

Fair Registration Practices Report

Optometrists (2018)

The answers seen below were submitted to the OFC by the regulated professions.

This Fair Registration Practices Report was produced as required by:

- the Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act (FARPACTA) s. 20 and 23(1), for regulated professions named in Schedule 1 of FARPACTA
- the Health Professions Procedural Code set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) s. 22.7 (1) and 22.9(1), for health colleges.

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1. Qualitative Information

a) Requirements for registration, including acceptable alternatives

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

A motion for the College Council to approve the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Examination as an alternative standards assessment examination required for registration with the College, went before Council in November 5, 2018. The motion was deferred to the January 18, 2019, Council meeting to allow more time for input from stakeholders and College members. The motion was passed by Council at that meeting.

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

It would provide applicants with more entry-to-practice examination choices. In addition, the fee to challenge the NBEO examination is approximately half the cost of the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) examination. In 2018, the NBEO exam fee was US\$2,175 or \$~2,882 CAD, whereas the OEBC exam fee is \$5,900 plus HST in Canadian funds. NBEO has informed the College that its fees will be raised to US\$2,550 in 2019.

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

The impact of the motion resulted in additional work for College staff in preparation for the January 18, 2019, Council meeting.

b) Assessment of qualifications

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

The reporting of the results of the Internationally Graduated Optometrist Evaluating Examination (IGOEE) to applicants and the referrals of applicants who were successfully credential-assessed to Touchstone Institute, were transitioned from the College to the Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC). The College signed an agreement with FORAC to formalize this process.

As the scope of optometry practice in Canada expands, a need has evolved to assess appropriate drug (or "therapeutics") prescribing for the treatment of eye conditions. The Therapeutics Prescribing Assessment for

Optometry (TPAO) has been developed to assess appropriate drug prescribing competencies in conjunction with the existing IGOEE. The first administration of the IGOEE that includes the TPAO component is in July 2019. Please refer to Touchstone Institute's website <http://www.touchstoneinstitute.ca/competency-assessment/igoee.aspx>.

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

The above improvement has resulted in further streamlining of the pre-registration process for internationally educated applicants.

The development and implementation of the TPAO component of the IGOEE has not resulted in a fee increase for internationally educated candidates eligible to challenge it. The completion of the analysis of the TPAO component pilot will determine if a candidate has appropriate drug prescribing competencies to advance to the next step in the process.

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

The above improvement has resulted in the registration staff being more available to focus on other registration matters.

It is expected that the development and implementation of the TPAO component of the IGOEE will provide a reliable tool of determining if a candidate has appropriate drug prescribing competencies.

c) Provision of timely decisions, responses, and reasons

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

No changes this year

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

No changes this year

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

No changes this year

d) Fees

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

The credential assessment fee charged by the FORAC increased from \$1150 plus HST per candidate in 2017 to \$1,900 plus HST per candidate in 2018.

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

Unknown.

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

Not applicable.

e) Timelines

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

No changes this year

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

No changes this year

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

No changes this year

f) Policies, procedures and/or processes, including by-laws

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

Due to a decrease in internationally educated applicants registering for the evaluating exam or the IGOEE, Touchstone Institute only offered one exam administration in 2018 whereas there were two IGOEE administrations in 2017.

As mentioned in b), the reporting of the IGOEE exam results to applicants and the referral of applicants who were successfully credential-assessed to Touchstone Institute, transitioned from the College to FORAC. The College signed an agreement to formalize this process.

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

The first change in i. above of one IGOEE administration in a year for successfully-credentialed internationally educated applicants, has resulted in fewer opportunities for applicants to challenge this exam in a year. However, there are currently three optometry schools accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometry (ACOE) that accept applicants for advanced standing. If accepted for advanced standing, the candidates would earn a doctor of optometry degree and by-pass the pre-registration phase.

The second change in i. above has resulted in further streamlining of the pre-registration process for internationally educated applicants.

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

The second change in i. above has resulted in the registration staff being more available to focus on other registration matters.

g) Resources for applicants

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

No changes this year

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

No changes this year

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

No changes this year

h) Review or appeal processes

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

No changes this year

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

No changes this year

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

No changes this year

i) Access to applicant records

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

No changes this year

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

No changes this year

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

No changes this year

j) Training and resources for registration staff, Council, and committee members

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

Several Council members were registered for and attended regulatory governance training hosted by the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR). The new member on the Registration Committee also attended the Managing Cultural Differences workshop hosted by the Ontario Regulators for Access Consortium (ORAC). The Registration Committee support staff attended several educational workshops at the annual Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation (CNAR) conference in October 2018.

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

Applicants benefit from having the Registration Committee members and support staff more educated on regulatory governance and various issues including cultural differences and their impact.

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

Council and Registration Committee are more educated on regulatory governance and cultural differences.

k) Mutual recognition agreements

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

No changes this year

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

No changes this year

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

No changes this year

I) Other (include as many items as applicable)

i. Describe any improvements / changes implemented in the last year.

College staff worked with its IT consultants to place a button on the College website homepage with the word “Français”, which links to information on how to access French language services at the College. This also links to the French version of the complaint form used by the College. The College is still exploring the resources and costs associated with translating key parts of the College website into French.

ii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on applicants.

Applicants who prefer to speak or to access College services in French, feel more welcome.

iii. Describe the impact of the improvements / changes on your organization.

The College has spent resources on IT consultants and on French translation services to make the College website more welcoming to applicants who prefer to speak or to access College services in French. College staff have also spent considerable time to review and make these changes.

Describe any registration-related improvements/changes to your enabling legislation and/or regulations in the last year

No changes this year

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2. Quantitative Information

a) Languages

Indicate the languages in which application information materials were available in the reporting year.

Language	Yes/No
English	Yes
French	No

Other (please specify)

Additional comments:

b) Gender of applicants

Indicate the number of applicants in each category as applicable.

Gender	Number of Applicants
Male	34
Female	110
None of the above	0

Additional comments:

c) Gender of members

Indicate the number of members in each category as applicable. Select the option that best corresponds to the terminology used by your organization.

Gender	Number of Members
Male	1094
Female	1417
None of the above	0

Additional comments:

d) Jurisdiction where applicants obtained their initial education

Indicate the number of applicants by the jurisdiction where they obtained their initial education¹ in the profession or trade.

Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
64	2	62	U.K. 9 India 2 Puerto Rico 3 Philippines 1 Iran 1 Total 16	0	144

¹ Recognizing that applicants may receive their education in multiple jurisdictions, for the purpose of this question, include only the jurisdiction in which an entry-level degree, diploma or other certification required to practice the profession or trade was obtained.

Additional comments:

e) Jurisdiction where applicants who became registered members obtained their initial education

Indicate the number of applicants who became registered members in the reporting year by the jurisdiction where they obtained their initial education¹ in the profession or trade.

Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
67	3	44	U.K. 19 Iran 2 China 1 India 4 Puerto Rico 3 Total 29	0	143

¹ Recognizing that applicants may receive their education in multiple jurisdictions, for the purpose of this question, include only the jurisdiction in which an entry-level degree, diploma or other certification required to practice the profession or trade was obtained.

Additional comments:

f) Jurisdiction where members were initially trained

Indicate the total number of registered members by jurisdiction where they obtained their initial education¹ in the profession or trade.

Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
1535	64	630	Nigeria 10 Egypt 24 U.K. 117 India 27 Afghanistan 1 Australia 3 Brazil 1 China 19 Colombia 10 Cuba 1 Ecuador 1 Guatemala 2 Hong Kong 3 Iran 30 Iraq 3 Nicaragua 1 New Zealand 1 Pakistan 3	0	2511

Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
			Philippines 6		
			Russia 3		
			S Arabia 1		
			Sudan 1		
			Syrian Arab Republic 2		
			Venezuela 7		
			Serbia 1		
			S. Africa 4		
			Total 282		

¹ Recognizing that applicants may receive their education in multiple jurisdictions, for the purpose of this question, include only the jurisdiction in which an entry-level degree, diploma or other certification required to practice the profession or trade was obtained.

Additional comments:

g) Applications processed

Indicate the number of applications your organization processed in the reporting year:

Jurisdiction where applicants were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)

from January 1 st to December 31 st of the reporting year	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
New applications received	64	2	62	16	0	144
Applicants actively pursuing licensing (applicants who had some contact with your organization in the reporting year)	71	3	73	33	0	180
Inactive applicants (applicants who had no contact with your organization in the reporting year)	4	2	1	2	0	9
Applicants who met all requirements and were authorized to become members but did not become members	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants who became FULLY registered members	67	3	44	29	0	143
Applicants who were authorized to receive an alternative class of licence³ but were not issued a licence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants who were issued an alternative class of licence³	0	0	0	0	0	0

from January 1 st to December 31 st of the reporting year	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
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¹ An alternative class of licence enables its holder to practice with limitations, but additional requirements must be met in order for the member to be fully licensed.

Additional comments:

h) Classes of certificate/license

Indicate and provide a description of the classes of certificate/license offered by your organization.

You must specify and describe at least one class of certificate/license (on line a) in order for this step to be complete.

#	Certification	Description
		Description (a)
a)	General Certificate of Registration	<p>In general, the requirements for a General Certificate of Registration to become a member of the College of Optometrists of Ontario include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply and pay the application fee. 2. Meet the established academic criteria. 3. Successfully complete the Canadian Assessment of Competence in Optometry and/or the OEBC written exam and OSCE. 4. Successfully complete the Ontario Optometric Jurisprudence exam. 5. Pay all applicable registration and assessment fees. <p>The above application process must be successfully completed for the issuance of a General Certificate of Registration.</p>
		Description (b)
b)	Academic Certificate of Registration	<p>In order to be eligible for an Academic Certificate of Registration, the applicant must hold a full time appointment as a faculty member of the University of Waterloo or another university or optometric educational facility in Ontario approved by the College Council. An applicant for an Academic Certificate of Registration must meet specified academic criteria, but is not required to successfully complete the Canadian Assessment of Competence in Optometry and/or the OEBC written exam and OSCE.</p>

Additional comments:

i) Reviews and appeals processed

State the number of reviews and appeals your organization processed in the reporting year (use only whole numbers; do not enter commas or decimals).

Jurisdiction where applicants were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)

from January 1 st to December 31 st of the reporting year	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
Applications that were subject to an internal review or that were referred to a statutory committee of your governing council, such as a Registration Committee	2	1	0	0	0	3
Applicants who initiated an appeal of a registration decision	0	1	0	0	0	1
Appeals heard	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registration decisions changed following an appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional comments:

j) Paid staff

In the table below, enter the number of paid staff employed by your organization in the categories shown, on December 31 of the reporting year.

When providing information for each of the categories in this section, you may want to use decimals if you count your staff using half units. For example, one full-time employee and one part-time employee might be equivalent to 1.5 employees.

You can enter decimals to the tenths position only. For example, you can enter 1.5 or 7.5 but not 1.55 or 7.52.

Category	Staff
Total staff employed by the regulatory body	11.2
Staff involved in appeals process	1.3
Staff involved in registration process	2.0

Additional comments:

I hereby certify that:

Name of individual with authority to sign on behalf of the organization:

Dr. Paula Garshowitz

Title:

Registrar

Date:

2019/02/27

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