



# The Path to ABO Board Certification

Lifelong commitment to quality patient care



## 1. Apply

Visit the ABO website @www.americanboardofoptometry.org, click the Apply Now button. The non-refundable initial application fee is \$300, which must be paid online.

## 2. Become an Active Candidate

Your Initial Verifications will be processed within 30 days of your application. You will receive an e-mail notifying you of the verifications being complete, making you an 'Active Candidate'.

## 3. Meet Post Graduate Requirements

Once you become an 'Active Candidate' you need to enter your Post-Graduate Requirements points. Upon entering the required 150-points, click the 'Submit' button for verification. The Post-Graduate Requirements will be verified within 30-days of submission. An e-mail will be sent letting you know you are able to 'Register' for the next ABO exam.

## 4. Select a Test Date.

The ABO exam is offered twice annually, in January and July, at Prometric Test Centers around the world. Registration fee is currently \$1,500 which must be paid online via your MyABO portal. Once payment is complete, you will be able to schedule your exam.

## 5. Study for the Exam

You should review the Candidate Guide and Detailed Content Outline, available on our website. Additional preparatory resources are available by unaffiliated third parties. Choose a study method that works best for you.

**General Practice Section:**  
160 multiple choice questions.  
(4 hours to complete)

Ametropia/Ophthalmic Optics (16%)  
Pediatrics/Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy (8%)  
Contact Lenses (13%)  
Anterior Segment (15%)  
Pre- /and Post-operative care (7%)  
Posterior Segment (12%)  
Optic Nerve/Glaucoma (12%)  
Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders (5%)  
Vision Rehabilitation (5%)  
Systemic Health (7%)

**First Area of Emphasis:**  
40 multiple choice questions from one of the following categories.  
(One hour to complete.)

Additional General Practice  
Contact Lenses  
Pediatrics/Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy  
Ocular Disease Anterior  
Ocular Disease Posterior  
Vision Rehabilitation/Low Vision/  
Neuro-Ophthalmic Rehabilitation

**Second Area of Emphasis:**  
40 multiple choice questions from a remaining category.  
(One hour to complete.)

Additional General Practice  
Contact Lenses  
Pediatrics/Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy  
Ocular Disease Anterior  
Ocular Disease Posterior  
Vision Rehabilitation/Low Vision/  
Neuro-Ophthalmic Rehabilitation



# QUALITY PATIENT CARE



## 10. Take Advantage of ABO Resources

The ABO is creating tool kits, promotional templates and other resources to help Diplomates build their practice. First resources should be available in early Spring 2013!

## 9. Maintain Your Certification

Upon becoming a Diplomate, you are immediately enrolled into the ABO Maintenance of Certification program. The program is broken up into three 3-year stages. In each stage, you must complete two self-assessment modules (SAMs), one performance in practice module (PPM) and accumulate 100 points from other educational activities. The annual maintenance fee is currently \$150. For more information, please visit the Maintain Certification tab on the ABO website.

## 8. Reach ABO Diplomate Status

Congratulations! Board certification is valid for 10 years, as long as you adhere to the Maintenance of Certification requirements. You have demonstrated your commitment to lifelong learning and quality patient care.

## 7. Receive Test Results

You will receive the examination results within 6-8 weeks. You can review your results on your MyABO portal and a printed copy of results are mailed via USPS. (No results will be given via phone or e-mail)

## 6. Test Day!

Candidates are required to bring a current government-issued ID, containing both a photo and signature to the test center. For other tips, check out the exam admittance & testing partner information available in the Candidate Guide on the ABO website. Good luck!

This is a sample test day schedule. (Note: not all tests start at 8:00 a.m.)

- 7:30 to 8:00 | Registration, Checking ID, and Seating
- 8:00 to 8:15 | Review of ABO rules, Exam Tutorial, Instructions for General Practice Section
- 8:15 | Begin General Practice Section = 160 Multiple Choice Questions (Allowed 4 Hours)
- 12:15 | Scheduled Optional Break (1 Hour)
- 1:15 | Introduction to and selection of First Area of Emphasis = 40 Multiple Choice Questions (Allowed 1 Hour)
- 2:15 | Introduction to and selection of Second Area of Emphasis = 40 Multiple Choice Questions (Allowed 1 Hour)
- 3:15 | Brief Exam Survey (10 Minutes)
- 3:25 | End of exam day

