

Registration Policy: Changing an Academic Certificate of Registration to a General Certificate of Registration

June 14, 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for members with an Academic Certificate of Registration who wish to change to a General Certificate of Registration.

Scope

This policy applies to members of the College of Optometrists of Ontario (the “College”).

Background

There are two classes of membership with the College: (1) General and (2) Academic.

Sections 8 and 9 of the Registration Regulation (O.Reg. 837/93) as amended under the *Optometry Act, 1991*, below address the requirements for changing a member’s Academic Certificate to a General Certificate of Registration:

8. A member who held an academic certificate of registration on April 26, 1999, shall be issued a general certificate of registration if the following requirements are met:
 1. The member files an application for the certificate with the College on or before December 31, 2003.
 2. The member satisfies the Registration Committee that on the date of filing the application, the member has held the academic certificate of registration for five or more consecutive years and had provided at least 100 hours of direct optometric care to patients in Canada during each of those years.
 3. The member satisfies the Registration Committee that on the date of filing the application the member is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident or is authorized under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) to engage in the practice of optometry.
 4. The member pays the applicable fees. O. Reg. 224/03, s. 4; O. Reg. 279/12, s. 9.

9. (1) All qualifications or requirements for the issuing of a general certificate of registration are non-exemptible, other than requirements listed in paragraph 3, 4 or 5 of subsection 2 (1). O. Reg. 224/03, s. 4.

Policy

A member can request to change their Academic Certificate of Registration to a General Certificate of Registration, if they have met all of the following conditions:

1. Held their Academic Certificate of Registration for at least three consecutive years.
2. Met the requirements of the College's Continuing Education Policy in place at the time of their request.
3. Completed at least 750 direct optometric patient contact hours.
4. Successfully passed a College-approved entry-to-practice examination within three years of their request.
5. Paid the application fee for a General Certificate of Registration.

References to Relevant Legislation

Registration Regulation, O.Reg. 837/93, under the *Optometry Act, 1991*, c. 35: sections 8 and 9