

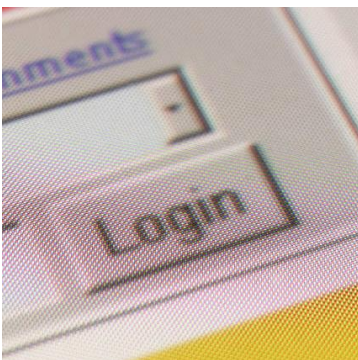
# West Virginia Board of Optometry Visionary



## Special points of interest:

- 43 Hour CE Requirement
- Online Renewal on May 16
- Online Renewal is Easy
- License Interview
- New Licensee CE Requirements
- CE Audit Results

*An immediately printable temporary license card is available with online renewal.*



## 43 Hours of Continuing Education and Drug Diversion Requirement

The total number CE hours required per two year even number period is no longer 40 hours.

You must now complete 43 hours of continuing education (CE) for every even number two year period to accommodate a new Drug Diversion CE requirement. The current period is from 7/1/12–6/30/14.

The Governor worked with the Legislature to establish a program to fight drug addiction in West Virginia. The law was passed in 2012. This required the Board to change its legislative CE requirements, and the legislative rule for Continuing Education, §14-10, was changed effective 7/13/13.

Each licensee must complete a 3 hour course in Drug Diversion and Best Practices Prescribing or complete and submit a Drug Diversion Waiver stating the he/she has not and will not prescribe a controlled substance from 7/1/12–6/30/14.

The WV Association of Optometric Physicians (WVAOP) knew of the WV Code change and offered a live 3 hour course on 11/11/12 entitled “Prescriptive Protocol and Drug Diversion.” If you attended this class, you have met the Drug Diversion CE requirement.

If you did not attend this class and you wish to receive the Drug Diversion training the WV Association of Optometric Physicians (WVAOP) has created a Drug Diversion correspondence course. You may reach the WVAOP at 304-720-8262.

If you do not prescribe controlled substances you may complete the Drug Diversion Waiver and submit it to the Board office. You may print a copy of the form from the Board’s web site at [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org). When you are on the home page of the Board’s site you will see a blue grey section and a white section on the right. At the top of the white is the Board’s Mission Statement.



There are four items posted beneath the Mission Statement. The Drug Diversion Waiver is the 3rd item. Click on the Drug Diversion Waiver and it will appear on the screen. Print the waiver and fill it out. You will need to have someone witness your signature since this is a legal document. Send the waiver to the Board office using the information listed at the top of the form. The completed waiver will count as 3 hours of CE credit to meet your drug diversion requirement and contribute to your total of 43 hours needed between 7/1/12 and 6/30/14. There are differences for new licensees.

## Online Renewal System To Open on May 16, 2014

Optometric law was changed to reduce the biennial renewal period to an annual renewal beginning in 2012. This new change is listed in our rules, §14-1. The fee for annual renewal is \$400. The current license period ends on June 30, 2014.

The Board’s web site will open

the on line renewal system on May 16. The online system is simple and has an added advantage. There is now a temporary renewal card available upon completion of the online renewal process through the web site. Once your payment information is processed there will be a “Continue” button on the bottom of the screen to

your right. Click the “Continue” button and your transaction will be sent back to the Board web site. Your new renewal date of June 30, 2015 will be added to your record and a temporary renewal card will appear. Please print this card to use for license verification until your permanent card arrives in the postal mail.



**You now must obtain 43 hours of CE per two year period including 3 hrs. of Drug Diversion Training or Drug D Waiver.**

All continuing education courses must be approved by the WV Board of Optometry to be counted toward your total of 43 hours of CE per every even numbered two year period.

The Board has pre-approved the CE offered or approved by the following sponsors or organizations:

## Continuing Education Requirements In More Detail

1. The American Optometric Association or its affiliated organizations,
2. The WVAOP or other state optometric associations
3. The American Academy of Optometry,
4. Post-graduate courses offered at any accredited school or college of optometry,
5. The Southern Council of Optometry (SECO) or its affiliates, and
6. The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (or COPE) approved courses.

All other CE courses must be pre-approved by the Board to be counted toward the CE requirement. A sponsor of a course may make an application to the Board for course pre-approval using the process listed in §14-10-6.

There are certain CE categories listed by the Board in its CE rule. Some categories list a minimum

number of hours. Others list a maximum of hours.

1. At least 12 hours of CE must be obtained in pharmacology or therapeutics.
2. A maximum of 6 hours of CE in practice management per two year period.
3. A maximum of 10 hours of CE may be obtained by Internet or correspondence.
4. A licensee who holds an Injection certificate must take at least 2 hours of CE in injections per two year period.
5. A licensee who holds an injection certificate must maintain current certification in CPR from the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

It is the responsibility of each licensee to maintain proof of CE attendance. Each optometrist should keep proof of the current and previous CE peri-

ods. The appropriate proof for a licensee to hold as of the date May 7, 2013 would be proof of the courses taken from 7/1/10–6/30/12 and courses taken from 7/1/12–6/30/14.

Proof of attendance is first confirmed by the Board from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) OE Tracker CE database.

Sponsors upload attendance data directly into the system. Paper certificates may be faxed to ARBO until 7/1/14 for free. The Fax number is 704-970-2720. The ARBO web site is at [www.arbo.org](http://www.arbo.org).

Those who have enough hours in OE Tracker will receive a letter of congratulation. Those who do not have enough hours in OE Tracker will receive a request for paper records for the additional CE hours needed.

There are certain exemptions for new licensees. Please look at the article on page three for more detail on new licensees.

## Annual Renewal Online is Quick and Easy

Optometrists must renew their license on or before June 30, 2014. The fee for renewal is \$400. There is a late renewal fee of \$200 for those renewals not received by June 30, 2014.

License renewal will be conducted using the Board's web site, [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org). Payment may be made by credit card, using the numbers from the bottom of your check or check by mail postmarked within 48 hours of license renewal on the web site.

You may click on "Licensees" in the left column of the home page. This leads you to a new menu. Please select "Online Annual Renewal." The next

action will be to click your mouse on "Account Manager".

If you have established an encrypted user account with the web site you may enter your user name and password. If you are a new licensee who has not registered on the web site you may establish a new account.

Review your personal information including all addresses, e-mail address and phone numbers. Please be sure to list the address of all of your office locations then mark "yes" or "no" to the licensee assurances at the end of your listing. The process will take approximately five minutes.

A temporary renewal card will appear at the completion of the online renewal process that you can print immediately for license verification.

Once you have entered your payment information and received your printable receipt, there is a "Continue" button on the right of the screen. Please click this button to complete your license renewal and receive your temporary license to print.

Annual notification of renewal is a courtesy of the Board, and failure to receive a notice does not exempt anyone from the penalties of failing to meet the requirements of

renewal of the West Virginia Code.

It is vital that your or your assistant check your email address, other addresses and phone numbers. Your online database record is the only permanent record the Board has for you. Many licensees or assistants skip the step of verifying and updating your database information. Important information from the Board may not reach you if it is not up to date. In addition, the counties of your office locations are reported to the Legislature annually. The questions at the end of your information are your annual assurances of compliance and are legally binding.

## WV Board of Optometry License Interview Date Tentatively Scheduled for July 12, 2014

The West Virginia Board of Optometry may hold its Summer, 2014 license interviews on July 12 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Board office at 179 Summers Street, Suite 231, Charleston, WV 25301. Applications may be received in the Board office by June 12 2012.

The interview includes questions on pharmacology, laboratory procedures, ocular manifestations of systemic diseases and ophthalmic science (e.g.: optics). There is a written multiple choice exam on jurisprudence administered simultaneously. You may also choose to take the jurispru-

dence exam through the National Board of Examiners in Optometry on its website at [www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org). The fee is \$25. Go to "Laws and Regulations Governing Optometry" on our website at [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org) to study for the jurisprudence exam.

The requirements for an application are listed in West Virginia Code, §14-1-3. Some important requirements to remember are:

- A certified, sealed transcript from the applicant's undergraduate and optometry school must be sent directly to

the Board office.

- The applicant must take and successfully pass the exam from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBE) parts I, II, III and the ISE on injections. A copy of the exam results must be sent to the Board office.

- A copy of your birth certificate is to be enclosed.

- Two 2" x 2" color photographs must accompany the application.

- The fee for the application is \$300.00.

The application may be requested from the board office at 1-800-250-4150, downloaded from the board's web site at [www.wvbo.org](http://www.wvbo.org) or requested by postal mail.

§14-1 section §14-1-3 on the application process is posted on the web site under "Laws and Regulations."

The Board will decide on a final date for the interviews at its May 30 meeting. Applications are due 30 days in advance of the interviews. The tentative deadline for applications is June 12, 2014.

## New Licensees Have Different Drug Diversion and CE Requirements

All new licenses beginning with the Summer 2013 class must complete 3 hours of Drug Diversion and Best Practices Prescribing CE within one year of receiving his or her initial license without exception. New licensees do not have access to the Drug Diversion Waiver as a choice. This requirement was written in the WV Code and had to be included in the Board's legislative rule, §14-10, Continuing Education. The WVAOP has a Drug Diversion correspondence course available. You may contact WVAOP at 304-720-8262 for more information on the course.

New licensees have an exemption regarding their first CE renewal cycle. A licensee who has graduated from an optometric school accredited by the

Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or its successor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education within one year of successfully completing the licensing interview shall be exempt from the requirements of 43 hours of continuing education for a period of time from the date of successful completion of the licensing interview to the licensee's first license renewal. This exemption does not apply to the 3 hour Drug Diversion CE requirement.

This exemption from CE is also used for newly licensed attorneys. The theory behind the exemption is that optometrists who have graduated from optometry school recently have already had access to the most up to date information in opto-

metric treatment. They do not need to refresh their knowledge base.

The first example would be of someone who was a recent graduate, passed his or her license interview and received his or her license in July 2013. He or she would not have to complete any CE hours except Drug Diversion. The 3 hour course for Drug Diversion would have to be completed by July 20, 2014. He or she would also need to have current certification in CPR from the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

The second example would be an optometrist who passed his or her interview on July 14, 2012. He or she would have a CE exemption to CE from 7/14/12 to 6/30/13. He or she

would need to accumulate 20 hours of CE plus 3 hours of Drug Diversion CE or sign the waiver for the 6/30/14 renewal.

The categories of CE required would be pro-rated for the one year, such as at least 6 hours of study in pharmacology or therapeutics must be completed and at least 1 hour of injection CE. In addition, he or she must have current certification in CPR from the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

Many new licensees have only basic injection administration authority or IV and IM authority. You may obtain full certification by successfully passing the injection course offered by the University of Alabama Optometry School or Northeastern Oklahoma State University Optometry School that meets the requirements of §14-11.

## Recent Continuing Education Audit Results

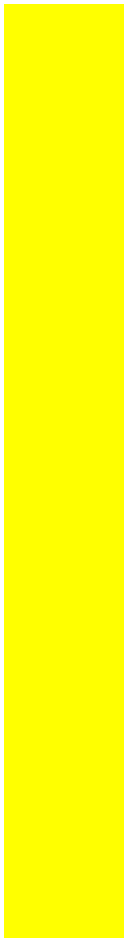
The Board has moved to a 100% CE audit. An audit was conducted for 7/1/10—6/30/12 during the Fall of 2013 and Spring of 2014.

50% of licensees had enough hours in OE Tracker and received a congratulatory letter immediately. Others were required to send paper certifi-

cates to ARBO or to the Board office.

12 violators were found. These licensees did not have the required CE hours for the period.

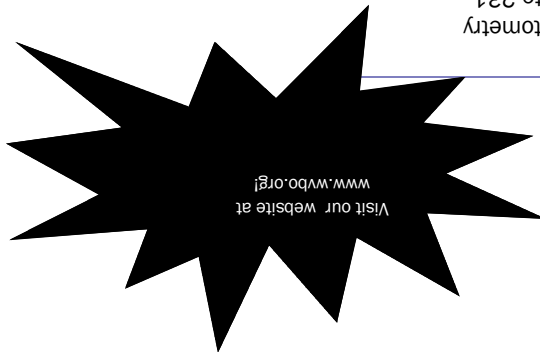
The Board will meet on May 30 to consider appropriate disciplinary action. A report on violators will be placed into the Disciplinary Report sent to the Legislature.



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 PAM CARPER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**WVBO has a toll free number in WV!**  
 800-250-4150

Email: wvbdopt@frontier.com  
 Fax: 304/558-5908  
 Phone: 304/558-5901  
 Charleston, WV 25301  
 179 Summers Street, Suite 231  
 West Virginia Board of Optometry



## Change of Address/Name Form

Mail form to: West Virginia Board of Optometry  
 179 Summers Street, Suite 231  
 Charleston, WV 25301

You MUST keep this office informed of any address or name changes.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS and/or CHANGE OF NAME FORM

NAME OF LICENSEE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF CHANGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WV LICENSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME CHANGED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check only one preferred mailing address:

(The preferred mailing address is your address of record and is public information. Telephone numbers are not public information.)

Principal Office Address

Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee for Address Change: \$10.00

Fee for Name Change: \$10.00

