

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS



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Continuing Education Requirements

- The new **license renewal period is one year** from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The current cycle is from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.
- However, licensees asked to **retain the two year continuing education (CE) cycle** for their convenience by giving them more time to obtain their CE hours.
- The **CE cycle is now every even-numbered two year period**. This means the current CE cycle is from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.
- All licensees must complete 43 hours of CE during the 2 year period.
- All licensees must complete 3 hours of continuing education in drug diversion and best practices prescribing for every CE cycle **OR** a licensee may be exempt from this course requirement by completing a sworn **waiver** stating that he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance during the previous two year CE period.
- **Example:** The new CE rule will be effective in 2013. The three hour drug diversion course requirement is tied to the CE cycle. So when you renew your license by **June 30, 2014**, you will need to present documentation that you have completed the three hour drug diversion course during the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 **OR** present a signed waiver stating that you have not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.
- Licensees receiving their initial license on March 1, 2013 or after must complete the 3 hour drug diversion course within one year of receiving his or her initial license.

Advanced Certificate Practitioners

- There are additional requirements for licensees who hold advanced certificates. Every licensee is required to complete 12 hours of CE in in pharmacology or therapeutics.
- A licensee who holds an Oral Pharmaceutical Certificate must take at least 12 hours in ocular pathology and therapeutic pharmacological agents as well.
- A licensee who holds an Injectable Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate must take a minimum of 2 hours of CE in administering pharmaceutical agents by injection.
- In addition the licensees with injection authority must keep their certificate in basic life support from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross current. (An applicant for injection authority took a course on line that said it met or exceeded the requirements of the American Heart Association. The rule says that the course in basic life support must be taken from the **American Heart Association or the American Red Cross only**. No other instructor or organization may be used to complete this requirement.)

Please see the list for each category of licensure.

West Virginia Board of Optometry CE Requirements

All Licensees

1. Two year even-numbered cycle (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014),
2. 43 total hours of CE,
3. At least 12 hours of CE in pharmacology or therapeutics,
4. No more than 6 hours of CE in practice management,
5. No more than 10 hours of instruction by Internet or correspondence,
6. 3 hours of drug diversion and best practices prescribing of controlled substances
OR sign a waiver stating the he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance in the previous CE cycle upon renewal on June 30, 2014. The waiver will state that he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.

Oral Pharmaceutical Certificate Holders –OD

1. Two year even-numbered cycle (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014),
2. 43 total hours of CE,
3. At least 12 hours of CE in pharmacology or therapeutics,
4. No more than 6 hours of CE in practice management,
5. No more than 10 hours of instruction by Internet or correspondence,
6. 3 hours of drug diversion and best practices prescribing of controlled substances
OR sign a waiver stating the he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance in the previous CE cycle upon renewal on June 30, 2014. The waiver will state that he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.

AND

7. At least 12 hours of CE in ocular pathology and therapeutic pharmacological agents.

Injectable Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate Holders -IOD

1. Two year even-numbered cycle (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014),
2. 43 total hours of CE,
3. At least 12 hours of CE in pharmacology or therapeutics,
4. No more than 6 hours of CE in practice management,
5. No more than 10 hours of instruction by Internet or correspondence,
6. 3 hours of drug diversion and best practices prescribing of controlled substances
OR sign a waiver stating the he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance in the previous CE cycle upon renewal on June

30, 2014. The waiver will state that he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.

AND

7. At least twelve hours of CE in ocular pathology and therapeutic pharmacological agents.

ALSO

8. 2 hours of CE in administering pharmaceuticals by injection.
9. Current certification from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross in basic life support.

If the Licensee Receives His or Her Initial WV License on March 1, 2013 or After

1. Two year even-numbered cycle (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014),
2. 43 total hours of CE, however
3. **IF** the new licensee has graduated from an accredited optometry school within one year of successfully completing the license interview, he or she is exempt from taking CE from the time of the interview date to his or her next license renewal **with exception** of the drug diversion requirement listed below in item 7. **Example:** If a new licensee completes his or her interview on July 5, 2013 and has graduated from optometry school within one year of July 5, 2013, he or she will only have to take 3 hours of drug diversion and best practices prescribing until his or her renewal on June 30, 2014. If the new licensee has not graduated from an accredited optometry school within one year of his or her license interview, he or she must complete items 4 through 10.
4. At least 12 hours of CE in pharmacology or therapeutics,
5. No more than 6 hours of CE in practice management,
6. No more than 10 hours of instruction by Internet or correspondence,
7. 3 hours of drug diversion and best practices prescribing of controlled substances within **ONE YEAR** of receiving his or her initial license.

AND

8. At least twelve hours of CE in ocular pathology and therapeutic pharmacological agents.

ALSO

9. 2 hours of CE in administering pharmaceuticals by injection.
10. Current certification from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross in basic life support.