

STATE BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR SCOPE CERTIFICATION
(updated 4/15/26)

- Links and text for rules and regulations regarding laser certification. Click on the state to go to that section of the document.
- Note that Indiana and Wisconsin do not have separate laser certification apart from traditional licensure as of April 15, 2026.
- State regulations may have been updated since this document was created. Please check with the state board of optometry in each state for the most recent rules and regulations.

Alaska
Arkansas
Colorado
Kansas (rules/regs pending)
Kentucky
Louisiana
Montana

Statute

https://mca.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0370/chapter_0100/part_0030/section_0020/0370-0100-0030-0020.html

TITLE 37. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

CHAPTER 10. OPTOMETRY

Part 3. Licensing

Qualifications -- Application

37-10-302. Qualifications -- application.

(1) The board shall adopt rules relative to and governing the qualifications of applicants for licensure as optometrists and the qualifications for certification of licensed optometrists to perform laser surgical procedures.

(2) A person is not eligible to receive a license unless that person is of good moral character.

(3) A person is not eligible to receive a license unless that person has graduated from an accredited school of optometry in which the practice and science of optometry is taught in a course of study that is accredited by the association of regulatory boards of optometry.

(4) An applicant for a license shall file a completed application on a form provided by the department and pay a fee prescribed by the board.

(5) The board shall certify an optometrist to perform laser surgical procedures on verification that the optometrist has successfully completed the required didactic and clinical training from an accredited optometry school or college. The training must cover the use of lasers for medically recognized and appropriate treatment of the human eye. On certification, the board shall issue a license indicating that the optometrist is certified to perform laser surgery pursuant to this section.

Rules: <https://rules.mt.gov/browse/collections/aec52c46-128e-4279-9068-8af5d5432d74/sections/d25313c5-aaa7-4d02-9b18-df2c0cef97aa>

24.168.801 EXPANDED SCOPE OF PRACTICE – SURGICAL CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS (1) Before a licensee may perform surgery, as set forth in 37-10-101, MCA, the licensee must complete an approved course that:

(a) is at least 32 hours in duration;

(b) includes content related to each laser surgical procedure set forth in 37-10-101, MCA; and

(c) is taught by an instructor who is qualified to perform each of the surgical procedures set forth in 37-10-101, MCA.

(2) Licensees shall apply for the laser surgical certification on forms provided by the board.

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement: no separate information for laser certification is written.

Mississippi
Montana
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Tennessee (rules/regs pending)
Virginia
West Virginia
West Virginia

From WVSBO website (<https://optometry.wv.gov/licensing/laser-certification>)

Legislation passed during the 2025 West Virginia Legislative Session requires that all new **Optometry license applicants be laser certified effective July 9, 2025.*****

If you are interested in applying for a West Virginia Optometry license, you must apply for a license at the highest level of licensure (now injection and laser certified). Please contact the Board office to begin an application.

For new Optometry graduates after May 1, 2025, all new applicants must graduate from an accredited Optometry school or College of Optometry and pass the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) as defined in W. Va. Code §30-8B-5 OR complete a post-graduate approved course for ophthalmic laser utilization certification.

Currently, there are two Board-approved laser certification courses:

- Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO)
- University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry

For a current list of accredited Optometry Schools or Colleges of Optometry, please visit the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

For current West Virginia licensees who wish to become laser certified: Applicants must complete a Board-approved course for injection certification or pass the NBEO ISE exam as well as complete an approved course for ophthalmic laser utilization certification.

Once your Laser Certification Application is Board approved, please use the WVBO Laser Certification Proctored Report Forms (pdf) to document the completion of each required number of proctored procedures on a living human eye:

- Posterior Capsulotomy (YAG CAP) - five (5) proctored procedures required
- Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) - five (5) proctored procedures required
- Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI) - four (4) proctored procedures required

You can choose to become certified in each of the three procedures outlined in W. Va. State Code 30-8B-4 and noted above, effective as of July 9, 2025. Additionally, not all proctored procedures need to be completed on the same day, but each proctored procedure must be under the supervision of a Board-approved laser certified proctor. A list of Board-approved laser certified proctors is available upon request.

Please be advised, if your proctored sessions take place in another laser-certified state, the proctor still needs to be Board approved. And all proctors that are observing procedures within West Virginia must have an active West Virginia Optometry license.

Statute Ch. 30 Article 8B. Laser Procedures. (<https://code.wvlegislature.gov/30-8B-3/>)

§30-8B-3. Certification generally.

(a) A licensee shall meet all the requirements as listed in this article in order to be certified to utilize an ophthalmic laser.

(b) A licensee shall obtain ophthalmic laser utilization certification to utilize ophthalmic lasers in West Virginia.

(c) An applicant for licensure by examination, by reciprocity, or by reinstatement after May 1, 2025, shall only be granted licensure if the applicant meets the requirements for ophthalmic laser utilization certification.

(d) Upon the licensee's successful completion of the requirements and application listed in §30-8B-4 and §30-8B-5 of this code, and approval by the board, an Ophthalmic Laser Utilization Certificate may be issued.

When the required number of proctored procedures are completed and documentation is submitted and approved by the Board, then a licensee will become fully laser certified in each procedure in West Virginia.

Once a West Virginia Optometry licensee is fully laser certified in each of the three procedures, you can complete the WVBO Laser Certification Proctor Application Form if you wish to serve as a West Virginia Laser Certification proctor.

West Virginia Laser Certification Proctors must be an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist licensed in good standing in the state where the proctoring is taking place, meet the requirements pursuant to W. Va. St. Code §30-8B-5 and have been pre-approved by the West Virginia Board of Optometry to serve as a proctor for West Virginia laser certification procedures.

§30-8B-4. Certification requirements.

To be certified the licensee shall:

(1) Complete the required application form designed by the board; and

(2) Submit proof of attendance and satisfactory completion of education and training, including, but not limited to, a training requirement that at a minimum of five posterior capsulotomy, four peripheral iridotomy and five selective laser trabeculoplasty procedures be supervised for each individual person proposing certification. A licensee shall successfully demonstrate clinical proficiency to perform the procedure or procedures on a living human eye to the proctor's satisfaction. The procedures shall be proctored by an optometrist or ophthalmologist that already meets the above criteria and submitted to the board for review and any additional requirements as established by the board in §30-8B-5 of this code.

(3) A licensee may apply for certification for each approved procedure separately and may receive certification individually for each procedure based upon the above criteria applied individually for each approved procedure.

§30-8B-5. Education and training.

(a) Any license granted to an applicant who graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry in 2025 or thereafter, and who passed the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry or other equivalent proficiency examination approved by the board shall be deemed to have met the education and training criteria listed in §30-8B-5 of this code.

(b) The board shall accept post graduate courses or training programs for certification that are provided by or through a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or its successor organization provided, the courses or training programs include the criteria listed in §30-8B-5(c)(1) through §30-8B-5(c)(3);

(c) The board, at its discretion, may approve courses or training programs provided through organizations other than accredited schools or colleges of optometry certifying that the optometrist is competent in the utilization of ophthalmic lasers if, and only if, the courses or training programs meet the following minimum criteria:

(1) Each course or training program shall include indications, contra-indications, techniques, risks, and benefits.

(2) Each course or training program shall include appropriate follow up and management protocols and techniques;

(3) Each course or training program shall teach the procedures in a closely supervised environment with a proficiency assessment.

(d) A list of approved courses or training programs for ophthalmic laser utilization certification will be maintained by the board for public inspection.

Rules

<https://optometry.wv.gov/optometry-laws-and-rules>

Note: Rules for West Virginia new law were promulgated during the 2026 general assembly. The website has not been updated as of 4/15/26. West Virginia Doctors of Optometry were able to be licensed after the law went into effect because the bill purposely laid out requirements for credentialing.

Wyoming

Alaska

(rules/regs)

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/5/pub/OptometryStatutes.pdf>

12 AAC 48.040. EXPANDED THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURE.

(a) A licensee may not perform ophthalmic surgery as defined in AS 08.72.278(c), unless the procedure is an expanded therapeutic procedure as defined under this section and the licensee is authorized by the board to perform the procedure.

(b) The board may authorize a qualified licensee to perform an expanded therapeutic procedure or procedures in the practice of optometry. A licensee requesting authorization to perform an expanded therapeutic procedure shall have satisfactorily completed a course in the expanded therapeutic procedure provided by an institution accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and approved by the board and shall further satisfy the requirements of this section.

(c) The board may authorize a licensee to perform an expanded therapeutic procedure if the licensee provides:

(1) proof of a current license in good standing to practice optometry in this state;

and

(2) evidence satisfactory to the board that the licensee successfully completed a course of instruction in an expanded therapeutic procedure approved by the board.

(d) To be approved by the board, a course in an expanded therapeutic procedure shall include:

(1) didactic classroom instruction in

(A) laser physics, hazards, and safety;

(B) biophysics of lasers;

(C) laser application on clinical optometry; -11-

(D) laser tissue interactions;

(E) laser indications, contraindication, and potential complications;

(F) gonioscopy;

(G) laser therapy for open angle glaucoma;

(H) laser therapy for angle closure glaucoma;

(I) laser posterior capsulotomy;

(J) common complication of the lids, lashes, and the lacrimal system;

(K) local complications;

(L) medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures;

(M) peripheral iridotomy;

(N) laser trabeculoplasty;

(O) minor surgical procedures;

(P) an overview of surgical instruments, asepsis, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations;

(Q) surgical anatomy of the eyelids;

(R) emergency surgical procedures;

(S) chalazion management;

(T) epiluminescence microscopy;

- (U) local anesthesia techniques and complications;
- (V) anaphylaxis and other office emergencies;
- (W) radiofrequency surgery; and
- (X) post-operative wound care;
- (2) clinical or laboratory experience incorporating:
 - (A) video demonstration;
 - (B) in vitro observation or participation; and
 - (C) in vivo observation;
- (3) passage of a formal clinical or laboratory practical examination; and
- (4) passage of a written test administered by the educational institution providing the course, that uses the National Board of Examiners in Optometry format.
- (e) A course of instruction may be considered for approval by the board if the course;
 - (1) meets the requirements of (d) of this section;
 - (2) is provided by an accredited optometry school under (b) of this section;
 - (3) is at least 32 clock hours in length;
 - (4) is completed after graduation from optometry school; and
 - (5) is completed after January 1, 2016.
- (f) The board may consider a course of instruction for approval if the course satisfies the requirements of (e)(1) through (e)(4) of this section, but was completed before January 1, 2016, if the licensee
 - (1) has been practicing in a state that allows expanded therapeutic procedures immediately preceding the date of request for authorization of expanded therapeutic procedures;
 - (2) has continuously practiced in that state from the time of completion of the approved course; and
 - (3) provides an affidavit verifying a minimum of 1,040 hours of active clinical practice in optometry for each year since the date of completion of the approved course.
- (g) An optometrist licensed and authorized by the board to perform an expanded therapeutic procedure in the practice of optometry shall be limited within the scope of the board's authorization under (b) of this section. A license issued to the licensee must expressly identify each approved expanded therapeutic procedure the licensee is authorized to perform.
- (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a licensee may not perform ophthalmic surgery for the following procedures, but may provide preoperative and postoperative care for
 - (1) retina laser procedures;
 - (2) laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) and photorefractive keratectomy (PRK);
 - (3) surgery related to removal of the eye from a living human being;
 - (4) surgery requiring full thickness incision or excision of the cornea or sclera other than paracentesis in an emergency situation requiring immediate reduction of the intraocular pressure;
 - (5) penetrating keratoplasty or lamellar keratoplasty;
 - (6) non-laser surgery requiring incision of the iris and ciliary body, including iris diathermy or cryotherapy;

- (7) non-laser surgery requiring incision of the vitreous;
- (8) surgery requiring incision of the retina;
- (9) surgical extraction of the crystalline lens;
- (10) surgical implantation of intraocular lens implants;
- (11) incisional or excisional surgery of the extraocular muscles;
- (12) non-laser surgery of the eyelid for eyelid malignancies or for incisional cosmetic or mechanical repair of blepharochalasis, ptosis, and tarsorrhaphy;
- (13) surgery of the bony orbit, including orbital implants;
- (14) incisional or excisional non-laser surgery of the lacrimal system other than lacrimal probing or related procedures;
- (15) surgery requiring full thickness conjunctivoplasty with graft or flap;
- (16) any non-laser surgical procedure that does not provide for the correction and relief of ocular or ocular adnexa abnormalities;
- (17) injection into the posterior chamber of the eye to treat any macular or retinal disease.

(i) A licensee treating a patient with an eyelid or adnexal lesion found to be malignant shall refer the patient to a practitioner trained and qualified to treat those lesions.

(j) A licensee may not perform an injection into the posterior segment or chamber, or retinal tissue to treat any macular or retinal disease.

(k) A licensee who performs an expanded therapeutic procedure without board authorization may be subject to disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.72.240.

(l) For the purpose of this section, “expanded therapeutic procedure” means an ophthalmic surgery approved by the board in compliance with AS 08.72.278, and may include anterior segment laser procedures, anterior segment surgical procedures, YAG laser capsulotomy, laser peripheral iridotomy, and laser trabeculoplasty.

Related to licensure by credential:

12 AAC 48.035. TEMPORARY MILITARY COURTESY LICENSE.

(d) A temporary military courtesy license holder may not perform injections or expanded therapeutic procedures until written authorization is granted by the board upon confirmation that the temporary military courtesy license holder has successfully met the applicable requirements set out under 12 AAC 48.040.

Related to licensure by credential:

12 AAC 48.040. EXPANDED THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURE. (f) The board may consider a course of instruction for approval if the course satisfies the requirements of (e)(1) through (e)(4) of this section, but was completed before January 1, 2016, if the licensee (1) has been practicing in a state that allows expanded therapeutic procedures immediately preceding the date of request for authorization of expanded therapeutic procedures; (2) has continuously practiced in that state from the time of completion of the approved course; and (3) provides

an affidavit verifying a minimum of 1,040 hours of active clinical practice in optometry for each year since the date of completion of the approved course

Arkansas

(Rules/Regs)

https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/ASBO_Rules.pdf

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ARKANSAS LICENSED OPTOMETRIST TO BE CREDENTIALLED TO UTILIZE AND PERFORM AUTHORIZED PROCEDURES LISTED IN A.C.A. §17-90-101 (a)(3)(D) CHAPTER VIII, ARTICLE 1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ARKANSAS LICENSED OPTOMETRIST TO BE CREDENTIALLED TO UTILIZE AND PERFORM AUTHORIZED PROCEDURES LISTED IN A.C.A. §17-90-101 (a)(3)(D) SECTION III – REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR ARKANSAS OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIAN LICENSURE WITH CREDENTIALING FOR PROCEDURES LISTED IN A.C.A. §17-90-101(a)(3)(D)

1. Applicants for Arkansas Optometric Physician Licensure shall be credential to perform authorized procedures listed in A.C.A. §17-90-101 (a)(3)(D) if:

a. The applicant meets all requirements to receive an Arkansas license pursuant to Chapter 1, Articles II and III or pursuant to Chapter 1, Article IV to practice as an Optometric Physician, and;

b. Optometric Physicians graduated in 2019 or after who provided proof that he/she graduated from an optometry school whose program includes the education requirements for certification pursuant to this rule; and

2. Once applicant satisfactorily completes the education requirements listed in this rule under Section IV, 1. B:

a. The applicant must satisfactorily complete a written test administered or approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry on aspects of the Arkansas Optometry Practice Act pertaining to this rule.

b. The applicant must satisfactorily complete a clinical examination administered or approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry pertaining to this rule.

c. The applicant must satisfactorily complete a written jurisprudence examination administered by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry pertaining to this rule.

SECTION IV – REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING ARKANSAS LICENSED OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS FOR CREDENTIALING FOR PROCEDURE LISTED IN A.C.A. §17-90-101 (a)(3)(D) 43 1.

Pursuant to Act 579 of 2019 codified in A.C.A. §17-90-101 (a)(3)(D), Arkansas licensed Optometric Physicians shall be credentialed to perform authorized procedures listed in A.C.A. §17-90-101

(a)(3)(D) if:

a. The applicant provides proof of holding an Arkansas license to practice as an Optometric Physician and is in good standing;

b. The applicant provides proof of satisfactory completion of a course of instruction completed not more than 5 years prior to application of credentialing; provided that the course:

(1) is provided by an accredited college of optometry, osteopathy or medicine;

(2) includes a minimum of 32 clock hours in length;

(3) is sponsored by an organization approved by the board,; and

- (4) includes the following didactic classroom instructions:
 - (a) laser physics, hazards, and safety;
 - (b) biophysics of lasers;
 - (c) laser application on clinical optometry;
 - (d) laser tissue interactions;
 - (e) laser indications, contraindications, and potential complications;
 - (f) gonioscopy;
 - (g) laser therapy for open angle glaucoma;
 - (h) laser therapy for angle closure glaucoma;
 - (i) posterior capsulotomy;
 - (j) common complications: lids, lashes, lacrimal system;
 - (k) medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures;
 - (l) peripheral iridotomy;
 - (m) laser trabeculoplasty
 - (n) minor surgical procedures;
 - (o) overview of surgical instruments, asepsis, and O.S.H.A.
 - (p) surgical anatomy of the eyelids;
 - (q) emergency surgical procedures;
 - (r) chalazion management;
 - (s) local anesthesia: techniques and complications;
 - (t) anaphylaxis and other office emergencies;
 - (u) radiofrequency surgery;
 - (v) post-operative wound care; and
- (5) Includes the following clinical or laboratory experience;
 - (a) Video Demonstration; and
 - (b) In Vitro Observation or participation

2. Once applicant satisfactorily completes education requirements listed in this rule in Section IV, I.b.:

- a. The applicant must satisfactorily complete a written test administered or approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry on aspects of the Arkansas Optometry Practice act pertaining to this rule.
- b. The applicant must satisfactorily complete a clinical examination administered or approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry pertaining to this rule.
- c. The applicant must satisfactorily complete a written jurisprudence examination administered by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry pertaining to this rule.

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement/Reciprocity: No rules are in place for Licensure of Endorsement for Advanced Procedures listed in 90-101(a)(3)(D) as of April 15, 2026. It is the understanding that a doctor may receive licensure by endorsement for optometric physician status but still must complete the requirements listed above to receive AP credential.

Colorado

(rules and regs)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14ctP9WSWI2gW12ZJc2NUSHURkb_Po8uF/view

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12-275-110. Application for license - licensure by endorsement.

(3) A licensee licensed under this section who performs laser procedures or treats ocular adnexa shall demonstrate competency and complete one of the following education and examination requirements prior to performing these procedures:

(a) Graduate from an accredited college or university of optometry in 2019 or later where the laser procedures and ocular adnexa treatments were taught and demonstrate passage of

the standardized national examination approved by the board pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this section; or

(b) Complete a training course approved by the board and satisfactorily complete a proctored clinical session within two years prior to performing laser procedures or treating ocular adnexa. Proctoring may be performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist licensed to perform the procedures in any jurisdiction.

(4) If a licensee has not performed a laser procedure within the past two years, the licensee shall satisfactorily complete another proctored clinical session prior to performing any laser procedures.

(5) A licensee performing the procedures described in subsection (3) of this section shall report to the board any adverse outcomes following each procedure. The licensee shall deliver such reports and any corresponding patient records to the board office within ten days after the date that the licensee is aware of the adverse outcome.

(6) A licensee shall maintain documentation evidencing completion of the requirements of subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section and shall provide the documentation to the board upon request. Performing any of the procedures described in subsection (3) of this section without meeting the requirements of subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section may subject the licensee to discipline by the board pursuant to section 12-275-122.

(7) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the requirements of subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6) of this section do not apply to a licensee's performance of the procedures and treatments specified in section 12-275-103 (1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(V), (1)(b)(VI), and (1)(b)(VII).

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement: 12-275-110. Application for license - licensure by endorsement. (below relates specifically to laser procedures).

(3) A licensee licensed under this section who performs laser procedures or treats ocular adnexa shall demonstrate competency and complete one of the following education and

examination requirements prior to performing these procedures:

- (a) Graduate from an accredited college or university of optometry in 2019 or later where the laser procedures and ocular adnexa treatments were taught and demonstrate passage of the standardized national examination approved by the board pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this section; or
- (b) Complete a training course approved by the board and satisfactorily complete a proctored clinical session within two years prior to performing laser procedures or treating ocular adnexa. Proctoring may be performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist licensed to perform the procedures in any jurisdiction.
- (4) If a licensee has not performed a laser procedure within the past two years, the licensee shall satisfactorily complete another proctored clinical session prior to performing any laser procedures.
- (5) A licensee performing the procedures described in subsection (3) of this section shall report to the board any adverse outcomes following each procedure. The licensee shall deliver such reports and any corresponding patient records to the board office within ten days after the date that the licensee is aware of the adverse outcome.
- (6) A licensee shall maintain documentation evidencing completion of the requirements of subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section and shall provide the documentation to the board upon request. Performing any of the procedures described in subsection (3) of this section without meeting the requirements of subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section may subject the licensee to discipline by the board pursuant to section 12-275-122.
- (7) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the requirements of subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6) of this section do not apply to a licensee's performance of the procedures and treatments specified in section 12-275-103 (1)(b)(I), (1)(b)(V), (1)(b)(VI), and (1)(b)(VII).

Kentucky

(Rules/Regs – note all must be credentialed at highest level within 2 years)

<https://optometry.ky.gov/legal/PublishingImages/Pages/Statutes-and-Regulations/KRS%20STATUTES%20%20REGULATIONS.pdf>

201 KAR 5:110. Expanded therapeutic procedures.

Section 1. Qualifications for a Kentucky Licensed Optometrist to be Credentialed to Utilize Expanded Therapeutic Procedures. A Kentucky licensed optometrist shall be credentialed to perform expanded therapeutic procedures if:

- (1) The applicant provides proof that the applicant:
 - (a) Holds an active license in good standing by another state;
 - (b) Is also credentialed by that state to perform expanded therapeutic procedures; and
 - (c) The requirements in the state of licensure for performing expanded therapeutic procedures meet or exceed the requirements in this section; or
- (2) The optometrist:
 - (a) Is currently therapeutically licensed in Kentucky; and
 - (b) Provides proof of completion of a course approved by the board that includes:
 1. Didactic classroom instruction covering:
 - a. Laser physics; hazards and safety;
 - b. Biophysics of laser;
 - c. Laser application in clinical optometry;
 - d. Laser tissue interactions;
 - e. Laser indications; contraindications and potential complications; f. Gonioscopy;
 - g. Laser therapy for open angle glaucoma;
 - h. Laser therapy for angle closure glaucoma;
 - i. Posterior capsulotomy;
 - j. Common complications; lids, lashes, and lacrimal;
 - k. Medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures;
 - l. Peripheral iridotomy;
 - m. Laser trabeculoplasty
 - n. Minor surgical procedures;
 - o. Overview of surgical instruments; asepsis and OSHA;
 - p. The surgical anatomy of the eyelids;
 - q. Emergency surgical procedures;
 - r. Chalazion management;
 - s. Epiluminescence microscopy;
 - t. Suture techniques;
 - u. Local anesthesia; techniques and complications;
 - v. Anaphylaxis and other office emergencies;
 - w. Radiofrequency surgery; and
 - x. Post-operative wound care;

2. Clinical or laboratory experience including:
 - a. Video tape demonstration;
 - b. In vitro observation or participation;
 - c. In vivo observation; and
 - d. A formal clinical or laboratory practical examination; and
 3. Passage of a written test utilizing the National Board of Examiners in Optometry format.
- (3) A board approved course shall be:
- (a) Provided by an accredited optometry or medical school;
 - (b) Taught by full-time or adjunct faculty members of an accredited optometry or medical school;
 - (c) A minimum of thirty-two (32) clock hours in length; and
 - (d) Sponsored by an organization that meets the standards of 201 KAR 5:030.

Section 2. Qualifications for a New Applicant for Licensure to be Credentialed to Utilize Expanded Therapeutic Procedures. A new applicant for licensure as an optometrist shall be credentialed to perform expanded therapeutic procedures if:

- (1) The applicant provides proof that the applicant has graduated from an optometry school with a program that includes all of the education, training, and testing requirements established in Section 1 of this administrative regulation; or
- (2) By the end of the second licensure renewal period, the licensee shall provide proof of compliance with Section 1 of this administrative regulation.

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement: Section 3. Qualifications for an Applicant for Licensure by Endorsement to be Credentialed to Utilize Expanded Therapeutic Procedures.

An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall be credentialed to perform expanded therapeutic procedures in Kentucky if:

- (1) The applicant provides proof that:
 - (a) The applicant holds an active license in good standing by another state;
 - (b) Is credentialed by that state to perform expanded therapeutic procedures; and
 - (c) The requirements in the state of licensure for performing expanded therapeutic procedures meet or exceed the requirements in Section 1; or
- (2) By the end of the second licensure renewal period, the licensee provides proof of compliance with Section 1 of this administrative regulation.

Louisiana

Rules/Regs (note – all new applicants must be credentialed at highest level)

<https://laoptometryboard.com/docs/LSBOE-Optometry-Act-06122015.pdf>

Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 37. Professions and Occupations Chapter 12. Optometry (See Title 46:LI) <https://www.doa.la.gov/da/osr/louisiana-administrative-code/>

Chapter 5. Practicing Optometry §501. Professional Conduct

1. Louisiana licensed optometrists shall be credentialed to perform authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures if:

a. the applicant provides proof of holding a Louisiana license to practice therapeutic optometry and is in good standing, or in the case of a new applicant for licensure, has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:1049(1)-(8); and

b. the applicant provides proof of satisfactory completion of a course of instruction approved by the board that may include:

i. the following didactic classroom instructions:

- (a). laser physics, hazards, and safety;
- (b). biophysics of lasers;
- (c). laser application;
- (d). laser tissue interactions;
- (e). laser indications, contraindications, and potential complications;
- (f). gonioscopy;
- (g). laser therapy for open angle glaucoma;
- (h). laser therapy for angle closure glaucoma;
- (i). posterior capsulotomy;
- (j). common complications, lids, lashes, lacrimal system;
- (k). medicolegal aspects of procedures;
- (l). peripheral iridotomy;
- (m). laser trabeculoplasty;
- (n). minor surgical procedures;
- (o). overview of surgical instruments, asepsis, and O.S.H.A.;
- (p). relevant surgical anatomy;
- (q). emergency surgical procedures;
- (r). chalazion management;
- (s). local anesthesia: techniques and complications;
- (t). anaphalaxis and other office emergencies;
- (u). radiofrequency surgery;
- (v). post-operative wound care; and

- c. the applicant satisfactorily completes a written test approved by the board on aspects of the Louisiana Optometry Practice Act pertaining to authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures.
2. A board-approved course of instruction shall be:
 - a. provided by an accredited optometry, osteopathy or medical school;
 - b. a minimum of 32 clock hours in length; and
 - c. sponsored by an organization approved by the board.
3. Prohibitions and Referrals
 - a. Performing authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures without credentialing based upon the education requirements outlined in this administrative regulation shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of an optometry license and/or credentialing to perform authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures as per section 1061 of the Optometry Practice Act.
4. Outcomes Reporting
 - a. Every optometrist who has met the requirements for certification to perform authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures shall report to the board the outcome of authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures performed in such form as required or directed by the board.
5. Beginning with the graduating class of 2015 any optometrist who provides proof that he/she graduated from an optometry school whose program includes all of the training and testing requirements established by the board may be deemed to have met the requirements for certification to perform authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures.
6. Performance of authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures by any person without a valid and current certificate issued by the board to perform such procedures shall be considered a violation of section 1061(A)(1) of the Optometry Practice Act.

Regarding licensure by endorsement: unclear if covers laser procedures certification

§1054. Applicants from other states; waiver of examination The board may waive the examination provided in R.S. 37:1051 if the applicant presents to the board a satisfactory certificate of registration from a board of optometry examiners of another state, and if the standard of requirements adopted and enforced by such board is equal to that provided in this Chapter.

Montana

Statute

https://mca.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0370/chapter_0100/part_0030/section_0020/0370-0100-0030-0020.html

TITLE 37. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

CHAPTER 10. OPTOMETRY

Part 3. Licensing

Qualifications -- Application

37-10-302. Qualifications -- application.

- (1) The board shall adopt rules relative to and governing the qualifications of applicants for licensure as optometrists and the qualifications for certification of licensed optometrists to perform laser surgical procedures.
- (2) A person is not eligible to receive a license unless that person is of good moral character.
- (3) A person is not eligible to receive a license unless that person has graduated from an accredited school of optometry in which the practice and science of optometry is taught in a course of study that is accredited by the association of regulatory boards of optometry.
- (4) An applicant for a license shall file a completed application on a form provided by the department and pay a fee prescribed by the board.
- (5) The board shall certify an optometrist to perform laser surgical procedures on verification that the optometrist has successfully completed the required didactic and clinical training from an accredited optometry school or college. The training must cover the use of lasers for medically recognized and appropriate treatment of the human eye. On certification, the board shall issue a license indicating that the optometrist is certified to perform laser surgery pursuant to this section.

Rules: <https://rules.mt.gov/browse/collections/aec52c46-128e-4279-9068-8af5d5432d74/sections/d25313c5-aaa7-4d02-9b18-df2c0cef97aa>

24.168.801 EXPANDED SCOPE OF PRACTICE – SURGICAL CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS (1) Before a licensee may perform surgery, as set forth in 37-10-101, MCA, the licensee must complete an approved course that:

- (a) is at least 32 hours in duration;
- (b) includes content related to each laser surgical procedure set forth in 37-10-101, MCA; and

(c) is taught by an instructor who is qualified to perform each of the surgical procedures set forth in 37-10-101, MCA.

(2) Licensees shall apply for the laser surgical certification on forms provided by the board.

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement: no separate information for laser certification is written.

Mississippi

(rules/regs)

<https://www.msbo.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022Rules-and-Regs-Chap-1-to-12.pdf>

Page 7

Rule 1. 4. 5 Primary Eyecare Procedure Certification Mississippi State Board of Optometry requires certification to perform primary eye care procedures and certain administration. The certification process will include the credentialing process to perform the authorized ophthalmic surgery procedure YAG laser posterior capsulotomy and require:

- (a) Provides proof of holding a Mississippi license to practice therapeutic optometry and is in good standing;
- (b) Provides proof of satisfactory completion of a course of instruction as approved by the board.

Those graduating from an accredited school or college of optometry within five (5) years after the effective date of this act may be excluded from course completion requirement, provided that the candidate has successfully passed appropriate coursework to fulfill requirements as determined by the board. The board-approved course of instruction shall be:

- (i) Provided by an accredited optometry, osteopathy or medical school and not completed before May 1, 2021.
- (ii) To be completed in a time that is no longer than two years before final certification date
- (iii) A minimum of thirty-two (32) clock hours in length that includes at least 6 hours in hands on laboratory work.
 - a. laser physics, hazards, and safety;
 - b. biophysics of lasers;
 - c. laser application on clinical optometry;
 - d. laser tissue interactions;
 - e. laser indications, contraindications, and potential complications;
 - f. gonioscopy;
 - g. laser applications in glaucoma care;
 - h. YAG application in primary eye care
 - i. YAG laser posterior capsulotomy;
 - j. common complications: lids, lashes, lacrimal system;
 - k. medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures;
 - l. minor surgical procedures;
 - m. overview of surgical instruments, asepsis, and O.S.H.A.;
 - n. surgical anatomy of the eyelids;
 - o. emergency surgical procedures;
 - p. chalazion management;
 - q. epiluminescence microscopy;
 - r. local anesthesia: techniques and complications;

- s. injectable pharmaceuticals in primary eye care;
- t. anaphylaxis and other office emergencies;
- u. radiofrequency surgery;
- v. post-operative wound care;
- w. suturing;
- x. clinical/lab work

(iv) Sponsored by an organization approved by the board

(c) Satisfactorily completes a written test approved by the board on aspects pertaining to primary eye care procedures including YAG laser posterior capsulotomy and injectable pharmaceuticals. Passage of the state board written exam or the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination, and Injection Skills Examination will be accepted.

d) Passes a clinical skills assessment as it pertains to Yag laser posterior capsulotomy that is approved by the board;

(e) Participates in eight (8) additional hours of working under a preceptor who is either an ophthalmologist or licensed credentialed optometrist. The preceptor must be licensed to perform the ophthalmic YAG laser posterior capsulotomy procedures, and the training shall occur within the state in which the preceptor is licensed to perform such procedures. The preceptorship must be completed within 3 months of passage of skills assessment.

(f) 32 hour course exemptions may be considered for qualifying optometry graduates from 2022 and after, if candidates' institution has signed and filed an affidavit attesting to curriculum inclusion of such course equivalent. The exemption is good for a period of two years from graduation date to certification date.

(g) In case of failure, the Board will make available a re-test within 90 days. In case of a second failure, the applicant must repeat the certification process, including all fees.

(h) Such other requirements as may be determined by the Board.

Source: Miss Code Ann. § 73-19-9 Section 73-19-1

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement:

Rule 1.9 Endorsement The Mississippi State Board of Optometry will consider any Mississippi licensed optometrist applying endorsement as provided for in 73-19-157, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) as amended. Endorsement for YAG laser posterior capsulotomy must hold a therapeutic license in Mississippi, either by completion of application process stated in 1.2 or by reciprocity outlined in 1.7.

Source: Miss Code Ann. §73-19-25 section 73-19-157

Oklahoma

(rules/regs)

<https://optometry.ok.gov/licensing.html>

2024 Oklahoma State Board Exams

July 20, 2024

The Oklahoma State Board Exam includes 2 written exams (laser and jurisprudence) and 2 practicals (YAG and SLT). The specific requirements for the issuance of a license are set forth by statute, 59 O.S. 1981 Secs. 584, 586 and 587.

Licensure in Oklahoma is obtained by the passage of the Oklahoma State Board Exams. To be a candidate for the Oklahoma State Board Exams the following requirements must be met:

- 1) You must be twenty-one (21) years of age
- 2) You must be of good moral character
- 3) You must have met the undergraduate requirements and are a graduate of an accredited school of optometry, conferring the degree of Doctor of Optometry
- 4) You must have passed the NBEO Parts I, II, and TMOD Exam. (If you did not pass the NBEO TMOD Exam, you will be required to pass the Oklahoma State Board TMOD Exam on July 20, 2024)
- 5) You must have passed the Laser Therapy for the Anterior Segment Course offered by Northeastern State University as a prerequisite for taking the Oklahoma Boards

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement: unknown

South Dakota

Statute

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/36-7-1.4>

36-7-1.4. Expanded scope of practice--Prerequisites.

Before an optometrist may perform any one or more of the procedures set forth in subdivision [36-7-1\(9\)](#), the optometrist must provide to the board, at the time and in the manner directed by the board, verifiable evidence that:

- (1) The optometrist:
 - (a) Received a passing score on the laser examination and on the surgical procedures examination, offered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry; or
 - (b) Graduated, prior to July 1, 2024, from an optometric school or college approved by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or from an optometric school or college approved by the board;
- (2) The optometrist satisfactorily completed a course that:
 - (a) Is at least thirty-two hours in duration;
 - (b) Is approved by the board;
 - (c) Includes content related to each procedure set forth in subdivision [36-7-1\(9\)](#); and
 - (d) Is proctored by an ophthalmologist or is proctored by an optometrist who is authorized to perform all of the procedures set forth in subdivision [36-7-1\(9\)](#) by the optometric licensing board of a state in which a qualified optometrist may perform all of the procedures; and
- (3) The optometrist has demonstrated competency in accordance with the performance criteria set forth in [§ 36-7-1.5](#).

The board shall review the evidence required by this section and upon verification of an optometrist's compliance with the requirements, authorize the optometrist to perform one or more of the procedures set forth in subdivision [36-7-1\(9\)](#). The board shall develop and implement a system for documenting any actions under this section.

36-7-1.5. Expanded scope of practice - Competency demonstration.

The demonstration of competency required in accordance with subdivision [36-7-1.4\(3\)](#), must occur in the presence and under the direct supervision of an ophthalmologist licensed in this state, or in the presence and under the direct supervision of an optometrist licensed in this state and authorized by the board, pursuant to [§ 36-7-1.4](#), to perform all of the procedures set forth in subdivision [36-7-1\(9\)](#).

The demonstration of competency with respect to the intradermal injection of a paralytic agent, the intralesional injection of a steroid to treat a chalazion, the use of a local anesthetic in conjunction with the primary removal of a pedunculated skin tag, and the performance of a selective laser trabeculoplasty, must each occur on at least five human eyes.

The demonstration of competency with respect to the performance of a posterior capsulotomy using an yttrium aluminum garnet laser must occur on at least ten human eyes.

The supervising ophthalmologist or optometrist shall notify the board when competency has been demonstrated, in accordance with this section. The notification must occur at the time and in the manner determined by the board.

Regarding Licensure by endorsement:

20:50:02:04.03. Licensure by endorsement. An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall submit the application and fingerprints required by § 20:50:02:02 and pay the application fee for initial licensure pursuant to § 20:50:02:03.01. The application must be supported by written evidence satisfactory to the South Dakota Board of Optometry that the applicant:

- (1) Is licensed in good standing to practice optometry in a state or territory under United States jurisdiction that required passage of a written, entry-level examination certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry at the time of initial licensure;
- (2) Has either passed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease examination or is authorized to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents; and
- (3) Has been engaged in the practice of optometry for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding application under this section.

The applicant shall request any optometry licensing agency of any United States jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed, or has ever been licensed to practice optometry, to provide reports directly to the South Dakota Board of Examiners in Optometry describing the applicant's current standing and any past or pending actions taken with respect to the applicant's authority to practice optometry in those jurisdictions.

Source: 6 SDR 66, effective January 8, 1980; 12 SDR 78, effective November 10, 1985; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 155, effective July 1, 1986; 21 SDR 35, effective August 30, 1994; 31 SDR 101, effective January 19, 2005; 32 SDR 225, effective July 5, 2006; 34 SDR 323, effective July 2, 2008; 46 SDR 119, effective May 4, 2020; 49 SDR 12, effective August 14, 2022; 52 SDR 2, effective July 20, 2025. General Authority: SDCL 36-7-15(2).

Virginia

Statute

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title54.1/chapter32/section54.1-3225/#:~:text=Certification%20to%20perform%20laser%20surgery.>

§ 54.1-3225. Certification to perform laser surgery. 2022, cc. 16, 17.

A. The Board shall certify an optometrist to perform laser surgery consisting of peripheral iridotomy, selective laser trabeculoplasty, and YAG capsulotomy for the medically appropriate and recognized treatment of the human eye through revision, destruction, or other structural alteration of the tissue of the eye using laser technology upon submission by the optometrist of evidence satisfactory to the Board that he:

1. Is certified by the Board to prescribe for and treat diseases or abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa with therapeutic pharmaceutical agents pursuant to § 54.1-3222; and

2. Has satisfactorily completed such didactic and clinical training programs provided by an accredited school or college of optometry that includes training in the use of lasers for the medically appropriate and recognized treatment of the human eye as the Board may require.

B. The Board shall indicate on any license issued pursuant to this chapter to an optometrist certified to perform laser surgery pursuant to this section that the optometrist is so certified.

Board Rules <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/opt/leg/Optomtry.pdf>

18VAC105-20-80. Requirements for laser surgery certification.

An applicant for laser surgery certification shall submit to the board:

1. A completed application for laser surgery certification;
2. The prescribed fee;
3. An educational attestation from a dean or designee of a school of optometry or an instructor of a laser surgery certification course approved by the board that verifies that the applicant received didactic and clinical laser surgery training in the following subjects:
 - a. Laser physics, hazards, and safety;
 - b. Biophysics of laser;
 - c. Laser application in clinical optometry;
 - d. Laser tissue interactions;
 - e. Laser indications, contraindications, and potential complications;
 - f. Gonioscopy;
 - g. Laser therapy for open-angle glaucoma;

- h. Posterior capsulotomy;
- i. Common complications, lids, lashes, and lacrimal;
- j. Medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures;
- k. Peripheral iridotomy; and
- l. Laser trabeculoplasty.

The required attestation from the dean or designee of a school of optometry or an instructor of a laser surgery certification course approved by the board shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the board; and

4. Evidence of one of the following:
 - a. Passage of the Laser Section of the LSPE, for which the applicant must request submission of an official report from the NBEO of the score received on the Laser Section of the LSPE; or
 - b. Proctored sessions in compliance with 18VAC105-20-90, which may be obtained during education training described in subdivision 3 of this section.

20 18VAC105-20-90. Requirements for proctoring.

A. Applicants for laser surgery certification who have not provided the board with a passing score on the Laser Section of the LSPE must submit evidence on a form provided by the board of at least two proctored sessions for each of the following laser procedures:

1. Peripheral iridotomy;
2. Selective laser trabeculoplasty; and
3. YAG capsulotomy.

B. Proctors.

1. Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.01:1 of the Code of Virginia, a proctored session performed within the Commonwealth to qualify a TPA-certified optometrist for a laser surgery certification that consists of surgery on a live patient must be proctored by a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy who specializes in ophthalmology.
2. A proctored session performed within the Commonwealth to qualify a TPA-certified optometrist for a laser surgery certification that is performed on a model eye may be proctored by an individual holding a license in the Commonwealth or another jurisdiction who is authorized or certified to perform laser surgery on the eye and who does so as part of a regular course of practice.
3. The proctor must be in attendance in the room while the proctored session is performed, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the proctoring occurs.
4. Evidence of proctored sessions shall include a report by the proctor on a form provided by the board that:
 - a. Evaluates the clinical competency of the individual being proctored;
 - b. Describes the number and type of cases proctored; and
 - c. Includes the proctor's name, license type, license number, and state of licensure.

18VAC105-20-100. Reporting requirements.

A. An optometrist certified to perform laser surgery by the board shall report the following information to the board on a quarterly basis:

1. The number and type of laser surgeries performed by the optometrist;
2. The conditions treated for each laser surgery performed; and
3. Any adverse treatment outcomes associated with such procedures that required a referral to an ophthalmologist for treatment.

B. The requirements of subsection A of this section shall expire on July 1, 2025.

18VAC105-20-110. Quality assurance review process.

A. Effective July 1, 2025, an optometrist certified to perform laser surgery by the board shall maintain documentation of the following for not less than three years:

1. The number and type of laser surgeries performed by the optometrist; and
2. Any adverse treatment outcomes associated with such procedures that required referral to an ophthalmologist for treatment.

B. The board may conduct a random audit of licensees requiring a subject licensee to provide documentation required in subsection A of this section to the board within 30 days of notification of the audit.

Regarding licensure by endorsement: no rules found pertaining to this topic.

West Virginia

From WVSBO website (<https://optometry.wv.gov/licensing/laser-certification>)

Legislation passed during the 2025 West Virginia Legislative Session requires that all new **Optometry license applicants be laser certified effective July 9, 2025.*****

If you are interested in applying for a West Virginia Optometry license, you must apply for a license at the highest level of licensure (now injection and laser certified). Please contact the Board office to begin an application.

For new Optometry graduates after May 1, 2025, all new applicants must graduate from an accredited Optometry school or College of Optometry and pass the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) as defined in W. Va. Code §30-8B-5 OR complete a post-graduate approved course for ophthalmic laser utilization certification.

Currently, there are two Board-approved laser certification courses:

- Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO)
- University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry

For a current list of accredited Optometry Schools or Colleges of Optometry, please visit the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

For current West Virginia licensees who wish to become laser certified: Applicants must complete a Board-approved course for injection certification or pass the NBEO ISE exam as well as complete an approved course for ophthalmic laser utilization certification.

Once your Laser Certification Application is Board approved, please use the WVBO Laser Certification Proctored Report Forms (pdf) to document the completion of each required number of proctored procedures on a living human eye:

- Posterior Capsulotomy (YAG CAP) - five (5) proctored procedures required
- Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) - five (5) proctored procedures required
- Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI) - four (4) proctored procedures required

You can choose to become certified in each of the three procedures outlined in W. Va. State Code 30-8B-4 and noted above, effective as of July 9, 2025. Additionally, not all proctored procedures need to be completed on the same day, but each proctored procedure must be under the supervision of a Board-approved laser certified proctor. A list of Board-approved laser certified proctors is available upon request.

Please be advised, if your proctored sessions take place in another laser-certified state, the proctor still needs to be Board approved. And all proctors that are observing procedures within West Virginia must have an active West Virginia Optometry license.

Statute Ch. 30 Article 8B. Laser Procedures. (<https://code.wvlegislature.gov/30-8B-3/>)

§30-8B-3. Certification generally.

(a) A licensee shall meet all the requirements as listed in this article in order to be certified to utilize an ophthalmic laser.

(b) A licensee shall obtain ophthalmic laser utilization certification to utilize ophthalmic lasers in West Virginia.

(c) An applicant for licensure by examination, by reciprocity, or by reinstatement after May 1, 2025, shall only be granted licensure if the applicant meets the requirements for ophthalmic laser utilization certification.

(d) Upon the licensee's successful completion of the requirements and application listed in §30-8B-4 and §30-8B-5 of this code, and approval by the board, an Ophthalmic Laser Utilization Certificate may be issued.

When the required number of proctored procedures are completed and documentation is submitted and approved by the Board, then a licensee will become fully laser certified in each procedure in West Virginia.

Once a West Virginia Optometry licensee is fully laser certified in each of the three procedures, you can complete the WVBO Laser Certification Proctor Application Form if you wish to serve as a West Virginia Laser Certification proctor.

West Virginia Laser Certification Proctors must be an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist licensed in good standing in the state where the proctoring is taking place, meet the requirements pursuant to W. Va. St. Code §30-8B-5 and have been pre-approved by the West Virginia Board of Optometry to serve as a proctor for West Virginia laser certification procedures.

§30-8B-4. Certification requirements.

To be certified the licensee shall:

- (1) Complete the required application form designed by the board; and
- (2) Submit proof of attendance and satisfactory completion of education and training, including, but not limited to, a training requirement that at a minimum of five posterior capsulotomy, four peripheral iridotomy and five selective laser trabeculoplasty procedures be supervised for each individual person proposing certification. A licensee shall successfully demonstrate clinical proficiency to perform the procedure or procedures on a living human eye to the proctor's satisfaction. The procedures shall be proctored by an optometrist or ophthalmologist that already meets the above criteria and submitted to the board for review and any additional requirements as established by the board in §30-8B-5 of this code.
- (3) A licensee may apply for certification for each approved procedure separately and may receive certification individually for each procedure based upon the above criteria applied individually for each approved procedure.

§30-8B-5. Education and training.

(a) Any license granted to an applicant who graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry in 2025 or thereafter, and who passed the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry or other equivalent proficiency examination approved by the board shall be deemed to have met the education and training criteria listed in §30-8B-5 of this code.

(b) The board shall accept post graduate courses or training programs for certification that are provided by or through a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or its successor organization provided, the courses or training programs include the criteria listed in §30-8B-5(c)(1) through §30-8B-5(c)(3);

(c) The board, at its discretion, may approve courses or training programs provided through organizations other than accredited schools or colleges of optometry certifying that the optometrist is competent in the utilization of ophthalmic lasers if, and only if, the courses or training programs meet the following minimum criteria:

(1) Each course or training program shall include indications, contra-indications, techniques, risks, and benefits.

(2) Each course or training program shall include appropriate follow up and management protocols and techniques;

(3) Each course or training program shall teach the procedures in a closely supervised environment with a proficiency assessment.

(d) A list of approved courses or training programs for ophthalmic laser utilization certification will be maintained by the board for public inspection.

Rules

<https://optometry.wv.gov/optometry-laws-and-rules>

Note: Rules for West Virginia new law were promulgated during the 2026 general assembly. The website has not been updated as of 4/15/26. West Virginia Doctors of Optometry were able to be licensed after the law went into effect because the bill purposely laid out requirements for credentialing.

Wyoming

(rules/regs)

<https://rules.wyo.gov/Search.aspx?Agency=056>

CHAPTER 5

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Section 3. Optometric Procedures and Training.

(a) Licensees shall only use devices and treatments for which they are appropriately trained. All treatment shall be necessary and within the scope of practice defined within W.S. 33-23-101. The licensee shall demonstrate to the Board competency, training, and/or expertise should their ability to use a specific device or treatment be called into question.

(b) The following laser procedures shall be within the scope of practice of optometry:

- (i) Laser Peripheral Iridotomy;
- (ii) Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty; and
- (iii) Yag Capsulotomy.

(c) Requirements for Laser Procedures and Treatment of the Adnexa of the Eye. Licensees who provide laser procedures in subsection (b) above or treat the adnexa of the eye shall demonstrate competency and training prior to performing these procedures.

(i) To perform laser procedures and treat the adnexa of the eye, a licensee shall:

(A) Complete one of the following education and examination requirements:

- (I) Graduate from an accredited college or university of optometry where the laser procedures in subsection (b) and adnexa treatment were taught and passage of the NBEO Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination, or
- (II) Complete a board-approved training course; and

(B) Satisfactorily complete a proctored session within two (2) years prior to performing laser surgical procedures. Proctoring may be performed by:

- (I) An optometrist or ophthalmologist licensed to perform the procedures in subsection (b) in any jurisdiction; or
- (II) An optometrist who has previously been proctored.

(ii) If a licensee has not performed a laser procedure within two (2) years, the licensee shall satisfactorily complete another proctored session.

(iii) Licensees performing the procedures in this section shall report to the Board any adverse outcomes following each procedure. These reports and corresponding patient records shall be received by the Board office within ten (10) days following the date the licensee is aware of the adverse outcome.

(iv) Licensees shall maintain documentation evidencing completion of the requirements in subsection (c)(i) above, and shall provide documentation to the Board upon request.

(d) Performing any of the procedures in subsection (b) without meeting the requirements in subsection (c) may subject the licensee to discipline for deviating from the standard of care, and subject to disciplinary action under Chapter 7, Section 2(d)(iii)(B).

Regarding Licensure by Endorsement: Language not specified for laser certification.

Section 6. Licensure by Endorsement.

(a) Eligibility. An applicant may seek licensure by endorsement if the applicant is currently licensed in another United States or Canadian jurisdiction with substantially equivalent requirements as Wyoming and who meets Wyoming requirements for licensure by endorsement.

(b) Application Requirements. An applicant shall:

- (i) Submit a completed application and payment of fee;
- (ii) Submit acceptable fingerprint cards;
- (iii) Successfully pass the jurisprudence examination; and
- (iv) Submit verification of licensure where the applicant holds an active license in another jurisdiction with licensure requirements as stringent as Wyoming.

Montana

Montana Code Annotated 2023

TITLE 37. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

CHAPTER 10. OPTOMETRY

Part 1. General

Definitions -- Practice Of Optometry

37-10-101. Definitions -- practice of optometry. (1) The practice of optometry is the profession constituting the art and science of visual care and includes any one of the following acts:

(a) the optometric examination or optometric diagnosis of all of those physiological or anatomical parts or functions that consummate the process of human vision to ascertain the presence of abnormal conditions or functions that may be optometrically diagnosed, corrected, remedied, or relieved;

(b) the employment of any optometric means for the purpose of detecting any condition of the process of vision that may have any significance in a complete optometric eye and vision examination, including the employment and administration of drugs topically applied for examination purposes, limited to cycloplegics, mydriatics, topical anesthetics, dyes such as fluorescein, and for emergency use only, miotics;

(c) the application or prescription of ophthalmic lenses, contact lenses, prisms, orthoptics, visual training, and any physical, mechanical, or physiological therapy and the furnishing or application of any prosthetic or therapeutic devices for the correction or relief of visual anomalies;

(d) the administration, dispensation, and prescription of the oral analgesics codeine, propoxyphene, hydrocodone, and dihydrocodeine, alone or in combination with nonscheduled or nonregulated drugs; and

(e) the administration, dispensation, and prescription of those drugs approved by the board for use in ocular treatment limited to the anterior segment of the eye and adnexa. Glaucoma may be treated.

(2) Subsection (1) does not prohibit an optometrist from removing from the eye or adnexa a foreign body that is not intraocular.

(3) Subsection (1) does not allow an optometrist to perform surgery or laser surgery for any purpose.

(4) Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter:

(a) "board" means the board of optometry provided for in **2-15-1736**; and

(b) "department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 17.

Legislative HB 218 Effective July 1, 2025

Effective July 1, 2025 House Bill 218 (2025) allows for Optometrists to perform laser surgical procedures per ARM [24.168.801](#) Expanded Scope of Practice – Surgical Certificate

Requirements. Licensed Optometrists can obtain the expanded scope of practice when they meet the requirements set forth by the Montana Board of Optometry. Before a licensee may perform surgery, as set forth in [37-10-101](#), MCA the licensee must complete an approved course that:

- is at least 32 hours in duration
- includes content related to each laser surgical procedure set forth in 37-10-101, MCA; and
- is taught by an instructor who is qualified to perform each of the surgical procedures set forth in 37-10-101, MCA.