



OPTOMETRISTS

Optometrists specialise in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention of diseases and disorders of the eye. They prescribe and fit eyeglasses and contact lenses and recommend therapies to correct vision problems. They work in private practice and in clinics and community health centres.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Graduation from an optometric educational program approved by the Council of the Manitoba Association of Optometrists is required. Currently, doctors of optometry awarded by university programs accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education are recognized. Optometric graduates from non-accredited programs may have their academic credentials assessed for equivalency through the International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP) offered through the University of Waterloo. The Manitoba Association of Optometrists will recognize the IOBP assessment results. If deemed equivalent, the individual will be accepted as an applicant for registration, subject to the other application criteria outlined in “Step Two” of this document.

WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Work experience is not applicable in the process of credential assessment.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Step One

For assessment of educational credentials from non-accredited optometry programs, applicants can apply to:

International Optometric Bridging Program

School of Optometry

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

PHONE: (519) 888-4567, extension 7882

FAX : (519) 725-0784

E-MAIL: ioginfo@optometry.uwaterloo.ca

More detailed information about the program is available at the IOBP website:
<http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/iobp/index.html>

Step Two

To be eligible to practice in Manitoba as an Optometrist the candidate must apply to the **Manitoba Association of Optometrists (MAO)**. They must submit:

- a completed application form; (available from MAO)
- an original degree/transcript from an accredited university or certification of academic equivalency from the IOBP;
- certification of successful completion of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry (see below);
- proof of identity, including a notarised photograph, and current legal name;
- a letter from the licensing body in any jurisdiction in which they have been licensed to practise optometry stating the licence is in good standing; and
- a \$200.00 fee (*\$100.00 jurisprudence exam fee, \$100.00 application fee*).

*If documents are not in English or French, notarised translations are required.

All applicants for registration are required to pass the national optometric board examination – the *Canadian Standard Assessment of Optometry (2006 fee is \$3,300.00)* - as well as a *Manitoba Jurisprudence Examination*. The Canadian Examiners of Optometry (CEO) administer both examinations. Examinations can usually be written in May or June of each year at the two Canadian optometric program sites (University of Montreal or University of Waterloo) and in October at one of the university sites.

Step Three

When all requirements have been successfully met and the annual registration fee (*\$2,900.00 effective April 2006*) has been paid to MAO, the applicant will be registered to practice as an Optometrist in the Province of Manitoba.

All fees, documentation requirements, and assessment process detailed above are subject to change without notice.

For more detailed information please contact:

Manitoba Association of Optometrists (MAO)

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Fax: (204) 943-1208
Email: mao@optometrists.mb.ca
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