

Chapter 3. License

§301. Continuing Education

A. Each licensed optometrist shall comply with the following continuing education requirements.

1. Standard optometry license holders and diagnostic pharmaceutical certificate holders shall complete between January 1 and December 31 of each calendar year at least 12 hours of continuing education courses, of which a minimum of 10 hours must be obtained in a classroom setting, approved by the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners.

2. License holders authorized to diagnose and treat pathology and use and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents shall complete between January 1 and December 31 of each calendar year at least 16 hours of continuing education courses, of which a minimum of 14 hours must be obtained in a classroom setting, approved by the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners, and of which at least eight classroom hours shall consist of matters related to ocular and systemic pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease. Such certificate holders will be entitled to apply the CPR continuing education to their required annual continuing education, provided that such CPR continuing education shall not count toward the required eight classroom hours related to ocular and system pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease, and provided further that no more than two hours of CPR continuing education may be applied to the continuing education requirement in any two calendar year periods. The eight hours of continuing education relating to ocular and systemic pharmacology and/or current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease shall be obtained solely from the following sources:

- a. the American Optometric Association;
- b. any state optometric association affiliated with the American Optometric Association;
- c. Great Western Council of Optometry, Mountain West Council of Optometrists, The New England Council of Optometrists, North Central States Optometric Council, North East Regional Council of Optometry, Optometric Council of the National Capital Region, Southern Council of Optometrists, and Southwest Council of Optometry;
- d. the American Academy of Optometry; or
- e. schools and colleges of Optometry accredited by the American Optometric Association Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

3. All hours shall be computed on a 60 minute basis.

4. Failure to submit acceptable continuing education hours and pay the applicable annual renewal fee required by R.S. 37:1056(1).

a. On or before March 1 of each year shall require payment of the delinquency fee, in addition to the applicable annual renewal fee, set forth in §801.

b. On or before July 1 shall be cause for the temporary suspension of a Louisiana optometry license as provided below and shall require payment of the both the delinquency fee and reinstatement fee, in addition to the applicable annual renewal fee, as set forth in §801. Payment of the renewal fee, delinquency fee and reinstatement fee where the license has been suspended shall be accompanied by any costs or expenses, including attorney fees, which may be caused by the need for the institution of disciplinary or other proceedings, fines imposed in disciplinary or other proceedings, and all other applicable fees.

c. On or before January 1 of the year following the delinquency shall be cause for the board to revoke a Louisiana optometry license as provided below.

5. The procedure for temporary suspension or revocation of a Louisiana license for failure to timely submit acceptable continuing education hours and pay the applicable renewal fee required by R.S. 37:1056(1) shall be as follows.

a. Before the board temporarily suspends or revokes any Louisiana optometry license, the board shall schedule a public hearing:

- i. on or after July 1 in the case of a temporary suspension; or

ii. on or after January 1 of the year following the delinquency in the case of revocation.

b. The holder of a Louisiana optometry license shall be given written notice of the hearing at least 15 days prior to the date of the hearing, the date of which shall be specified in the written notice, and shall be given an opportunity to produce testimony in his or her favor and to cross examine any witnesses against him.

6. A holder of a Louisiana optometry license in good standing may voluntarily surrender his or her license or certificate without penalty upon acceptance of such voluntary surrender by the board, provided, however, a holder of a Louisiana optometry license may not surrender his or her license or certificate while such individual is under investigation or while charges are pending.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1048.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Optometry Examiners, LR 32:631 (April 2006), amended LR 35:1111 (June 2009), LR 38:1590 (July 2012).