American Board of Optometry Maintenance of Certification

In addition to annual modules, you must earn 100 points of continuing education (CE) in each three-year MOC stage. CE must be entered on your Learning Plan page by December 31 of the final year of each three-year stage.

Activities can be added as individual courses or as a block of conference courses, e.g., “SECO 2015 (16 hours).”

Note: All activities must occur during the reporting period for your current 3-year stage.

Category 1 Education (Minimum of 50 points; maximum of 100 points)

Live, in-person, continuing education lectures and workshops or live webinars approved by a state optometry board or COPE.

- Continuing Education (CE) = 1 point per hour
- Continuing Education with Examination (CEE) = 2 points per hour

Category 2 Education (Maximum of 50 points)

There are no subcategory limits. Activities cannot count for duplicate credit. For example, if you are claiming points for fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry, a case report used in the FAAO process cannot be claimed.

A. Presentation of educational activities at schools and colleges of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), or medical schools approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

- Lectures or Grand Rounds = 1 point per hour

B. Distance learning courses with examinations approved by a state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or territory board, or COPE. Must receive passing grade as determined by the course provider.

- Journal courses = 1 point per hour
- Online courses = 1 point per hour

C. Educational and scientific activity portions of hospital meetings; national, regional, state or local optometric or medical meetings; or grand rounds not approved by COPE or a state board. Note: This can include advertorial presentations such as those by CL or pharmaceutical companies.

- Lectures or Presentations = 1 point per hour

D. ABO-authorized quality improvement activities

- Record review using validated format provided by employer = 1 point per 10 records
- Peer evaluation using validated format provided by employer = 5 points
- Documented point-of-care learning (e.g., surgical observation) = 1 point per hour
E. Higher Education programs

Programs by a university or college that are designed to enhance a participant's instructional, research, administrative, or clinical knowledge and skills.

Residency Program = 50 points
Professionally related advanced degree (e.g., MPH, PhD in vision science, or MBA) = 50 points

Other education programs:
Clinical fellowship program or fellowship in AAO, COVD, NORA, CLSA, SLS, other* = 50 points
Diplomate in American Academy of Optometry = 50 points
* Other fellowships may be approved by ABO if the program meets stringent requirements.

F. Scholarly activities

Development of assessment tools and guidelines:
ABO Self-Assessment (SAM) or Performance in Practice (PPM) Modules = 5-20 points
Item development for ABO or NBEO examinations = 5-20 points
Service on AAO oral examination committee = 10 points per year
Service on AOA Evidence-Based Optometry committee = 10 points per guideline

Teaching health-care students or health-care professionals:
Clinical education of residents in an accredited residency program and interns or externs in their fourth year clinical rotations = 5 points per quarter or trimester

Review and editing of manuscripts for publication in a peer-reviewed optometry, medical or scientific journal:
Service as journal editor = 20 points per year
Service on journal review board = 5 points per year

Publication of a clinical, review or research article in a peer-reviewed optometry, medical or scientific journal:
Original research, first author = 20 points
Original research, second author = 10 points
Review, first author = 10 points
Clinical case, first author = 10 points

Presentation at scientific portions of meetings such as the American Academy of Optometry, SECO, GWCO, or AOA Optometry’s Meeting®:
Scientific paper presentation = 5 points
Scientific poster presentation = 5 points
Grand rounds case presentation = 2 points

Development of a COPE approved CE course:
Original content development per approved course = 5 points

Expanded Scope of Practice Certification such as Injection Skills Examination = 5 points

Examples of Activities that do not qualify for MOC points:
VOSH or other mission trips
Lectures or speeches to community groups
Education activities at primary/secondary schools, undergraduate colleges or non-doctoral level program (e.g. optician, ophthalmic technician, or nursing programs)
Services on boards, such as state boards or AOA boards
Shadowing or observation by students that is not a part of a formal education program