BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Board of Optometric Examiners
(Amended After Comments)

201 KAR 5:010. Application for licensure; endorsement.

RELATES TO: KRS 218A.205(3)(g), 320.220, 320.250, 320.270, 320.280
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 218A.205(3)(g), 320.240(7), 320.270(4)
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:
NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 320.220(1) requires all persons who practice optometry in this state to be licensed by the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners. KRS 320.250 establishes criteria for an applicant to apply for a license. KRS 320.270 grants the board the discretion to admit to practice in Kentucky persons licensed to practice optometry in other states. KRS 218A.205(3)(g) requires fingerprint-supported criminal record checks and queries to the National Practitioner Data Bank on applicants. This administrative regulation prescribes the procedures to be followed in making application to the board for a license.

Section 1.
(1) **Effective immediately, a** ~~**[A]**~~ person applying for a license to practice optometry shall submit to the board~~**[, within]**~~ fifteen (15) days **prior to**~~**[of]**~~ board review:
(a) A completed Application for License to Practice Optometry;
(b) A birth certificate;
(c) A certified copy of college transcripts received directly from the registrar's office;
(d) A certified copy of optometry school transcripts received directly from the registrar's office;
(e) National Board of Examiners in Optometry, "NBEO", results for Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3.**The Optometry Examining Board of Canada, "OEBC", written examination results may be submitted in lieu of Part 1 of the NBEO results**~~[The Optometry Examining Board of Canada, "OEBC", written examination results may be submitted in lieu of Part 1 of the NBEO results.]~~ **if the OEBC Part 1 test was taken by the licensee or the test results were submitted to the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners by the licensee between July 30, 2025 and April 15, 2026**;
(f) Therapeutic Management of Ocular Disease, "TMOD" results;
(g) Two (2) letters of recommendation, one (1) of which shall be from a licensed optometrist;
(h) Proof of successful completion of State Law Exam results;
(i) A recent photograph of head and shoulders, front view;
(j) Payment in the amount of $500 representing the non-refundable application fee; and
(k) Payment in the amount of twenty-five (25) dollars for the purpose of submitting a query on the applicant to the National Practitioner Data Bank of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
(2)
(a) Prior to approval for examination, the board shall review and consider:
1. A national and state, fingerprint-supported criminal record check conducted by the:
a. Federal Bureau of Investigation; or
b. Kentucky State Police; and
2. A query for any relevant data from the National Practitioner Data Bank of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
(b) Both of the items required to be furnished by this subsection shall be less than sixty (60) days old when reviewed by the board.

Section 2.

(1) Effective January 1, 2027, a person applying for a license to practice optometry shall submit to the board **[, within]** fifteen (15) days **prior to [of]** board review:

(a) A completed Application for License to Practice Optometry;

(b) A birth certificate;

(c) A certified copy of college transcripts received directly from the registrar's office;

(d) A certified copy of optometry school transcripts received directly from the registrar's office;

(e) National Board of Examiners in Optometry, "NBEO", results for Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3;

(f) NBEO Therapeutic Management of Ocular Disease, "TMOD" results;

(g) NBEO Injections Skill Exam, "ISE" results;

(h) Two (2) letters of recommendation, one (1) of which shall be from a licensed optometrist;

(i) Proof of successful completion of State Law Exam results;

(j) A recent photograph of head and shoulders, front view;

(k) Payment in the amount of $500 representing the non-refundable application fee; and

(l) Payment in the amount of twenty-five (25) dollars for the purpose of submitting a query on the applicant to the National Practitioner Data Bank of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(2)

(a) Prior to approval for examination, the board shall review and consider:

1. A national and state, fingerprint-supported criminal record check conducted by the:

a. Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

b. Kentucky State Police; and

2. A query for any relevant data from the National Practitioner Data Bank of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) Both of the items required to be furnished by this subsection shall be less than sixty (60) days old when reviewed by the board.

Section 3. ~~[Section 2.]~~

(1) A person applying for a license to practice optometry by endorsement shall submit to the board**~~[, within]~~** fifteen (15) days **prior to~~[of]~~** board review:

(a) A completed Application for License by Endorsement to Practice Optometry;

(b) Verification that the applicant has been licensed in optometry and in active practice the past five (5) years;

(c) Information regarding any resolved, pending, or unresolved board action or malpractice suit in any state or territory;

(d) A certified copy of college transcripts received directly from the registrar's office;

(e) A certified copy of optometry school transcripts received directly from the registrar's office;

(f) A certificate of good standing from the board where the applicant is currently licensed and from all state boards where the applicant has held a license in the past;

(g) A copy of the credential that proves the applicant is therapeutically licensed;

(h) Two (2) letters of recommendation, one (1) of which shall be from a licensed optometrist;

(i) Proof of successful completion of Kentucky State Law Exam;

(j) A recent photograph of head and shoulders, front view;

(k) Payment in the amount of $700 representing the non-refundable application fee;

(l) A notarized statement explaining why the applicant wishes to be admitted to practice in Kentucky; and

(m) Payment in the amount of twenty-five (25) dollars for the purpose of submitting a query on the applicant to the National Practitioner Data Bank of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to retrieve any relevant data on the applicant.

(2)

(a) Prior to approval for licensure, the board shall receive and consider:

1. A national and state, fingerprint-supported criminal record check conducted by the:

a. Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

b. Kentucky State Police; and

2. A query for any relevant data from the National Practitioner Data Bank of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) Both of the items required to be furnished by this subsection shall be less than sixty (60) days old when reviewed by the board.

Section 4. ~~**[Section 3.]**~~

(1) A person whose license has been revoked pursuant to KRS 320.280(3) may apply for reinstatement of his or her license.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person applying for reinstatement shall submit to the board:

(a) Evidence of completion of the continuing education requirements established in 201 KAR 5:030; and

(b) Payment of the reinstatement fee established in 201 KAR 5:005, Section 7.

(3) To apply for reinstatement, an optometrist whose license has been revoked pursuant to KRS 320.280(3) shall submit to the board:

(a) Evidence of completion of the annual continuing education requirement for each year, or any portion of a year, that the license was not renewed up to a maximum of sixty (60) hours; and

(b) Payment of the reinstatement fee established in 201 KAR 5:005, Section 7 for each year, or any portion of a year, that the license was not renewed.

Section 5. ~~**[Section 4.]**~~ The board shall notify licensees of any proposed changes to the licensing process and provide licensees with information on the public comment period for any proposed change.

Section 6. Incorporation by Reference.

(1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

(a) "Application for License to Practice Optometry", April 2026~~[June 2024]~~; and

(b) "Application for License by Endorsement to Practice Optometry", April 2026~~[June 2024]~~.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners, 100 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone (502) 234-2114, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ~~[.]~~ This material may also be viewed on the board's Web site at: https://optometry.ky.gov/applicants/Pages/default.aspx.

MARY BETH MORRIS, O.D., Board President

APPROVED BY AGENCY: August 11, 2026August 11, 2026
FILED WITH LRC: September 15, 2026 at 10:50 a.m.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact Person:Christi LeMay, Phone: (502) 234-2114, Email: christi.lemay@ky.gov

Subject Headings:Occupations and Professions, Optometry, Licensing

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:
This administrative regulation prescribes the procedures to be followed in making application to the Board for a license to practice optometry.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:
This administrative regulation is necessary to establish the requirements for licensure, licensure by endorsement, and reinstatement of a license.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:
This administrative regulation conforms to the specific authority provided in KRS 218A.205(3)(g), 320.240(7), 320.270(4).

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:
This administrative regulation set forth the requirements for licensure so applicants, licensees, and the public are aware of the requirements.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:
This amendment clarifies the examinations that are required for licensure, adds an additional exam requirement effective January 2027 and removes OEBC as an alternative. This amendment corrects the deadline for submitting an application to conform with applications incorporated by reference and allow adequate time for the Board to review all materials as required by current regulation. The amendment also requires the board to notify licensees of any proposed change in licensure.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:
This amendment is necessary to establish the examinations required for licensure effective January 1, 2027.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:
The authorizing statutes provide the board with authority to establish the licensing requirements, and require that the board establish these requirements in regulation.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:
This amendment provides the examinations required for licensure effective January 1, 2027.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?No.

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:
This amendment affects all individuals seeking licensure after April 15, 2026.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

All applicants are required to provide passing scores of the licensing examinations established in this amendment.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):

Applicants must continue to pay the licensing examinations for each required examination.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):

Compliance with this amendment is necessary to be licensed to practice optometry. (6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this amendment:

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially:

$0

(b) On a continuing basis:

$0

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment:

N/A

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

There will be no increase in fees or funding to implement this amendment.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:

This administrative regulation establishes fees for licensure. This amendment does not change any of these fees.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?

No, each group of applicants has the same requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation:
KRS 218A.205(3)(g), 320.220, 320.250, 320.270, 320.280

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act:
No.

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:
Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:$0 expenditure increase with this amendment.

For subsequent years:$0 expenditure increase with this amendment.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:$0 revenue increase with this amendment.

For subsequent years:$0 revenue increase with this amendment.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:$0

For subsequent years:$0

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):
N/A

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):
N/A

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a)

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:
N/A

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:
N/A

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):
No.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:
This amendment does not change any applicant fees paid to the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners.