

CHAPTER 180
LICENSURE OF OPTOMETRISTS

[Prior to 6/13/01, see 645—Chapter 180]

645—180.1(154) Definitions. For purposes of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Approved program or activity*” means a continuing education program or activity meeting the standards set forth in these rules which has received advance approval by the board pursuant to these rules.

“*Board*” means the board of optometry examiners.

“*Inactive licensee*” means any person licensed to practice optometry in Iowa who has met all conditions for officially placing the person’s license on inactive status and may not practice optometry until the reinstatement requirements as defined in these rules are met.

“*Lapsed license*” means a license that a person has failed to renew as required, or the license of a person who has failed to meet the stated obligations for renewal within a stated time.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as an optometrist in the state of Iowa.

“*Licensure by endorsement*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice optometry to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state.

“*NBEO*” means the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

“*Reciprocal license*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice optometry to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state which has a mutual agreement with the Iowa board of optometry examiners to license persons who have the same or similar qualifications to those required in Iowa.

645—180.2(154) Requirements for licensure.

180.2(1) The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

a. An applicant shall complete a board-approved application form. Application forms may be obtained from the board’s Web site (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>) or directly from the Board of Optometry Examiners, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

b. An applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.

c. An applicant shall submit the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Board of Optometry Examiners. The fees are nonrefundable.

d. An applicant shall present a transcript from an accredited school or college of optometry and shall submit proof of satisfactory completion of all educational requirements contained in Iowa Code chapter 154.

e. An applicant shall pass all parts of the NBEO examination in effect at the time of application.

f. Licensees who were issued their licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

g. Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be:

(1) Considered invalid and shall be destroyed; or

(2) Maintained upon written request of the candidate. The candidate is responsible for requesting that the file be maintained.

h. An applicant shall provide an official verification regarding the status of the applicant’s license from the board of examiners in each state in which the applicant is currently or was formerly licensed.

180.2(2) A licensee may change from a diagnostically certified optometrist to a therapeutically certified optometrist by taking 40 hours of didactic education and 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa and an additional 44 hours of education with emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular diseases as defined by statute.

645—180.3(154) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been a licensed optometrist under laws of another jurisdiction for one year or more shall file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. An applicant for licensure to practice optometry in Iowa may only apply to be a therapeutically certified optometrist. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia, another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

180.3(1) Submits to the board a completed application;

180.3(2) Pays the licensure fee; and

180.3(3) Shows evidence of the following:

a. The applicant shall provide a notarized copy of the diploma, no larger than 8½" × 11", along with an official copy of the transcript sent directly from the school to the board office. The transcript shall show a doctor of optometry degree from an accredited school. In the case of foreign graduates, applicants shall provide evidence of adherence to the current requirements of the NBEO to sit for the examination;

b. The applicant shall show evidence of successful completion of the examination of the NBEO that was current at the time of initial licensure, or the examination that is currently offered by the NBEO;

c. The applicant shall supply evidence of completion of a course which has particular emphasis on the examination, diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa, provided by an institution accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization which is recognized or approved by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation of the United States Department of Education;

d. The applicant shall show evidence on the transcript of:

(1) Forty hours of didactic education and 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa; and

(2) An additional 44 hours of education with emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular diseases.

e. If the transcript does not show evidence of 40 hours of didactic education, 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa, and 44 hours of education with emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular diseases, the applicant shall show satisfactory evidence of completion of a course that includes training in the above-listed areas.

f. Any transcript that shows graduation from an approved school of optometry after January 2, 1988, meets the requirement of 180.3(3) "d."

g. Any transcript that shows graduation from an approved school of optometry after January 2, 1986, meets the requirement of 40 hours of didactic education and 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa.

h. An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall provide proof of licensure and evidence of one year of active practice in another state, territory or district of the United States immediately preceding the date of application that has a similar scope of practice to that required in Iowa as determined by the board. When the scope of practice is different, the applicant shall make available to the board evidence of completion of additional hours of training related to the area of the deficiency as prescribed by the board. The board may waive the requirement of one year of active practice if, during the above-mentioned one-year period, the applicant was:

- (1) Teaching optometry;
- (2) A military optometrist;
- (3) A supervisory or administrative optometrist; or
- (4) A researcher in optometry.

i. An applicant shall provide verification by an official statement from the board of examiners in each state in which the applicant is licensed regarding the status of the applicant's license, including date of licensure and license expiration date.

j. An applicant shall provide a statement disclosing and explaining the applicant's involvement in civil litigation related to the practice of optometry in any jurisdiction of the United States, other nations or territories.

k. Applicants for licensure by endorsement who were issued their Iowa licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

645—180.4(147) Licensure by reciprocal agreement. The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with the District of Columbia, any state, territory, province or foreign country with equal or similar requirements for licensure of optometrists.

645—180.5(154) License renewal.

180.5(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice optometry shall begin on July 1 of even-numbered years and end on June 30 two years later. All licensees shall renew on a biennial basis.

180.5(2) A renewal of license application and continuing education report form to practice optometry shall be mailed to the licensee at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. Failure to receive the renewal application shall not relieve the license holder of the obligation to pay the biennial renewal fee(s) on or before the renewal date.

a. The licensee shall submit the completed application and continuing education report form with the renewal fee(s) to the board office before the license expiration date.

b. Individuals who were issued their initial licenses within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew their licenses until the next renewal date two years later.

c. Those persons licensed for the first time shall not be required to complete continuing education as a prerequisite for the first renewal of their licenses.

d. Persons licensed to practice optometry shall keep their renewal licenses displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

180.5(3) Late renewal. If the renewal fee(s), continuing education report and renewal application are received within 30 days after the license renewal expiration date, the late fee for failure to renew before expiration is charged.

180.5(4) When all requirements for license renewal are met, the licensee shall be sent a license renewal card by regular mail.

645—180.6(272C) Exemptions for inactive practitioners.

180.6(1) A licensee who is not engaged in practice in the state of Iowa may be granted a waiver of compliance and obtain a certificate of exemption upon written application to the board. The application shall contain a statement that the applicant will not engage in the practice of optometry in the state of Iowa without first complying with all regulations governing reinstatement after exemption. The application for a certificate of exemption shall be submitted by the license expiration date upon the form provided by the board. A licensee must hold a current license in order to apply for exempt status. A licensee shall apply for inactive status prior to the license expiration date.

180.6(2) Reinstatement of exempted, inactive practitioners. Inactive practitioners who have requested and been granted a waiver of compliance with the renewal requirements and who have obtained a certificate of exemption shall, prior to engaging in the practice of the profession in Iowa, satisfy the requirements for reinstatement as outlined in 645—181.10(154,272C).

180.6(3) Licensees shall renew at the next scheduled renewal. Licensees who were issued their reinstatements within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

180.6(4) A new licensee who is on inactive status during the initial license renewal time period and reinstates before the first license expiration date will not be required to complete continuing education only for that first license renewal time period. Fifty hours of continuing education for therapeutic licensees and 30 hours for nontherapeutic licensees will be required for every renewal thereafter.

180.6(5) Verifications of license(s) are required from any state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license became inactive.

180.6(6) Reinstatement of the inactive license after exemption. The following chart illustrates the requirements for reinstatement based on the length of time a license has been inactive.

An applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:	Up to 1 renewal	2 or more renewals
Submit written application for reinstatement to the board	Required	Required
Pay the current renewal fee	\$120	\$120
Pay reinstatement fee	\$50	\$50
Provide evidence of full-time practice in another state and completion of continuing education hours equivalent to requirements in Iowa OR Provide evidence of completion of continuing education OR Provide evidence of successful completion of national examination	50 hours for therapeutic licensees 30 hours for nontherapeutic licensees 50 hours for therapeutic licensees 30 hours for nontherapeutic licensees National examination within one year immediately prior to application for reinstatement	100 hours for therapeutic licensees 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees 100 hours for therapeutic licensees 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees National examination within one year immediately prior to application for reinstatement
Total fees and continuing education hours required:	\$170 and 50 hours for therapeutic licensees, \$170 and 30 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	\$170 and 100 hours for therapeutic licensees, \$170 and 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees

645—180.7(272C) Lapsed licenses.

180.7(1) If the renewal fee(s) and continuing education report are received more than 30 days after the license renewal expiration date, the license is lapsed. An application for reinstatement must be filed with the board accompanied by the reinstatement fee, the renewal fee for each biennium the license is lapsed, and the late fee. The licensee may be subject to an audit of the licensee's continuing education report.

180.7(2) Licensees who have not fulfilled the requirements for license renewal or for an exemption in the required time frame shall have a lapsed license and shall not engage in the practice of optometry in Iowa. Practicing without a license may be cause for disciplinary action.

180.7(3) In order to reinstate a lapsed license, a licensee shall comply with all requirements for reinstatement as outlined in 645—181.6(154).

180.7(4) Licensees whose licenses are reinstated within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

180.7(5) Verifications of license(s) are required from any state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license lapsed.

180.7(6) Following reinstatement of a lapsed license, the licensee shall renew the license at the next scheduled renewal cycle and shall complete the continuing education required for that renewal.

180.7(7) Reinstatement of a lapsed license. The following chart illustrates the requirements for reinstatement based on the length of time a license has lapsed.

An applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:	30 days after expiration date up to 1 renewal	2 renewals	3 renewals	4 renewals
Submit written application for reinstatement	Required	Required	Required	Required
Pay renewal fee(s)	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480
Pay reinstatement fee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Pay late fee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Complete continuing education requirements	50 hours for therapeutic licensees 30 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	100 hours for therapeutic licensees 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	100 hours for therapeutic licensees 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	100 hours for therapeutic licensees 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees
Total fees and continuing education hours required:	\$220 and 50 hours for therapeutic licensees, \$220 and 30 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	\$340 and 100 hours for therapeutic licensees, \$340 and 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	\$460 and 100 hours for therapeutic licensees, \$460 and 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees	\$580 and 100 hours for therapeutic licensees, \$580 and 60 hours for nontherapeutic licensees

645—180.8(17A,147,272C) License denial.

180.8(1) An applicant who has been denied licensure by the board may appeal the denial and request a hearing on the issues related to the licensure denial by serving a notice of appeal and request for hearing upon the board not more than 30 days following the date of mailing of the notification of licensure denial to the applicant. The request for hearing as outlined in these rules shall specifically describe the facts to be contested and determined at the hearing.

180.8(2) If an applicant who has been denied licensure by the board appeals the licensure denial and requests a hearing pursuant to this rule, the hearing and subsequent procedures shall be held pursuant to the process outlined in Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272C.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 154 and 272C.

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