



CONTINUING EDUCATION POINT SYSTEM

January 2024

American Board of Optometry Maintenance of Certification

You must earn 100 points of continuing education (CE) in each MOC cycle. CE must be entered on your Learning Plan page by December 31 of year 4 of your MOC cycle.

Note: All activities must occur during the reporting period for your current cycle.

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

Synchronous courses (live, in-person, continuing education lectures or workshops; live webinars) and asynchronous courses (distance learning lectures or journal courses with examinations) approved by a state optometry board, COPE or an ACOE-accredited member of ASCO. Must receive a passing grade as determined by the course provider.

Synchronous courses: 1 point per hour

Asynchronous courses: Points as determined by COPE or course provider

Activities can be added as individual courses or as a block of conferences courses, e.g., "SECO 2023 (16 hours)."

Category 2 Activities (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. Attendance at continuing education not approved by COPE or state board

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: 1 point per hour

Note: This can include advertorial presentations such as those by CL or pharmaceutical companies

B. Development of COPE-certified CE course

Original content development per approved course: 5 points

C. Presentations at scientific portions of meetings or at optometry or medical schools

Presentation of papers, posters, workshops or grand rounds case presentations at scientific portions of meetings such as the American Academy of Optometry, SECO, GWCO, ARVO or AOA Optometry's Meeting; or 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): 1 point per hour

D. Completion of advanced degree, residency program, fellowship program or AAO Diplomate

Completion of a professionally related advanced degree (e.g., MPH, PhD in vision science, or MBA); a clinical ACOE-accredited residency program; a fellowship program such as AAO, COVD, NORA, CLSA, SLS, OWNS, ORS or others approved by ABO; or AAO Diplomate: 50 points

E. Publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal

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

F. Reviewing or editing of a manuscript for peer-reviewed journal

Review and editing of manuscripts for publication in a peer-reviewed optometry, medical or scientific journal: 1 point per article

G. Development of ABO learning modules or participation in ABO/NBEO exam development

Development of self-assessment or other learning modules for ABO; development of exam questions (writing and/or review) for ABO or NBEO; other ABO exam development activities: 1 point per hour, up to a maximum of 20 points per year

H. Clinical teaching of residents or 4th year interns

Clinical education of residents in an accredited residency program and interns or externs in their 4th year clinical rotations: 5 points per quarter or trimester

I. Documented point-of-care learning

Documented point-of-care learning (e.g., surgical observation): 1 point per hour

J. Other activities approved by ABO

Activities such as peer evaluation or record review using validated format provided by employer or expanded scope of practice certifications. Contact ABO to determine if activity will be accepted and the number of points to be awarded.

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