

OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



Board Newsletter

May 2017

Online renewal system tips

We've been using the new online renewal system since January and everyone is feeling more comfortable with it. Here are some reminders to make the process smooth:

Read the email that comes about 45 days in advance of your renewal due date and start the renewal process early. Please note if you have law/ethics due and if your CPR card is due to lapse—take care of those early. That information is in the system and available online through our [changes system](#).

If you don't receive the email, please contact Shelley or Melissa to have it resent. Also be sure to check your junk/spam folder to be sure it didn't end up there. OAR 852-050-0006(4) states that the Board as a courtesy sends renewal notices—it's your responsibility to ensure that your license is renewed on time.

If you are entering Board approved CE courses, use our [approved CE course](#) listing to find the correct course name. Sometimes sponsors give the Board one name and then print another one on the CE certificate. The CE approved list also shows if a course is valid for TMOD or "other" credit.

If you are late renewing, contact Shelley or Melissa if you'd like us to email you an invoice to pay the fee online. We have a separate credit card processing system for late fees and other fees. We are always willing to email you an invoice to make your payment processing easier.

"Take the time to read any letters sent from the Board . We work hard to provide meaningful information to help licensees avoid fees and penalties."

- Shelley Sneed



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Board CE approval process

Did you know there are two ways to earn Oregon--approved CE? One is to take Oregon approved COPE courses. Oregon accepts all COPE categories except practice management (PM), public health (PB) and ethics/jurisprudence (EJ). COPE categories FV, GO, CL and LV are all eligible for "other" credit. Any other COPE categories are eligible for TMOD credit. You can always consult the Board's [CE reporting form](#) for the list of COPE categories and their type of eligible credit.

The other way to earn Oregon CE credit is to take a course that has been Oregon board approved. The Board has a new [CE request form](#) and instructions available on the Board's website. There are some new requirements, so be sure to review the form prior to the course date. The form and required information can be submitted by the course sponsor, or if you take an out of state course and want credit, you as a licensee can initiate the process. Once OBO staff has all of the required information, it is sent on to our Board review committee. Be sure to submit complete information to ensure a timely response and approval of the requested number of hours.

Oregon Health Authority Workforce Survey

The Oregon Legislature passed SB 230 in 2009 requiring health licensing boards to begin requiring all licensees to participate in an occupational workforce survey during the license renewal process. As a small health licensing board who was implementing a new online licensing system, OHA graciously allowed OBO to delay implementation of the survey until July 2017. For those of you renewing licenses from early May on, there are two primary changes. First, when you log into the online renewal system, you will be redirected to the OHA system. Once you finish the survey, you'll be redirected back to the OBO license renewal system.

The second change is that our license fees were raised \$2 to cover the cost of the survey. Part of the original legislation allows OHA to bill licensing boards for licensees participating in the mandatory requirement. The good news is that the fee was \$2.50 originally but has been lowered to \$2 as more Boards began participating in the system.

The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete. It asks about your education, specialties, languages spoken, languages used in your practice, where you work, how many hours you work and other relevant information.

The data collected from the survey is used for demographic reports and health policy planning. If you encounter problems with the OHA system, their phone number is at the top of the survey screen. If you have any issues with the license renewal system, you still contact OBO staff for help with that.

If you find illegal contact lens sales in your community, please report them to the Board. If the sales are listed on social media or a print ad, please send a link or copy of the ad and where the ad was published. If it's a store front, send the address and description of items being sold. The Board follows up on reports and educates retailers of the legal requirement for a prescription for any contact lens sale; that includes plano lenses.

CPR

The law hasn't changed. Every actively licensed optometrist is required to maintain continuous CPR coverage. To be compliant each licensee must complete a BLS Healthcare Provider level course. After initial licensure, an Internet based course is acceptable for renewal.

According to OBO Board rules, your CPR certificate is valid through the last day the month, two years after issuance.

If your CPR card lapsed since your last renewal, you can enter the new expiration date in the renewal system.

CPR cards are **not** required to be sent to the Board unless you are selected for the CE/CPR audit. If selected, you'll be required to send a copy of the card to the Board.

If you'd rather keep emailing or faxing your cards as they lapse, feel free to send them and OBO staff will update your license record.



Board Members

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BOARD MEETING

The OBO Board met May 19, 2017

Board Activities

As of May 11, 2017 the Board had the following licensee counts:

Active Licenses	792	Inactive Licenses	412
2017 new applications	28		
2017 new licenses issued	5		

Discipline Cases for 2017:

New complaints	10	New complaints reviewed	24
Complaints resolved & closed	12		
Complaints resolved with no discipline	10		

Board Actions:

The Board discussed the following agenda items at their meeting:

- Reviewed the Board's financial statements.
- Discussed two new modules for the eLite licensing system.
- Approved the contract for the biennial financial review.
- Approved giving the Executive Director authority for ministerial actions on CE/CPR audit compliance cases.
- Reviewed proposed rule changes for public records fees. These changes would align OBO's public records fees with those of the State of Oregon as a whole.

Earn 1 hour of law/ethics credit by attending an OBO Board meeting. The September meeting will be available via conference call or webinar.

OBO Website

The Board has invested time and money on the website. Please use the site for information on info related to your license and practice. Here's some of the information available on the site:

- Access to the new online record license update system
- A public search function to find optometrists licensed with the Board
- Forms for adding an additional practice location or ordering an additional copy of your portable multiple license
- The list of Board approved CE courses—this is helpful to look up the name of the course you'll be entering in the online renewal system
- Oregon laws and rules related to optometry and health licensing
- Approved law/ethics courses
- CPR requirements and links to some providers
- Board and staff contact information...and MORE

Licensing Optometrists in Oregon since 1905

Oregon Board of Optometry

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2017 Board Meeting Dates

- September 8th
- November 3rd