



June 2022

Registration Data Report

Manitoba Association of Optometrists



Fair Registration Practices Office

Manitoba 

Introduction

The Fair Registration Practices Office (FRPO) issues this report as part of its mandate and oversight responsibility under The Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Amendment Act (Act). Section 14(2b) stipulates the Director of Fair Registration Practices is responsible to conduct research and analysis regarding the registration of internationally educated applicants (IEAs). This report presents registration data for the Manitoba Association of Optometrists (MAO) for the period of 2011 to 2021. There is no discussion of fairness issues or matters of 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). Regulated professions have been providing IEA data since 2011; DA data has been supplied since 2012.

MAO received 39 IEAs over the 2011 to 2021 reporting period. A cautious reading of the data is needed. The impact of individual circumstance on registration outcome and timeline figures may be more significant than it would be with larger application numbers, providing a potentially unrepresentative statistical picture. Additionally, data presentation is limited by the need to address privacy concerns of this small sample size.

Reading the numbers

The Manitoba Association of Optometrists' registration numbers for internationally educated optometrists are high, greater than the rate for domestic applicants.

There are two optometry programs in Canada, but no program in Manitoba. The large majority of MAO applicants 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.

MAO's licensure process for IEAs underwent a significant transition in June 2015 with the introduction of a national academic credential assessment by the Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada and the Internationally Graduated Optometrist Evaluating Examination.

The new national assessment replaced MAO's former practice of referring all of its IEOs trained outside of the U.S. to be assessed by the University of Waterloo's International Optometric Bridging Program. This program used to conduct its own credential assessment and written and clinical exams to determine if applicants qualified for bridge training.

The quality of MOA's IEA registration data is strong, capturing key application, assessment and registration dates and outcomes. There is no need at this time to introduce new elements to capture missing events or dates in the assessment and registration pathway.

Registration Data 2011-2021



Registered Members:

190

As of December 2021

Applications

internationally educated applicants



2011-2021

domestic applicants



2012-2021

Registrations 2012-2021

internationally educated applicants



97%

domestic applicants



91%



IEA median time to registration:

76 days



countries of education:

4