

Optometrist

Documentation Required for Licensure

- Application and fee (\$300). **All application fees are nonrefundable.** To apply, do the following:

Create an account, apply and pay online at: <https://ibpllicense.iowa.gov/>

- Educational Requirements - Official transcripts conferring a doctoral degree from an accredited optometry college or university, sent directly to the Board office from the college or university. Foreign-trained applicants should contact the Board office for educational requirements.
- Examination Requirements - Official NBEO passing examination scores. The applicant must pass all parts of the examination in effect at the time of application, unless the applicant has been actively licensed and practicing in another state for at least 3 years, in which case the applicant must provide proof of successful completion of the NBEO examination that was current at the time of his/ her initial licensure.

Applicants who have been previously licensed and actively practicing in another state for 3 years or more must also provide:

- Verification of licenses held in other states:

Applicants that have been previously licensed, registered or certified in any other state must provide official verification of licensure in the other state(s). The license verification must include license issue date, expiration date and any pending or past disciplinary action. The verification may be printed from another state licensing board's website if it contains all of the required information. If web based verification is not available, the verification must be send directly to the Board office by the state(s) where the applicant has been licensed, registered, or certified. If the applicant has never been licensed in another state, ignore this item.

- Evidence of 3 years of active practice in another state immediately preceding the Iowa licensure application. A letter from the employer during this period of time will suffice to meet this requirement. The applicant is exempt from this 3 year active practice requirement if the applicant was:
 - Teaching optometry
 - A military optometrist
 - A supervisory or administrative optometrist
 - A researcher in optometry
- Proof of current CELMO certification. An applicant who has been previously licensed and engaged in active practice in another state for 3 years or more and is not CELMO certified must also provide evidence of the following:
 - Evidence of completion of a course that has a 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 that is recognized or approved by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation of the United States Department of Education, AND

- Evidence on the college/ university transcript of all of the following (or proof of completion of equivalent coursework) ⁱ:
 - 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 ⁱⁱ.

ⁱ Any transcript that shows graduation from an approved school of optometry after January 2, 1988, meets all of these requirements.

ⁱⁱ A transcript that shows graduation from an approved school of optometry between January 2, 1986 and January 2, 1988 meets the 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. Applicants that graduated in this timeframe must show evidence of completion of 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.