannot be used to market the sponsor's/presenter's products or services.
- (E) The Board will not approve for continuing education credit lectures or articles written by the optometrist requesting the credit.
- (F) Practice management and ethics jurisprudence courses are not approved for continuing education credit.
- (G) Written home study or electronic media (CD-Rom, Internet) courses will receive credit when the Board is provided a record showing results of tests given on the course which is graded by an accredited optometric college or institution as approved by the Board. No more than ten hours credit will be granted in this category in any one year unless the optometrist can document inability to attend live, on-site courses. This does not preclude a presenter from using electronic media programs in conjunction with their presentation.
- (H) One hour of credit requires at least 50 minutes of instruction.
- (I) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation refresher training is acceptable for up to three hours credit for any one continuing education period once every two years. The three hours can be utilized for optometric or pharmacology continuing education compliance.
- (J) Grand rounds, surgery observation, and other procedure oriented methods may be approved for continuing education credit. No more than eight hours credit will be granted in this category in any one year and no more than four hours credit in any one day.

4725-15-04. Board approval of pharmacology and ocular disease continuing education course is as follows.

- (A) The board will approve for optometric pharmacology continuing education compliance only those programs which relate to:
 - (1) General and ocular pharmacology
 - (2) Signs and symptoms of ocular disease
 - (3) The diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular disease
 - (4) Appropriate criteria for referring patients to physicians and co-managing patients with physicians
 - (5) The use of those instruments which are utilized in conjunction with the topical ocular pharmaceutical agents and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents approved pursuant to section 4725.01 of the Revised Code.
- (B) Speakers, lecturers and others participating in the presentation of the programs must be recognized by the board as possessing requisite qualifications and being expert and of recognized repute in their area of instruction.
- (C) The course content must reflect that it is comparable to those courses in pharmacology required by optometry boards of other states whose licensees are permitted the use of topical ocular pharmaceutical agents and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in the course of their practice of optometry.
- (D) Programs must be available to all Ohio optometrists. Limitations may be necessary based on space, time or format of presentation and must be so noted on application. Any program that is too restrictive may be denied approval.
- (E) Programs must contribute to the advancement of professional skill and knowledge of the participants and enable them to render continuously better and more comprehensive optometric service to the recipients of their care. Programs cannot be used to market the sponsor's/presenter's products or services.