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Sequence Number: 11-18-25  
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 File Date: 11/26/2025

# Notice of Rulemaking Hearing

Hearings will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. § 4-5-204. For questions and copies of the notice, contact the person listed below.

<b>Agency/Board/Commission:</b>	Board of Optometry
<b>Division:</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Katherine Trawick, Associate Counsel Grayson Carter, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative Affairs
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Any Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (to review these filings) and may require aid to facilitate such participation should contact the following at least 10 days prior to the hearing:

<b>ADA Contact:</b>	ADA Coordinator
<b>Address:</b>	710 James Robertson Parkway, Andrew Johnson Building, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243
<b>Phone:</b>	(615) 253-5604
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Swindell@tn.gov">Kelly.Swindell@tn.gov</a>

**Hearing Location(s)** (for additional locations, copy and paste table)

Address 1:	Metro Center
Address 2:	665 Mainstream Drive, Poplar Conference Room
City:	Nashville, Tennessee
Zip:	37243
Hearing Date:	04/08/2026
Hearing Time:	9:00 A.M. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_ CST/CDT <input type="checkbox"/> __ EST/EDT

**Additional Hearing Information:**

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**Revision Type (check all that apply):**

- Amendment
- New
- Repeal

**Rule(s)** (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that ALL new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only ONE Rule Number/Rule Title per row)

<b>Chapter Number</b>	<b>Chapter Title</b>
1045-02	General Rules Governing the Practice of Optometry
<b>Rule Number</b>	<b>Rule Title</b>
1045-02-.05	Continuing Education
1045-02-.07	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Certification

Chapter 1045-02  
General Rules Governing the Practice of Optometry

Amendments

Rule 1045-02-.05 Continuing Education. The rule, including the rule authority, but not the rule title, is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For licenses that renew on or after January 1, 2027, a licensee must complete forty (40) hours of approved continuing education (CE) during the 24 months before the renewal month of his license (ie: for a licensure renewal date of May 31, CEs must be completed by the preceding April 30.)
  - (a) A licensee may obtain up to thirty (30) of the forty (40) hours in a virtual format (synchronous or asynchronous).
  - (b) A minimum of twenty (20) of the forty (40) CE hours is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease. Two (2) of the forty (40) CE hours shall be a course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. A maximum of eight (8) of the forty (40) CE hours may pertain to practice management and/or ethics/jurisprudence. CE hours may also be obtained pertaining to clinical optometry
  - (c) Each licensee shall maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Such certification shall be obtained from a course approved or offered by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or any other entity approved by the Board.
  - (d) Each licensee must upload all completed CE documentation to, and maintain access within, the Board's selected contractor's tracking system. Each licensee shall submit to the selected contractor's tracking system proof of completion for each CE course taken or have such documentation submitted by the CE provider. The proof of completion shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt. Each licensee is responsible for reviewing the information contained in the system to ensure its accuracy.
  - (e) The licensee must, within thirty (30) days of a request from the Board, provide a copy of the selected contractor tracking system CE transcript as evidence of CE activities. Certificates verifying the licensee's attendance or original letters from course providers are such evidence.
- (2) Approval of Continuing Education
  - (a) The Board recognizes only those courses provided by one of the Approved Vendors as listed on the Board's website and/or any other CE courses accredited by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) which meet their criteria and standards for integrity and independence to ensure a high-quality, evidence-based, non-biased programs of education.
  - (b) Any course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices must be COPE accredited. Any course related to controlled substance prescribing practices must include instruction in the Department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol and may include topics such as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics approved by the Board.
  - (c) Courses will be classified by the Board as one (1) of the following categories:
    1. In-person
      - (i) Face-to-face
      - (ii) Hands on workshop
      - (iii) Interactive posters containing hyperlinks with additional materials with authors present and available for interaction

2. Virtual

(i) Synchronous

(I) Interactive

(II) Lecturer and learner are together at the same time

(III) Real time communication between the instructor and the learner

(IV) Learners can receive immediate feedback

(V) Fixed schedule; learning takes place only once at a specific date and time

(ii) Asynchronous - Distance, Non-Interactive

(I) Lecturer and learner are not together at the same time

(II) Learners do not receive immediate feedback

(III) Content is created and made available for attendance at a later date

(IV) No fixed schedule, learner-paced

(d) Proof of attendance -

1. Proof of attendance must be provided to each licensee attending an approved course by the providers of the course.
2. It is the responsibility of the licensee attending the CE course/program to ascertain whether the program is COPE approved and the course classification as determined by COPE.
3. Waiver of CE requirements or extension of the deadline to complete such requirements may be made by the Board on an individual basis as provided in Rule 1045-02-.04(3).

(3) A licensee is exempt from the CE requirements for the calendar year that the licensee graduated from an accredited college or school of optometry if the licensee's first licensure renewal cycle is twelve (12) months or less. Licensees whose licensure renewal cycle exceeds twenty-four (24) months are required to complete forty (40) CE hours as required of licensees on a regular CE renewal cycle. If the licensee's first licensure renewal cycle exceeds twelve (12) months, but is not more than twenty-four (24) months, the licensee shall be required to complete twenty (20) hours of Board approved CE in the following:

- (a) A minimum of ten (10) CE hours is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease.
- (b) Two (2) hours shall be a course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices;
- (c) A maximum of four (4) hours may pertain to optometric business/practice management and/or ethics/jurisprudence;
- (d) CE hours may also be obtained pertaining to clinical optometry;
- (e) No more than fifteen (15) hours in any CE cycle may be obtained via Synchronous Remote/Virtual formats. A maximum of five (5) hours of Asynchronous format hours will be allowed in any CE cycle; and
- (f) Each licensee shall maintain current CPR certification in addition to the twenty (20) CE hours noted in 1045-02-.05 (3).

(4) Violations

- (a) Any licensee who falsely certifies attendance and completion of the required hours of CE requirements, or who does not or cannot adequately substantiate completed CE hours with the required documentation, may be subject to disciplinary action.
- (b) Prior to the institution of any disciplinary proceedings, notification shall be sent to the last known address of the licensee stating the facts or conduct which warrant the intended action.
- (c) The licensee has thirty (30) days from the date noted on the notification to show compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of the license.
- (d) Any licensee who fails to show compliance with the required CE hours in response to the notice referenced above may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to an Agreed Citation. Agreed Citations are settlement offers issued by Board administrative staff outlining a licensee's violation(s) of statute(s) and/or rule(s), and may assess a civil penalty. Agreed Citations may be willingly entered by a licensee to avoid further disciplinary action related to the licensee's violation(s) noted in the Agreed Citation.
- (e) CE hours obtained as a result of compliance with the terms of an Agreed Citation shall not be credited toward the CE hours required to be obtained in any renewal period.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-8-112, 63-8-119, and 63-8-120.

Rule 1045-02-.07 Diagnostic and Therapeutic Certification. The rule, including the rule authority, but not the rule title, is amended to read as follows:

- (1) It is the intent of the Board that all applicants for licensure as optometrists attain the highest level of licensure available under the law including diagnostic and therapeutic certification as provided in T.C.A. §§ 63-8-102(12)(E) and 63-8-112(4). Attaining therapeutic certification must include attaining certification to use pharmaceutical agents by injection. No licensee shall be certified to prescribe or use pharmaceutical agents for treatment purposes in the practice of optometry unless, and until, they meet the following:
  - (a) An applicant for licensure in Tennessee must graduate from a college or school which is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education or accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). Applicants graduating AFTER August 1, 2012, must submit documentation of successful completion (i.e., passage) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry - Injectable Skills Examination (NBEO - ISE) or its successor. Passage of this examination is in addition to successful completion (i.e. passage) of NBEO Part I - Applied Basic Science (ABS) Examination, NBEO Part II - Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) Examination and NBEO Part III - Clinical Skills Examination (CSE).
  - (b) An applicant for licensure in Tennessee must graduate from a college or school which is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education or by ACOE. Applicants graduating BEFORE August 1, 2012, must submit documentation to the Board of successful completion (i.e. passage) of NBEO Part I - Applied Basic Science (ABS) Examination, NBEO Part II - Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) Examination, NBEO Part III - Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) and evidence of successful completion of the NBEO Injectable Skills Examination (ISE) or its successor.
- (2) Any individual wishing to reinstate a lapsed license or bring a license out of retirement shall be treated as an applicant for licensure in accordance with Rule 1045-02.04 and shall be required to provide proof of completion of (1)(a) or (1)(b).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-8-102, 63-8-112, and 63-8-115.

I certify that the information included in this filing is an accurate and complete representation of the intent and scope of rulemaking proposed by the agency.

Date: 11/25/2025

Signature: *Katherine Trawick*

Name of Officer: Katherine Trawick

Title of Officer: Associate Counsel, Department of Health

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Filed with the Department of State on: 11/26/2025

*Tre Hargett*

Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

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Nov 26 2025, 12:46 pm

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**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

**CHAPTER 1045-02  
GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY**

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**1045-02-.05 CONTINUING EDUCATION.**

- ~~(1) Effective January 1, 2020, an OptometristA licensee with a license renewal date in the year 2020 and beyond through December 31, 2026, must complete forty (40) hours of Board approved continuing education during the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month.~~
- ~~(a) For those who are therapeutically certified, a minimum of twenty-five (25) of the forty (40) hours of continuing education is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease, as described in subparagraph (2)(e). At least two (2) of these twenty-five (25) hours shall be a course or courses designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. Any course related to controlled substance prescribing practices must include instruction in the Department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol and may include topics such as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics approved by the Board.~~
- ~~(b) Each licensee shall maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Such certification shall be obtained from a course approved or offered by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or any other entity approved by the Board.~~
- ~~(c) Each licensee must retain proof of attendance and completion of all continuing education requirements. This documentation must be retained for a period of four (4) years from the end of the calendar year in which the continuing education was required. This documentation must be produced for inspection and verification, if requested in writing by the Board during its verification process. The Board will not maintain continuing education files.~~
- ~~(d) The individual must, within thirty (30) days of a request from the Board, provide evidence of continuing education activities. Certificates verifying the individual's attendance or original letters from course providers are such evidence.~~
- ~~(2) Approval of Continuing Education~~

~~(a) For those courses requiring Board approval, the information required by subparagraph (2)(d) must be submitted to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the actual date of the course. However, no prior approval is required for the following:~~

~~1. Educational courses approved by the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry's Council on Optometric Practitioner Education.~~

~~2. Educational courses sponsored by an organization listed on the Board's website with the Tennessee Department of Health.~~

~~(b) Grand rounds of clinical optometric education (grand clinical rounds) performed in clinical treatment facilities shall be credited as follows:~~

~~1. One (1) hour of credit is received for two (2) hours of attendance.~~

~~2. No more than six (6) hours of continuing education credit during the two (2) year period described in paragraph (1) shall be granted to a licensee for attending grand clinical rounds.~~

~~3. Grand clinical rounds must be submitted to the Board for pre-approval.~~

~~(c) Any course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices must be pre-approved by the Board or by a vendor approved by the Board for offering such courses.~~

~~(d) All courses submitted for approval must contain the following information:~~

~~1. A course description or outline;~~

~~2. Names of all lecturers;~~

~~3. Brief resume of all lecturers;~~

~~4. Number of hours of educational credit requested;~~

~~5. Category of approval requested; and~~

~~6. Date of course.~~

~~(e) Courses will be classified by the Board as one (1) of the following categories:~~

~~1. Clinical Optometry—These courses shall pertain to general optometry, functional vision/pediatrics, and contact lenses.~~

~~2. Ocular Disease—These courses shall pertain to the treatment and management of ocular disease (anterior and posterior), refractive surgery management, peri-operative management of ophthalmic surgery, and glaucoma.~~

~~3. Related Systemic Disease—These courses shall pertain to systemic/ocular disease, principles of diagnosis, pharmacology, and neuro-optometry.~~

~~4. (Optometric) Business Management—These courses shall pertain to practice management and/or ethics/jurisprudence. The total number of (Optometric) Business Management hours that will be accepted is eight (8) hours of the forty (40) hour requirement.~~

~~(f) Continuing education courses may include:~~

~~-~~

~~1. Lecture type courses;~~

~~-~~

~~2. Fifteen (15) hours of the forty (40) hour requirement may be completed in any of the following multi-media formats:~~

~~-~~

~~(i) The Internet~~

~~-~~

~~(ii) Closed-circuit television~~

~~-~~

~~(iii) Satellite broadcasts~~

~~-~~

~~(iv) Correspondence courses~~

~~-~~

~~(v) Videotapes~~

~~-~~

~~(vi) CD-ROM~~

~~-~~

~~(vii) DVD~~

~~-~~

~~(viii) Teleconferencing~~

~~-~~

~~(ix) Videoconferencing~~

~~-~~

~~(x) Distance learning~~

~~-~~

~~(g) Proof of attendance-~~

~~-~~

~~1. Proof of attendance must be given to each optometrist attending an approved course by the providers of the course.~~

~~-~~

~~2. It is the responsibility of the optometrist attending the continuing education program to ascertain whether the program is approved by the Board and the category of approval.~~

~~-~~

~~3. The Board shall notify all providers requiring course approval of its denial or approval. If a course is denied credit for continuing education, the provider of the course may petition the Board for a hearing on the merits of the matter. The appeal may be heard by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.~~

~~-~~

~~4. Waiver of continuing education requirements or extension of the deadline to complete such requirements may be made by the Board on an individual basis as provided in Rule 1045-02-.04(3).~~

~~-~~

~~(3) Continuing Education Tracking System~~

~~-~~

~~(a) Each licensee shall submit to the Selected Contractor proof of completion for each continuing education course taken. The proof of completion shall be submitted to the Selected Contractor within thirty (30) days of receipt.~~

~~-~~

~~(b) Each licensee is responsible for reviewing the information contained in the system to ensure its accuracy.~~

~~-~~

- ~~(c) Continuing education providers will submit to the Selected Contractor a roster of those Tennessee licensed optometrists who attended the continuing education course. The roster shall be submitted to the Selected Contractor within thirty (30) days after the course date.~~
- 
- ~~(4) A licensee is exempt from the Continuing Education requirements for the calendar year that he/she graduated from an accredited college or school of optometry.~~
- 
- ~~(5) Continuing education course approval decisions pursuant to this rule may be preliminarily made upon review by any Board member or a Board designee.~~
- 
- ~~(6) Violations~~
- 
- ~~(a) Any licensee who falsely certifies attendance and completion of the required hours of continuing education requirements, or who does not or can not adequately substantiate completed continuing education hours with the required documentation, may be subject to disciplinary action.~~
- 
- ~~(b) Prior to the institution of any disciplinary proceedings, a letter shall be issued to the last known address of the individual stating the facts or conduct which warrant the intended action.~~
- 
- ~~(c) The licensee has thirty (30) days from the date of notification to show compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of the license.~~
- 
- ~~(d) Any licensee who fails to show compliance with the required continuing education hours in response to the notice contemplated by subparagraph (5)(b) above may be subject to disciplinary action.~~
- 
- ~~(e) Continuing education hours obtained as a result of compliance with the terms of a Board Order in any disciplinary action shall not be credited toward the continuing education hours required to be obtained in any renewal period.~~

- (1) For licenses that renew on or after January 1, 2027, a licensee must complete forty (40) hours of approved continuing education (CE) during the 24 months before the renewal month of his license (ie: for a licensure renewal date of May 31, CEs must be completed by the preceding April 30.)
- (a) A licensee may obtain up to thirty (30) of the forty (40) hours in a virtual format (synchronous or asynchronous).
- (b) A minimum of twenty (20) of the forty (40) CE hours is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease. Two (2) of the forty (40) CE hours shall be a course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. A maximum of eight (8) of the forty (40) CE hours may pertain to practice management and/or ethics/jurisprudence. CE hours may also be obtained pertaining to clinical optometry
- (c) Each licensee shall maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Such certification shall be obtained from a course approved or offered by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or any other entity approved by the Board.
- (d) Each licensee must upload all completed CE documentation to, and maintain access within, the Board's selected contractor's tracking system. Each licensee shall submit to the selected contractor's tracking system proof of completion for each CE course taken or have such documentation submitted by the CE provider. The proof of completion shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt. Each licensee is responsible for reviewing the information contained in the system to ensure its accuracy.

(e) The licensee must, within thirty (30) days of a request from the Board, provide a copy of the selected contractor tracking system CE transcript as evidence of CE activities. Certificates verifying the licensee's attendance or original letters from course providers are such evidence.

(2) Approval of Continuing Education

(a) The Board recognizes only those courses provided by one of the Approved Vendors as listed on the Board's website and/or any other CE courses accredited by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) which meet their criteria and standards for integrity and independence to ensure a high-quality, evidence-based, non-biased programs of education.

(b) Any course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices must be COPE accredited. Any course related to controlled substance prescribing practices must include instruction in the Department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol and may include topics such as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics approved by the Board.

(c) Courses will be classified by the Board as one (1) of the following categories:

1. In-person

(i) Face-to-face

(ii) Hands on workshop

(iii) Interactive posters containing hyperlinks with additional materials with authors present and available for interaction

2. Virtual

(i) Synchronous

(I) Interactive

(II) Lecturer and learner are together at the same time

(III) Real time communication between the instructor and the learner

(IV) Learners can receive immediate feedback

(V) Fixed schedule; learning takes place only once at a specific date and time

(ii) Asynchronous - Distance, Non-Interactive

(I) Lecturer and learner are not together at the same time

(II) Learners do not receive immediate feedback

(III) Content is created and made available for attendance at a later date

(IV) No fixed schedule, learner-paced

(d) Proof of attendance -

1. Proof of attendance must be provided to each licensee attending an approved course by the providers of the course.
2. It is the responsibility of the licensee attending the CE course/program to ascertain whether the program is COPE approved and the course classification as determined by COPE.
3. Waiver of CE requirements or extension of the deadline to complete such requirements may be made by the Board on an individual basis as provided in Rule 1045-02-.04(3).

(3) A licensee is exempt from the CE requirements for the calendar year that the licensee graduated from an accredited college or school of optometry if the licensee's first licensure renewal cycle is twelve (12) months or less. Licensees whose licensure renewal cycle exceeds twenty-four (24) months are required to complete forty (40) CE hours as required of licensees on a regular CE renewal cycle. If the licensee's first licensure renewal cycle exceeds twelve (12) months, but is not more than twenty-four (24) months, the licensee shall be required to complete twenty (20) hours of Board approved CE in the following:

- (a) A minimum of ten (10) CE hours is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease.
- (b) Two (2) hours shall be a course designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices;
- (c) A maximum of four (4) hours may pertain to optometric business/practice management and/or ethics/jurisprudence;
- (d) CE hours may also be obtained pertaining to clinical optometry;
- (e) No more than fifteen (15) hours in any CE cycle may be obtained via Synchronous Remote/Virtual formats. A maximum of five (5) hours of Asynchronous format hours will be allowed in any CE cycle; and
- (f) Each licensee shall maintain current CPR certification in addition to the twenty (20) CE hours noted in 1045-02-.05 (3).

(4) Violations

- (a) Any licensee who falsely certifies attendance and completion of the required hours of CE requirements, or who does not or cannot adequately substantiate completed CE hours with the required documentation, may be subject to disciplinary action.
- (b) Prior to the institution of any disciplinary proceedings, notification shall be sent to the last known address of the licensee stating the facts or conduct which warrant the intended action.
- (c) The licensee has thirty (30) days from the date noted on the notification to show compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of the license.

- (d) Any licensee who fails to show compliance with the required CE hours in response to the notice referenced above may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to an Agreed Citation. Agreed Citations are settlement offers issued by Board administrative staff outlining a licensee's violation(s) of statute(s) and/or rule(s), and may assess a civil penalty. Agreed Citations may be willingly entered by a licensee to avoid further disciplinary action related to the licensee's violation(s) noted in the Agreed Citation.
- (e) CE hours obtained as a result of compliance with the terms of an Agreed Citation shall not be credited toward the CE hours required to be obtained in any renewal period.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 63-8-112, 63-8-119, and 63-8-120.

**1045-02-.07 DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC CERTIFICATION.**

- (1) It is the intent of the Board that all applicants for licensure as optometrists attain the highest level of licensure available under the law including diagnostic and therapeutic certification as provided in T.C.A. §§ 63-8-102(12)(E) and 63-8-112(4). Attaining therapeutic certification must include attaining certification to use pharmaceutical agents by injection. No licensee shall be certified to prescribe or use pharmaceutical agents for treatment purposes in the practice of optometry unless, and until, they meet the following:
  - (a) An applicant for licensure in Tennessee must graduate from a college or school which is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education or accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). Applicants graduating AFTER August 1, 2012, must submit documentation of successful completion (i.e., passage) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry - Injectable Skills Examination (NBEO - ISE) or its successor. Passage of this examination is in addition to successful completion (i.e. passage) of NBEO Part I - Applied Basic Science (ABS) Examination, NBEO Part II - Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) Examination and NBEO Part III - Clinical Skills Examination (CSE).
  - (b) An applicant for licensure in Tennessee must graduate from a college or school which is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education or by ACOE. Applicants graduating BEFORE August 1, 2012, must submit documentation to the Board of successful completion (i.e. passage) of NBEO Part I - Applied Basic Science (ABS) Examination, NBEO Part II - Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) Examination, NBEO Part III - Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) and evidence of successful completion of the NBEO Injectable Skills Examination (ISE) or its successor.
- (2) Any individual wishing to reinstate a lapsed license or bring a license out of retirement shall be treated as an applicant for licensure in accordance with Rule 1045-02.04 and shall be required to provide proof of completion of (1)(a) or (1)(b).
- ~~(2) Diagnosis Certification. Any applicant who submits or has submitted a transcript which contains at least six (6) quarter hours in the courses provided in T.C.A. § 63-8-102(12)(E) and becomes or became licensed to practice Optometry in Tennessee shall be diagnostically certified.~~
- ~~(3) Therapeutic Certification:~~
  - ~~(a) To certify optometrists to administer and prescribe pharmaceutical agents for treatment, perform primary eye care procedures, the performance or ordering of procedures and laboratory tests rational to the diagnosis of conditions or diseases of the eye or eyelid. No~~

~~optometrist shall be certified to prescribe or use pharmaceutical agents for treatment purposes in the practice of optometry unless and until he meets all of the following:~~

- ~~1. Show evidence to the Board by providing a certified transcript of ninety (90) classroom hours in pharmacology and sixty (60) classroom hours in ocular disease from a college or university which is accredited by an agency approved by the Council on Post Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education.~~
- ~~2. Show evidence to the Board by providing a certified transcript from a college or university which is accredited by an agency approved by the Council on Post Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education, of forty (40) hours of clinical experience acquired on or after April 22, 1987. The clinical experience is to include diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease including the use of pharmaceutical agents.~~
- ~~3. Be diagnostically certified, as provided in T.C.A. § 63-8-102(12)(E) and paragraph (2) of this rule.~~
- ~~4. Has taken and successfully passed the examination administered or approved by the Board.~~

~~(b) All optometrists licensed to practice in Tennessee who are therapeutically certified by the Board must show the Board by proof of completion of the following clinical review courses by 7/1/94, or their equivalent obtained from the experience of current practice and licensure in a state with a similar scope of practice act. The clinical review courses are:~~

- ~~1. A 24-hour Board approved transcript quality credit clinical course as it relates to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of glaucoma.~~
- ~~2. A 6-hour Board approved transcript quality credit course as it related to the clinical application of oral medication necessary for the treatment of diseases of the eye/eyelid including the use of controlled substances.~~

~~(c) These courses may count toward meeting the annual continuing education requirements as determined by the Board. Any optometrist not completing these requirements will be subject to therapeutic privilege suspension until such time as the clinical review is complete. Any optometrist aggrieved by the Board's written decision suspending his or her therapeutic certification privileges shall have 30 days from the date such decision is received to request a contested case hearing under the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. The Board will extend the July 1, 1994 deadline date only in cases of hardship as determined by the Board. Graduates of accredited schools of optometry after May 5, 1993 are excluded from these requirements. In order to obtain therapeutic certification, any optometrist graduating before May 5, 1993 must meet the requirements of Rule 1045-02-.03 and must complete the clinical review courses prior to licensure.~~

~~(d) No therapeutically certified optometrist shall use pharmaceutical agents by injection except to counter anaphylaxis until they have received approval from the Board. The Board will not approve the use of injections until the optometrist demonstrates to the Board's satisfaction sufficient educational training and/or clinical training, and submits proof of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The education must be obtained from a course approved or offered by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or any other entity approved by the Board.~~

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ ~~4-5-202, 4-5-204,~~ 63-8-102, 63-8-112, and 63-8-115. **Administrative History:** ~~Original rule filed May 15, 1981; effective July 22, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed November 30, 1990; effective January 14, 1991. Amendment filed February 14, 1994; effective April 30, 1994. Amendment filed January 4, 2002; effective March 20, 2002. Amendment filed March 22, 2007; effective June 9, 2007. Amendment filed July 29, 2015; effective October 27, 2015.~~