

November 2025

Registration Data Report

Manitoba Association of Optometrists

Introduction

The Fair Registration Practices Office's (FRPO) registration data report on the Manitoba Association of Optometrists (MAO) is issued as a matter of FRPO's responsibility under section 14(2b) of The Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act (act) to conduct research and analysis regarding the registration of internationally educated applicants (IEAs).

This report is restricted to developing a fact-based, statistical picture. There is no discussion of fairness issues or compliance to fairness duties under the act.

Manitoba self-regulated professions supply registration data to the FRPO in accordance with section 15(2) of the act. Each year, regulated professions subject to the legislation provide records on the key steps in the assessment and registration process for IEAs, and less detailed, aggregate application and outcome information for domestic applicants (DAs).

Reading the numbers

MAO received 43 IEAs over the 2012 to 2024 reporting period. All of these applicants registered. FRPO's timeline data is incomplete; upon application to MAO, registration takes about three months. However, time taken to complete the national exam and possibly the time needed for bridge training is not captured in most applicant files.

The majority of MAO IEAs are trained in the United States under the same model of optometry practice found in Canada. This model differs from other regions of the world where training in diagnosis and treatment of eye disease may not be as advanced. Unlike U.S. trained applicants, those trained outside of the United States often require remedial bridge training.

For U.S. trained applicants (the majority of IEAs), application to MAO is only proceeded by the time taken to write the national exam. A high registration rate is not surprising in this profession as MAO only sees applicants after they have completed the national exam and any required bridging. Because FRPO data does not track applicants unsuccessful with the earlier assessments or bridge training, applications may be undercounted and the registration percentage overvalued.

A cautious reading of the data is needed. Registration outcomes and timelines statistics reflect both the profession's registration requirements and individual circumstance. Often people take an extended period to register or abandon the process for reasons unrelated to registration requirements. This can have a significant impact on registration outcome and timeline data.

In this report, only basic application and outcome data is presented as privacy concerns with small application numbers do not permit publishing a more detailed analysis.



Registered
Members:

198

As of
December 2024

Application Outcomes



Countries of Education



4

Appendix – Process Map

