



SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry

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Code of Regulations Chapter 95-4. **Continuing Education.**

A. Each licensee seeking renewal of a license must certify completion of forty (40) hours of continuing education (CE) for the biennial licensure period. Continuing education instruction must be on subjects relative to optometry.

B. Each licensee shall maintain records to support credits claimed. These records must be maintained for a minimum period of three (3) years during which copies may be requested by the Board for audit verification purposes.

C. Sixteen (16) hours, of the forty (40), must be pharmacology or pathology related.

D. CPR certification courses are approved for four hours; CPR re-certification courses are approved for two hours.

E. An unlimited number of CE hours can be from courses sponsored by national, regional, and state optometric organizations, optometry schools, or medical schools. Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) approved courses are not automatically approved. All laser surgery education is considered general hours, not pharmacology. Hours obtained for CPR certification or CPR recertification are limited to the number of hours above (D) and qualify as unlimited CE.

F. No more than eight (8) of the forty (40) hours required can be from courses, live or online, sponsored by local optometric society groups and private businesses/organizations such as, physicians, optometrists, and optical industry shows. Four (4) hours, of this eight may be for courses that are not limited to the practice of optometry but which are directly related to health care programs such as HIPAA, Medicare and Medicaid, Ethics, and Jurisprudence. Additional hours of CE credit from this category of sponsors may be approved if the sponsor can demonstrate the course is COPE approved and a member of the State Board of Examiners of Optometry from the state wherein the course is offered is present to attest to the enforcement of attendance. The Board will accept COPE approved online CE courses without further review. Online CE courses lacking a COPE approval number must be pre-approved by the Board. Licensees are strongly urged to obtain this approval prior to registering and paying tuition for any such course.

G. General business, marketing, and management course are not approved for continuing education.

H. Correspondence and video/audio presentation are not approved for continuing education.