



NEW MEXICO BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DIVISION

Toney Anaya Building ▪ 2550 Cerrillos Road ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505) 476-4945 ▪ Fax (505) 476-4665 ▪ www.RLD.state.nm.us/optometry

EXAMINATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Exam dates, August 12-14, 2011

(Policy to be brought by candidate to the Clinical Exam)

Effective January 15, 1995, successful completion of PART I, II, and III, and TMOD of the National Boards is a prerequisite for sitting for the New Mexico Board of Examiners in Optometry state examination, unless specific requirements for licensure by endorsement are met. The National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) must send proof of successful passing of the accepted NBEO exams directly to the Optometry Board. See the NBEO PART Equivalency information and Board Regulations, Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, for further information on examination requirements.

The New Mexico Board of Optometry will conduct the state optometry Jurisprudence and Clinical Practicum examinations once a year in August. **The 2011 exam is scheduled for August 12-14, 2011.** *Approved* candidates will be notified by mail of their official exam schedule immediately after they complete the application process or within two weeks after the final application deadline. **Official notification will be mailed to each approved exam candidate no later than July 13, 2011,** in time for candidates to make travel arrangements.

Travel arrangements should *not* be made until the candidate has received official **written** notification that his/her application has been approved and that he/she has been scheduled to sit for the exam.

Prior to the exam deadline candidates **MUST** provide the Board with a specifically written list of the names of any New Mexico licensed optometrist(s) with whom they are acquainted; with whom they have professional or personal affiliation; or that they would feel uncomfortable being examined by, in the event that one of those optometrists is a Board member or a clinical examiner for the Board. **Failure to do so may disqualify the candidate from the exam.**

Application Fee: \$125. Examination Fee: \$400
(TOTAL \$525) **By rule: All fees are non-refundable.**

The deadline to receive the applicant's Letter of Intent, Application Form and Application Fee is June 8, 2011 in the Board's office. Candidates should recognize that arrangements and financial commitment made by the Board to examine the total number of approved candidates are made weeks in advance of the examination. A commitment of the candidates' fees, as well as a substantial amount of the Board's other funds, has already been made at least a month prior to any given exam. **Therefore, candidates who cancel after July 13, 2011, or who fail to appear for the scheduled examination, will automatically forfeit any fees paid.**

FEE
& REFUND POLICY

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CANDIDATE SCHEDULING

The Jurisprudence Exam is normally scheduled on Friday afternoon, and the Clinical Practicum is administered on Saturday and possibly Sunday. The Board will examine a maximum of twelve candidates a day for the Clinical Practicum. Candidates will be randomly scheduled for the Clinical Practicum.

The Board must receive ALL required documentation and examination fees on or before the **deadline date, July 1, 2011, in order for the application to be considered complete.**

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

After the exam schedules have been finalized, each APPROVED candidate will be notified by mail of the exact clinical practicum session that he/she has been scheduled for. However, an exact scenario schedule will be given to each candidate before the candidate leaves the Jurisprudence Exam on Friday afternoon.

- ✓ Candidates will **NOT** be allowed entrance into either the Jurisprudence or the Clinical Practicum exam without the aforesaid notification letter.
- ✓ At registration, candidates will be assigned an Identification number on an I.D. card.
- ✓ The assigned I.D. number will be the sole means of candidate identification throughout the administration and grading of the exam.
- ✓ Candidates must also present picture identification at the time of registration for both the jurisprudence and clinical/practicum exams.
- ✓ Candidates should be present thirty (30) minutes prior to their scheduled examination time.
- ✓ Candidates should bring their own pens or pencils.

CLINICAL PRACTICUM EQUIPMENT

All of the equipment and instruments necessary to take the Clinical Practicum examination will be furnished to the candidate. However, the candidate will be allowed to use personal binocular indirect ophthalmoscope and condensing lenses, provided that the ophthalmoscope is equipped with a teaching mirror.

PATIENT REQUIRED

- Candidates will be required to furnish their own patient for the exam.
- The patient must be at least eighteen years of age.
 - The candidate will anesthetize and dilate the patient for purposes of the examination in Station A (Next Section).
 - The patient may not be a graduate of, or a student enrolled in, a school or college of optometry.
 - Both the candidate and patient will be required to execute an affidavit and release form prior to the exam.
 - Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed at the site of the examination other than the candidate and the candidate's patient without the consent of the Board.

CLINICAL PRACTICUM CONTENT

There will be **four examination stations** through which the candidates will rotate.

- ❖ The maximum time allowed for examination of the candidate at each station is thirty-two (32) minutes.
- ❖ There will be a thirteen (13) minute break between sessions in order for the examiners to complete their evaluations, and to allow candidates to move on to the next assignment.
- ❖ Candidates will immediately return to and wait in the outer reception area during this period.
- ❖ One of the stations (Red) will be dedicated to Procedures. This is where the candidate's patient will be utilized.
- ❖ In each Procedures station, the candidate will be allowed a total time of thirty-two (32) minutes to prepare the patient and perform those procedures that are assigned to that station

**RED STATION
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PROCEDURES**

The following will be included in the Procedures Section of the Exam. The candidate will be required to perform or to have knowledge of:
Binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy,
Gonioscopy,
Biomicroscopy (anterior and posterior segment),
Applanation tonometry,
Volk Lenses,
Lacrimal Procedures,
Flouriscene Angiography (No injections required – just knowledge).

The candidate will be required to demonstrate proficiency in performing binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy and posterior segment biomicroscopy.

The candidate will be required to demonstrate proficiency in performing anterior segment biomicroscopy, gonioscopy and applanation tonometry. The Procedures (four in all) are evaluated separately. That is, the candidate is required to perform each procedure as he or she would in a private office setting on a patient presenting solely for the particular examination (Procedure) that is being evaluated.

**GREEN,
YELLOW,
and BLUE
SCENARIO
STATIONS**

The candidate will be presented with patient Scenarios in the Green, Yellow and Blue Stations. Four Scenarios will be presented at each station for a total of *twelve (12) scenarios*. The scenarios presented will include patients with ocular disease, ocular degenerations and dystrophies, neuro-ocular disease, ocular manifestations of systemic disease, ocular side effects of systemic medication, systemic manifestations of ocular disease, trauma, post-operative management, and ocular irritations.

As in a real-life setting, the candidate will be expected to work through each case as if the patient were presenting in his or her office. Case presentations and findings will be given in a straightforward manner by the clinical examiners. However, **it will be the candidate's responsibility to ask for necessary or additional**

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information, findings, or clarification (as would occur in a real-life setting) in order to arrive at the proper diagnosis and treatment. The candidate's patient presentation, evaluation, and questions will follow the S.O.A.P. (Subjective, Objective, Assessment, and Plan) format. The candidate's performance will be evaluated in each part of the S.O.A.P. (Subjective, Objective, Assessment, and Plan).

The candidate should be mindful, however, that there are four (4) Scenarios to be presented within each thirty-two (32) minute time frame, and the exam must move forward as the schedule demands. It is to the candidate's advantage not to linger too long in an area (Scenario) where he/she may be having difficulty. One member of the examiner team will keep track of the time and move the exam forward to the next scenario when each eight minute period is up. When the eight minutes are up for a Scenario, it is the candidate's responsibility to inform the clinical examiners that he or she is ready to move on to the next question. If time permits, the clinical examiners will allow the candidate to return to any of the candidate's problematic areas in order to allow opportunities for improvement.

CANDIDATE'S EXAM RECORDS

In each station, the candidate will be furnished with a blank sheet of paper with his or her I.D. Number and the Station name and time printed on each sheet. These sheets are to allow the candidate to take any notes deemed necessary as the clinical examiners "set up" the Scenario or Procedure. These sheets must be left with the examiners before the candidate exits the Station.

SCORING

NMSA 1978 § 61-2-6.D. (7) states, "The Board shall certify as passing each applicant who obtains a grade of at least a 75% on each **subject** upon which he is examined." Subsection D of Part 5 of 16.16.5.9 NMAC (the Board's Rules and Regulations) states, "A score of seventy-five percent (75%) or better is required on each **section** of the Board's exam." The Board has some discretion as to what it can consider a "subject" or "section" of the Board exam. At its discretion, **the Board has determined, for purposes of FINAL scoring, to break down the exam into two subjects: the Jurisprudence Exam and the Clinical Practicum Examination.**

The Clinical Practicum examination will be scored based upon an average of the total score for the seven sections:

- The four stand-alone Procedures in the Red Station, and
 - The three clinical categories presented in the Green, Yellow, and Blue Stations (consisting of four scenarios each).
- ◆ In order to pass the Clinical Practicum examination, an applicant must obtain a minimum overall average of 75% in the Clinical Practicum and a 75% or better in the Jurisprudence. **Provided, however, that any applicant who has received a grade of less than 60% on any part of the Clinical Practicum examination will not be considered eligible for licensure even though the overall Clinical Practicum grade may average 75%.**

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CANDIDATE COMMENTS AND CRITIQUES OF EXAM STATIONS

After the Jurisprudence exam, each candidate will receive his/her exam schedule for the Clinical Practicum exam. The candidate will have the opportunity to write comments or critique each station of the Clinical Practicum on this sheet.

Because of the time constraints imposed by the examination schedule, the candidate is advised to make notes or comments during the brief break periods between Stations. Candidates may take whatever additional time is needed to complete comments upon return to the Board's administrative registration site for check out. The schedule/comment sheet must be turned in at the time the candidate is checked out.

While the candidate is not required to make any written statement, any statements made will be considered during the review of the candidate's performance on the examination if there is a question as to the candidate's evaluation in any procedure or in any of the case scenarios.

Further, in the event that an unsuccessful candidate wishes his or her exam results reviewed by the Board, the candidate's comments, or lack thereof, will be an integral part of the review. At no time will any candidate be allowed to view the examination itself.

Candidate comments are to be made solely by the individual candidate without consultation or discussion with anyone, including the candidate's patient, other candidates, or any other person who might accompany the candidate to the examination site. Any candidate detected cheating in any manner during the course of the examination shall automatically fail the entire examination. Cheating will be deemed unprofessional conduct, and shall demonstrate that the applicant is not of good moral character.

JURISPRUDENCE EXAM ON NEW MEXICO LAW

The Jurisprudence exam will be composed of a total of 100 multiple choice and true/false-type questions taken from both the Optometry Act and 16.16 NMAC, the Board's Rules and Regulations. A 75% or better pass-rate is required.

Each applicant who has submitted both the required application (\$125) and exam fees (\$400) will receive complete copies of the **New Mexico Optometry Act** and the **Board's Rules and Regulations, "16.16 NMAC - Optometric Practitioners"** with which to become thoroughly familiarized prior to the Jurisprudence Examination.

Note: These copies will be the only complete sets of the Board's statute and Rules and Regulations *that the candidate will receive free of charge*. If the candidate successfully passes the Board's exam and is subsequently licensed, he or she will not receive additional copies at the time of licensure. There will be a \$15 administrative fee for any additional full set copies of these documents. (In other words, keep these for future reference in the event you are subsequently licensed.)

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Because all candidates cannot be tested at the same time, the Board recognizes that there is a potential for cheating outside the exam site. Candidates are on an honor system and are expected not to discuss the exam or divulge the nature or content of the exam with others. If the Board becomes aware at anytime that communication of this nature has occurred between candidates or with any other person, the Board will consider this an act of cheating by the candidates involved, and will take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with Board Rule Part 5, Section 9.6.

Each candidate will be required to sign a Statement of Confidentiality before taking the Board exam.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

Upon completion of the examination, candidates are to check out with the Board's administrative staff by presenting their schedule/comment sheet to the person on duty. Once final verification of each candidate's records is made, the candidate is free to leave the exam site.

EXAM RESULTS NOTIFICATION

Candidates will be notified of exam results, in writing, within 30 days of the exam. Notification will be mailed by certified mail to the most current address on file with the Board. No results will be given over the phone.

The Board recommends that candidates read this Exam Policy and Procedure document several times upon receipt, as well as on the day prior to the examination, if approval to sit for the exam is received. It is also recommended that the approved candidate bring this document to the examination. It will be a helpful reference as the candidate proceeds **between** Stations.

All the information forthcoming from the Board regarding the Clinical Practicum exam, except the exact exam date and site information and the candidate's individual exam schedule, is contained in this document.

On behalf of the New Mexico BOARD OF OPTOMETRY,

Martha L. Gallegos

Martha L. Gallegos
Board Administrator

Printed Exam Candidate's Name

Signature of Exam Candidate

Date: _____